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| Their name:Their reasons for going West:Problems they face:Solutions they have found:Their relationship with the Plains Indians:Mark /10 for suitability as a travel partner: | Their name:Their reasons for going West:Problems they face:Solutions they have found:Their relationship with the Plains Indians:Mark /10 for suitability as a travel partner: | Their name:Their reasons for going West:Problems they face:Solutions they have found:Their relationship with the Plains Indians:Mark /10 for suitability as a travel partner: |

Character Cards

My character’s name is……………………………………….

The 3 travel companions that would be best to have are:

1.………………………………….

2.………………………………….

3.………………………………….

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**Name:** Jim Bridger **Age:** 48

**Occupation:** Mountain man

**Reasons for travelling West:** Originally he hunted for animal furs as a beaver trapper. He went on to buy the Rocky Mountain Fur Company with the profits. Due to the downturn in the fur trade the company is not doing so well so he now fills the gaps by leading settlers across the Rocky Mountains safely for a small price.

**Problems faced:** Mountain terrain, terrible winds, freezing temperatures, hunger and grizzly bears. A downturn in the price of fur has led to a severe lack of money.

**Solutions:** Advice from helpful Native Indians, warm furs and whiskey to take away the cold! He works as a guide for extra money and supplies and has set up a fort providing lodgings, food and a store for travellers.

**Looking for:** A cure for his infected leg and land to set up a farm. A new Indian wife (which would be his third in a row) would make him happier.

**Other information:** He has travelled through Idaho, Montana, Utah and Dakota. He cannot read or write but he speaks excellent French and several Indian languages. He is blind in one eye.

**Name:** Alfred Taylor **Age:** 64

**Occupation:** Mountain man

**Reasons for travelling West:** He was one of the earliest trailblazers of the West. Since the downturn in the price of fur has been working as a guide leading the wagon trails across the Rocky Mountains. Nobody knows the safest trails as well as Alf. During a particularly difficult trip Alfred had to resort to cannibalism.

**Problems faced:** Severe weather conditions and freezing temperatures. Hunger and bear attacks are common place. He is struggling to make ends meet since the fall in fur prices but makes an honest living by working as a guide. He is under constant threat from the Blackfeet tribe of Indians after a dispute over his third wife.

**Solutions:** Warm furs. He works as a guide to make ends meet, stays on the run and is wary of hostile Indians.

**Looking for:** Food, shelter and land to establish himself. Protection from Indian enemies. A cure for his alcohol addiction.

**Other information:** He speaks a number of Indian languages. He has written a travel journal directing travellers across the frontiers. He longs to make peace with the various Indian tribes.

**Name:** John Charles Fremont **Age:** 39

**Occupation:** Adventurer and pathfinder

**Reasons for travelling West:** He had government support to go on his own expeditions which were based on information from the Mountain men. He carries out surveys on trails across the Rockies. In 1844 he surveyed and mapped out the Oregon Trail.The US government ordered 10,000 copies of his map to be published. It was used to encourage *Manifest Destiny* and settlement of the West.

**Problems faced:** Being given false information from jealous Mountain men, poor weather conditions and bear attacks. He fears the cutting of funds by the US government and attacks by hostile Indians who aren’t happy with him encouraging settlement of their land.

**Solutions:** He only uses men he can trust on his expeditions. He carries a rifle and is protected by an escort. He travels in long wagon trails ensuring strength in numbers.

**Looking for:** New trails to map out and publish. New frontiers and ways of encouraging settlement of the West. More money from the US government.

**Other information:** He longs to claim a good plot of land in order to settle down and raise a family, but is keen for that land to have excellent resources. He needs access to a railroad.

**Name:** Albert Bierstadt **Age:** 41

**Occupation:** Painter and author

**Reasons for travelling West:** He was commissioned by the US government to travel across the West using John Charles Fremont’s map of the Oregon Trail. The purpose of his trip is to paint the West and to write a detailed journal of what he sees there.

