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P.S 85 Great Expectations
2400 Marion Ave
Bronx, New York

Times For Kids Magazine
87 Weskora Avenue
San Diego, California

To Whom It May Concern,

Hi, my name is Jayna, a fifth grader at P.S 85. We have been studying the westward expansion. We read "Explore the wild west" and "Why go west?". I have learned why they went west, how they prepared, and the challenges the pioneers faced. People went west for many reasons. Some people wanted to own their own farm or business. Mormons went because of religious freedom. Some Americans went for patriotic reasons. They believed that it was good for America to settle all of its land. Others wanted to find gold and strike it rich, which was the California gold rush.

When pioneers traveled west, they needed to be prepared. They brought food. For example, they brought flour, bacon, coffee and rice. They also packed supplies that they will need. They packed farm tools, seeds, and even items like shoes and blankets. The pioneers packed all their things in wagons. The oxen moved the wagon and if it was too heavy, it would get tired. You will have to leave stuff on the way. Traveling now is much different. For example, back then you had to travel in wagons, or even walk! Today, we have airplanes, trains, and other types of transportation that makes traveling more easier.

The pioneers moving west faced many challenges. For example, the weather. Rain can wash out roads and snow can get them stuck. Another challenge was river crossings. They had to build rafts for the wagon, or make it into a boat! Also, cattle can crush wagons, which would damage them. Lastly, Diseases like cholera were a big challenge. Cholera comes from drinking polluted water, and it causes the most deaths on the trail. There are the challenges pioneers faced when moving west.

Sincerely,

Jayna Akanova