



Essential Question

How is each event in history unique?



Go Digital!



History Lives

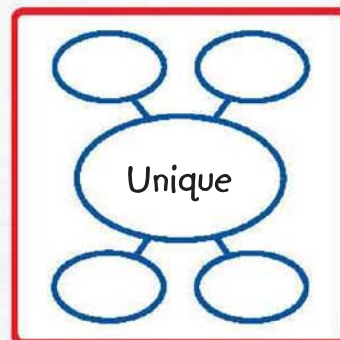
Christopher Columbus sailed to America in 1492. Today, people reenact his historic voyage. Reliving past events helps us remember them and understand what happened.

- ▶ History is made up of many unique events.
- ▶ Reliving history helps us appreciate what people went through to get to new places.

Talk About It



Think about a time in history when people moved from one place to another. Talk with a friend about what makes the event unique.



Vocabulary

Use the picture and the sentence to talk with a partner about each word.



agreeable

Lori loves cold weather and thinks it is pleasant and **agreeable**.

What kind of weather do you find agreeable?



appreciate

Jan and Kayla **appreciate** everything their grandmother does for them.

How do you show people that you appreciate them?



boomed

Anita's lemonade business **boomed** when the weather got hotter.

What does boomed mean in this sentence?



descendants

Ann and her family are **descendants** of the people in the photographs.

What are descendants?



emigration

People who left their homes knew that **emigration** would be hard.

What are some reasons for emigration?



pioneers

In 1843, **pioneers** traveled across the country by covered wagon.

Why did pioneers travel across the country?



transportation

Trains are a favorite form of **transportation** for many people.

Tell about another form of transportation.



vehicles

These **vehicles** are parked in a large parking lot.

What type of vehicle do you travel to school in?