**Problems faced:** Hunger, freezing temperatures and lack of shelter. He fears diseases that spread like wildfire in the close living conditions of the wagon trail. Lack of painting and writing equipment can prevent him working. He has nightmares about wild animal attacks.

**Solutions:** He travels in large wagon trails to ensure safety in numbers. He carries a great deal of supplies which make the journey slow. He trades with the Indians in order to get hold of certain materials. He uses the map of the Oregon Trail provided by John Charles Fremont.

**Looking for:** Unexplored land to paint and write about. He would like to get his journal published and is keen for all future settlers to see his paintings.

**Other information:** He has taken his wife and eight children on the trail with him. He longs to return to Europe one day. He has good relations with the Indians, many of who regard him as a friend.

**Name:** John Lloyd Stephens **Age:** 29

**Occupation:** Farmer and traveller

**Reasons for travelling West:** He is looking for a new life in the West away from his debts back in the east. He has been told by many that it is God’s will for people to travel west and that it is a paradise on earth, he would like to see this for himself.

**Problems faced:** Severe weather conditions, hunger, exhaustion and Smallpox which is going around the wagon band that John is travelling with. He fears theft from other members of the party.

**Solutions:** He carries a rifle and travels in a large wagon trail to ensure safety in numbers. He doesn’t have many possessions and only carries the essentials.

**Looking for:** Land to set up a farm with plenty of fertile soil to work on and a wife to start a family. He needs guidance on where to settle and how to make his life work.

**Other information:** He has considered joining the army if all else fails. He has had success with farming different crops. He has many unwanted enemies in the East due to his debts.

**Name:** Amelia Knight **Age:** 23

**Occupation:** Migrant

**Reasons for travelling West:** She went to seek a new life with her husband and seven children; Plutarch, Seneca, France, Jefferson, Lucy, Almira and Chatfield. Life was getting increasingly difficult to manage in the east and they were promised a new exciting life of opportunity in the West. Her husband was a miner and longs to make a fortune in the hills.

**Problems faced:** Wet, cold, muddy land. Water is always seeping into the wagon. Lack of sleep due to the terrible travelling conditions. Slow progress on the trail for example deep swollen rivers which are sometimes impossible to cross. Fever and Smallpox.

**Solutions:** She tries to look after her husband and the children the best she can with limited resources. She often trades with the Indians in order to gain vital supplies.

**Looking for:** Land on which to build a house for her family. She longs for the riches of the hills. She would like to open a store for migrants one day.

**Other information:** She has had some experience on the trail caring for the sick and injured. Her care for the Blackfeet tribe during a severe smallpox outbreak led to a backlash by the Indians who blamed the migrants for the disease. She is still very wary of the Native Americans**.**



**Name:** Graham Longbridge **Age:** 54

**Occupation:** Christian missionary

**Reasons for travelling West:** He was strongly encouraged by his church to travel West in order to spread the word of God. He was told that it was God’s will for Christian people to settle and populate the west. He has many friends from the church that have travelled West for the same reasons.

**Problems faced:** Weather, mud, rain and freezing conditions. Hostile Indian attacks and raids on his possessions. He is constantly thrown out of places for preaching and reading from the holy book. He has experiences physical assaults and prejudice.

**Solutions:** He keeps travelling to places that appear more welcoming, but with very little success. He has attempted to make ties to other church goers but this has proven difficult due to the distance between different settler groups.

**Looking for:** An opportunity to set up a church for the new settlers. A chance to convince the Native American Indians that the way of Christianity is the right way. An end to the hostility he faces from the Indians and fellow settlers.

**Other information:** He has a very poor relationship with the Indians due to his constant attempts to convert them. He has no wife and an illegitimate son who he disowned some years ago and has not seen since.

**Name:** James Marshall **Age:** 34

**Occupation:** Gold Digger

**Reasons for travelling West:** Originally from Ireland he travelled to the West in order to find his fortune in gold. He is travelling to California in order to find a fortune and then to set up a business. He is proud to be a member of the group of diggers known as the ‘Forty-Niners’.

**Problems faced:** Competition from other gold diggers for the same areas. This often leads to violence and drunken scuffles. There is a lack of quality digging equipment. He hasn’t found gold yet but is told that it is definitely there. He is often injured by the process of digging. The town he has settled in is riddled with crime.

**Solutions:** He pans for gold which is the simplest method and requires the least equipment. He avoids paying the government tax on gold and gets away with it by keeping his head down. He plans to return home if he doesn’t find gold soon.

**Looking for:** The opportunity to make a fortune and return home within a year. He needs small lodgings and simple pleasures as he doesn’t intend on staying.

**Other information:** On occasions he has taken the law into his own hands. After a man in a mining town in Ohio was accused of stealing he led the vigilante party that brought the thief to justice.

**Name:** Bill Wright **Age:** 36

**Occupation:** Gold Company Owner

**Reasons for travelling West:** He owns a very successful European gold company and is looking for a further fortune in the Sierra foothills. He has many men working for him. He has been told by many that the hills are full of gold in the West.

**Problems faced:** A lack of gold! It’s very expensive to look for. Dangerous conditions mean there is a high risk of injury. Theft is a major threat as are violent attacks from other gold company owners.

**Solutions:** He pays his diggers very low wages to keep profits high. He cuts back on safety equipment and new tools to save money. He keeps financing the digs but needs a big find soon.

**Looking for:** Gold, profits and land to build a new house and accommodation for his diggers. Access to the railroad in order to bring in supplies would be brilliant.

**Other information:** He only has three fingers on his left hand after a fight with an Irish digger. He has a lung condition caused by spending a great deal of time underground.

**Name:** Richard Taylor **Age:** 29

**Occupation:** Farmer and Mormon

**Reasons for travelling West:** He is following the guidance of the Mormon book and the teaching of the Mormon founder Brigham Young. He is travelling West in order to set up God’s Kingdom on earth, ready for the resurrection of Christ.

**Problems faced:** He was thrown out of Kirkland, Ohio in the 1830s and later Missouri because of religious beliefs. He faces hatred and violence from other settlers for the way that he conducts his life. There has been hostility towards his wife and children from angry mobs in many places that he has tried to settle.

**Solutions:** Communal living for strength in numbers. To keep moving until he finds Jesus’ place on earth. He follows the book of Mormon.

**Looking for:** Another wife to bear more children and make the community stronger. Guidance from fellow Mormons. A place to set up a church.

**Other information:** He gives away a third of what he earns to the church and to Mormon leaders. He has four wives and 13 children.

**Name:** Constance Stevenson **Age:** 18

**Occupation:** Mormon housewife

**Reasons for travelling West:** She is following the Mormon commune in order to settle and build Gods place on earth in preparation for the resurrection of Jesus Christ. She has to keep moving West due to being thrown out of many places.

**Problems faced:** She has experienced hostility and violent attacks upon herself and her family due to their religious beliefs and the way they run their lives. She has very little money as most of her husband’s wages go to the church. She lacks supplies due to not having access to a railroad in the places that she has travelled to.

**Solutions:** She travels to nearby towns in order to pick up supplies. All the food and supplies are shared between families in the community.

Supply depots and small shops along the trails mean that some supplies can be gained. Childcare is shared amongst her husband’s other wives.

**Looking for:** The nearest trail depot in order to pick up supplies and a place to settle where they will be accepted.

**Other information:** She is one of four wives to her husband. She cannot read or write but is read the book of Mormon by her husband and friends. She is often exhausted through travelling or looking after the children.

**Name:** Ben Holladay **Age:** 28

**Occupation:** Stage coach driver

**Reasons for travelling West:** He drives a stagecoach across the West pulled by four horses carrying supplies to the various settler outposts. He works for a large company and gets a good wage. He mainly carries digging tools for the miners to be sold at the outposts.

**Problems faced:** Indian attacks on his stagecoach.Theft from bandits on the lonely trails. Fierce competition from other stagecoach businesses.

Lack of demand for digging tools due to the decrease in gold digging.