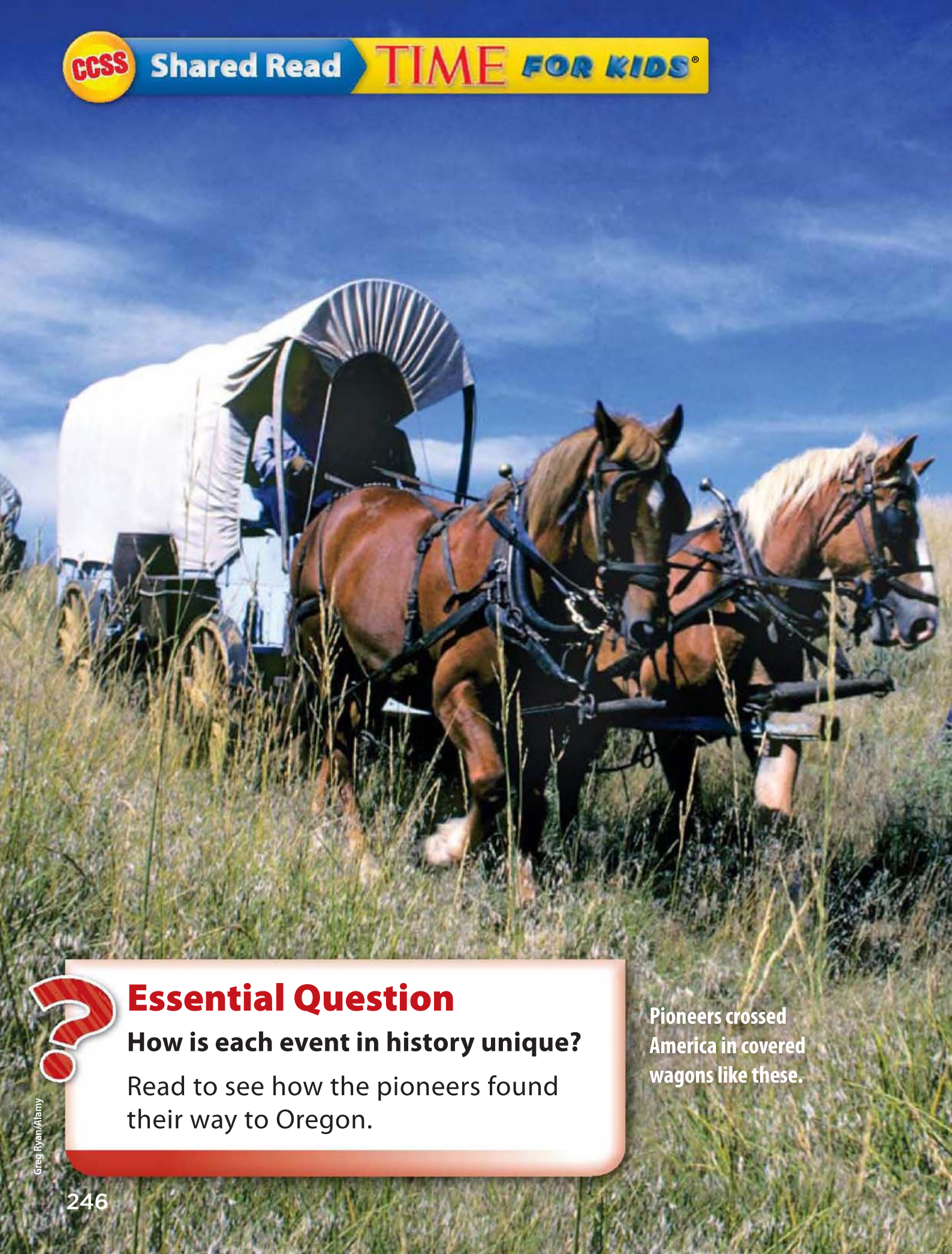
Your Turn

COLLABORATE



Pick three words. Write three questions for your partner to answer.

Go Digital! Use the online visual glossary



Essential Question

How is each event in history unique?

Read to see how the pioneers found their way to Oregon.

Pioneers crossed America in covered wagons like these.

The Long Road to Oregon

In the spring of 1843, more than 800 **pioneers** began a journey from Independence, Missouri to Oregon City, Oregon. They had 120 wagons and 5,000 cattle. This was one of the first wagon trains to travel west on the Oregon Trail.

Land of Promise

Life was very hard in Missouri in the 1800s. Bad weather caused crops to die. Businesses closed.

As a result, many people could not find jobs.

Americans wanted a more enjoyable life. They wanted to live in a place where the soil was richer and the weather was more **agreeable** and pleasant.

The United States government was giving away free land to pioneers. So, thousands of people traveled west to Oregon, a territory in the northwest part of the country.

This map shows the Oregon Trail in 1843.



Getting Ready to Go

Pioneers knew that **emigration** to Oregon would be difficult. The trip was more than 2,000 miles of dusty, bumpy trails and would take at least five months. The pioneers needed to be prepared.

First they gathered their cows and chickens. Then they packed many pounds of food, cooking pots, tools, and seeds.

Covered wagons were the main form **transportation** on the Oregon Trail. The wagons were stuffed with everything a family would need. There was little room for anything else. As a result, children left books, toys, and most of their clothes behind.

A Long, Hard Journey

Planning and packing took weeks. The first thing pioneer families did was hook a team of oxen up to their wagons. Oxen were dependable and strong and could pull the heavy **vehicles**. Next the families joined other pioneer families.

All the wagons traveling together formed a wagon train. The children and healthy adults walked. The sick or tired pioneers rode in the uncomfortable wagons.

Dirty water, sickness, and fierce dust storms made the journey challenging. Bad weather often made the trail impassable. But the pioneers were determined. As a result, they finally reached their new home in Oregon.

This reenactment shows a wagon train on the Oregon Trail.



A New Life in Oregon

When the pioneers got to Oregon, they cleared land and built houses. Then they planted crops. As more emigrants arrived, towns grew. People opened stores and restaurants. Businesses **boomed**. The pioneers worked hard to make their new towns successful. They had found a better life!

Many of the people who live in Oregon today are **descendants** of the brave pioneers who made the journey west from the 1840s to the 1880s. They **appreciate** their family members' hard work and courage. And they are grateful for the Oregon Trail.

Learn Your History!

History is the study of people and events from the past. It's important to know our country's past. Learning about history helps us appreciate our country and the people who helped build it.

One fun way to learn about history is by reading the stories of the brave people who lived it. You can read diaries of pioneers on the Oregon Trail, or biographies of explorers. These can be more exciting and inspiring than a movie or a television show!

You can still see parts of the original Oregon Trail today.



Make Connections



How was the Oregon Trail emigration a unique time in history? **ESSENTIAL QUESTION**

What is your favorite event in history?

Describe why. **TEXT TO SELF**