**Solutions:** He travels with other stage coaches to ensure safety. He takes weeks to get from one outpost to another.

**Looking for:** A place to settle and get a different job. A wife in order to set up a family. He would like to own a stage coach business himself one day.

**Other information:** He has nightmares after being attacked by bandits whilst alone on the trail. He has a fear of snakes and small insects which can be found on the trail.

**Name:** Jedidiah Walker **Age:** 18

**Occupation:** Pony Express rider

**Reasons for travelling West:** He works as a rider carrying mail at breakneck speed across the West, making sure that it gets to its destination on time. He carries messages in special saddlebags from one outpost to another.

**Problems faced:** Rough countryside, hostile Indians and injuries from falling off speeding horses. He is not allowed to swear or drink. He often gets punished if the mail isn’t there on time. It can take days to cross the California and Oregon trails.

**Solutions:** He reads the bible. He wears special leathers in order to protect against injury when falling off. He has a horse that he trusts greatly and carries a rifle and a shotgun.

**Looking for:** A way to ride faster and get to his destination on time. Work as a cowboy. A chance to settle down and raise a family.

**Other information:** He lost two toes in a terrible riding accident. He nearly died at the age of 17 after falling from his horse and being thrown 10 feet into the air. The telegraph system is making the Pony Express unnecessary.

**Name:** Hoy Lee **Age:** 20

**Occupation:** Migrant worker

**Reasons for travelling West:** He travelled from China to seek work on the railroad building the expanding transcontinental railway through the Sierra Nevada. He is one of 600 Chinese workers on the Railway.

**Problems faced:** Exhaustion and fatigue due to very long hours building the railway. Injury through lifting and cutting. Hostile Indians at night whilst camped up. Attacks from wild animals and landslides. Harsh weather conditions especially at night.

**Solutions:** He wears warm clothing and takes regular breaks. He carries a rifle for protection and the camp keep watch at night for attacks and sabotage.

**Looking for:** A chance to settle down and start a family on his own land. A good wage and safe working conditions. A chance to start a new life in America away from problems and debts in China.

**Other information:** He only has one ear due to an accident with a pick axe. He was trapped in a landslide for two days before being rescued. He has been in America for one year.

**Name:** Charles Goodnight **Age:** 47

**Occupation:** Cattle trader

**Reasons for travelling West:** After the end of the American civil war he returned from action to his ranch to find his cattle herd had grown by thousands. Their only use is as meat and he must sell them. He must drive them across the West to be sold as meat to the US army outposts. He could make a fortune!

**Problems faced:** Extreme weather conditions, hostile Indian attacks and poor meat prices. Cattle trains are threatening the system that he uses. Lack of water for the cattle could mean disaster.

**Solutions:** He has discovered the Goodnight-Loving cattle trail which is the best way to drive cattle. He carries a shotgun and a rifle. He travels with other cattle traders in order to ensure safety in numbers.

**Looking for:** A chance to establish a cattle town near to the cattle markets where the cattle men can rest and relax whilst on the trail. He longs to own a saloon one day.

**Other information:** He served in the American civil war and lives under constant fear that the war will strike up again and he will have to leave his cattle business.

**Name:** John Iliff **Age:** 52

**Occupation:** Cattle rancher

**Reasons for travelling West:** He started as a gold digger, then owned a store on the Oregon trail. He started to buy cattle and gained a herd of 35,000 cows. He now sells cattle to the railway companies as meat to feed the rail workers. He wants to produce a better quality of beef by cross breeding two different types of cow.

**Problems faced:** Falling cattle prices and severe competition from other ranchers. Laziness amongst the cowboys that work for him by driving his cattle to the markets. Stampedes.

**Solutions:** He gets rid of the cowboys that refuse to work hard so he has protection for his herds made up of men that he can trust. He gets money from the government to provide meat for the US army.

**Looking for:** Reliable, hardworking cowboys to drive the cattle to market. A son to carry on the family business. Enough money to live happily and safely.

**Other information:** He has his hats specially made by a good friend who owns a tailoring shop.

**Name:** Charles Russell **Age:** 21

**Occupation:** Cowboy

**Reasons for travelling West:** He drives cattle across the trails to the markets for them to be sold. He works for the cattle ranchers and must brand the cattle with the owner’s symbol. He hates settlers and homesteaders who are leading to the end of the long straight drives by putting fences up.

**Problems faced:** Bandits, stampedes, hunger and harsh terrain. Barbed wire fences are making his job very difficult. There is much theft from other cowboys and those trying to take advantage.

**Solutions:** He carries a gun at all times. He is a skilled rider. He travels with a large band of other cowboys in order to ensure strength in numbers.

**Looking for:** The next drink! A chance to make quick money through whatever means necessary. He wants to take revenge on those who have stolen from him in the past.

**Other information:** He has a drink problem. He shot a man at a cattle town saloon after the man stole his horse. He has a back problem due to falling off his horse.

**Name:** Jane Sherman **Age:** 26

**Occupation:** Cowgirl

**Reasons for travelling West:** To drive cattle for a very successful cattle trader. She takes the cattle herds to market to sell at very high prices.

She works for many different cattlemen. She hates settlers and homesteaders who are leading to the end of the long straight drives and putting fences up.

**Problems faced:** Some people have problems with a woman being a cattle driver. Bandits, stampedes, hunger and harsh terrain. Barbed wire fences are making her job very difficult.

**Solutions:** She carries a gun and a shotgun. She is a skilled rider. She travels with a large band of cowboys to ensure strength in numbers on the trails.

**Looking for:** A chance to settle down on her own farm someday and give up driving cattle to market. She would like to be accepted as a good cattle driver.

**Other information:** She stays away from the violent, rowdy cattle towns that have emerged along the cattle trails. She has a good relationship with the Indians and can speak two Indian languages.

**Name:** John Terrance **Age:** 46

**Occupation:** English homesteader

**Reasons for travelling West:** He was encouraged to leave England by the railroad builders who promised plenty of cheap land either side of the new railroad. He has travelled to America to set up a farm and raise a family, starting a new life. He moved to escape from poverty and unemployment back in England.

**Problems faced:** Hostile Indians, lack of food, lack of water, lack of building materials and lack of a church. He hates cowboys for bringing trouble, disgrace and drunkenness to the area.

**Solutions:** He uses dry cattle dung to build houses, carries a gun, puts up fences to stop cattle stampedes and grows crops.

**Looking for:** A way to get water to the crops from the river. An end to cattlemen driving cattle across the land. A school for the children to get an education.

**Other information:** He first decided to move to America after seeing a poster in England put up by the railway company. He travelled to America by boat.

**Name:** Jack O’Reilly **Age:** 32

**Occupation:** Irish homesteader

**Reasons for travelling West:** He was encouraged to travel to America by the railway companies promising cheap land in the West. He wants a chance to set up a new life in America away from poverty and unemployment back home.

**Problems faced:** Hostile Indians, lack of food, lack of water, lack of building materials, lack of a church, lack of housing, hatred for cowboys.

**Solutions:** He carries a gun and puts up fences around the land in order to keep the cattlemen away. He grows crops and raises animals in order to provide food for the family.

**Looking for:** A school for his children to get an education. A way to get water to his crops from the river.

**Other information:** He has a large family and was struggling to provide for his family in Ireland. He was encouraged to travel to America by the railroad company who put up a poster advertising cheap farmland.

**Name:** Thomas Swenson **Age:** 27

**Occupation:** Scandinavian homesteader

**Reasons for travelling West:** He left Scandinavia after he saw cheap fertile farmland advertised. He was struggling at home to find fertile land in order to grow crops. It was a chance to start a new life.

**Problems faced:** Lack of food, lack of water for the crops, lack of building materials and means to make a home. He hasn’t got access to the railroad which carries supplies and allows travel across the west. He has no school for his daughter and no church to worship at.

**Solutions:** He uses dried out cow dung to build with. He puts fences up in order to keep his cattle in. He lives off the meat and milk that is provided by the cattle that he keeps.

**Looking for:** A chance to become totally self-sufficient (provide for himself) and to grow his own food. He wants to raise and educate his children well and to have a place to worship.

**Other information:** He misses home a great deal but cannot return as he has no house there and the land is not right for growing crops and providing for his family.

**Name:** Molly Peterson **Age:** 26

**Occupation:** Ex-slave homesteader

**Reasons for travelling West:** After the end of slavery in the south she was released and is now looking to set up home with her family. She wants a chance to farm the land and provide for herself for the first time in her life.

**Problems faced:** A Lack of food and water. Some crops are failing to grow on the land that she has claimed. There are no building materials or means to build a home. She has no school for her children or work for her husband. There is still a great deal of hostility and violence towards ex-slaves.

**Solutions:** She tries to keep herself to herself and to protect her husband and family from violence. They have started to experiment with new crops that may grow better in the conditions that exist.

**Looking for:** Acceptance from people in her community. She would like a job for her husband and a school for her children. S he would like a church to worship at.

**Other information:** She would like to travel and settle on land that is more fertile and better for growing corn and wheat.

**Name:** Amelia Jorgenson **Age:** 36

**Occupation:** Swedish homesteader

**Reasons for travelling West:** She was encouraged to travel West by the Transcontinental Railway Company who advertised cheap land in the American West for new settlers. It will be a chance to move away from old life in Sweden to start a new one in America.

**Problems faced:** Lack of food, lack of water for the crops, lack of stores and workshops in order to get supplies. There is very little access to the railroad and a lack of building materials.

**Solutions:** She uses dried earth for building materials. She is campaigning for the railroad to be extended. She uses the nearest cattle town for supplies.

**Looking for:** A chance to be self-sufficient.

**Other information:** She has two children and a husband. She is a strong Christian follower and organises local church events.

**Name:** Sam Ealy Johnson **Age:** 54

**Occupation:** Ex-soldier

**Reasons for travelling West:** After fighting in the American Civil War he has been looking for an opportunity to settle down and set up a farm. He was told that the American West has a lot of cheap land and golden opportunities.

**Problems faced:** A lack of building materials. He lost a leg in the war so is limited to what he can do. He longs to be back in action!

**Solutions:** He uses dried earth to build with. He has set up a settlement with other Civil War veterans in order to share resources. He has three strong sons that do most of the work.

**Looking for:** He wants a chance to be self-sufficient and not rely on the limited supplies that can be found in the cattle towns. He spends a lot of his time hunting buffalo.

**Other information:** He has a strong belief in God and the power of religion. He would like to learn more about the teachings of the bible.

**Name:** Jack Stepson **Age:** 28

**Occupation:** Ex-slave homesteader

**Reasons for travelling West:** He was released by his master and chose to start a new life for himself and his family. The American West promises cheap land and a number of golden opportunities to settle down.

**Problems faced:** Lack of building supplies, food and water. He still faces a great deal of violence from many people. He keeps moving on because he isn’t accepted in many places that he goes to.

**Solutions:** He keeps finding new places to settle. He carries a rifle for defence. He travels with many other ex-slave families in order to ensure safety in numbers.

**Looking for:** A place to settle where he and his family will be accepted and chance to become self-sufficient.

**Other information:** He was accused of assault but freed due to lack of evidence; he knows that he is guilty.

**Name:** Elizabeth Mailer **Age:** 19

**Occupation:** Painter

**Reasons for travelling West:** She is travelling across the West painting the landscape for the US government. She gets paid a good wage to paint the West in its best light.

**Problems faced:** Bandits on the trails, hostile Indians and lack of good painting materials. She is told by the government what to paint rather than being free to paint what she chooses. She misses her family.

**Solutions:** She ha**s** made many Indian friends along the way who she can swap supplies with. The Indian tribes love her paintings and she can often bargain with them for animal furs and directions across the mountains.

**Looking for:** A chance to return to the east in order to set up her own store and display her paintings in her home town.

**Other information:** She is a very skilled horse rider and is often given the job of riding to the outposts to collect the mail and the vital supplies.

