



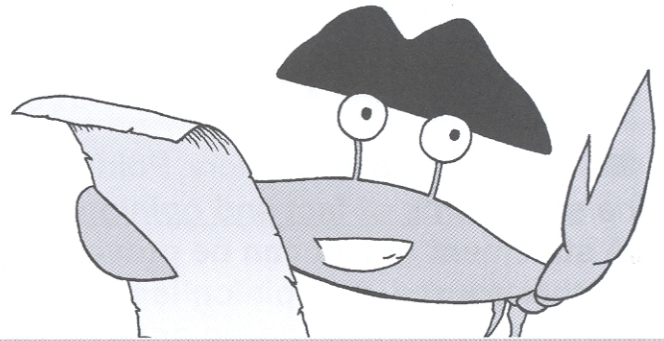
# THE OREGON TRAIL

## READING STRATEGY SUGGESTIONS

### SKILLS

Fact and Opinion  
Predicting Outcomes  
Story Vocabulary

Main Idea  
Noting Details



## 1. INTRODUCE THE STORY

➤ **Read** the title and describe the cover. Have a “cover conversation.” **Point** to the parts that repeat from book to book. Note things that are different about this book. What is happening?

➤ **SAY:** “**This is a comic book narrated by Chester the Crab. It is about America’s push to settle the western half of North America. Do you know**

**what river divides America in half from east to west?”**

➤ **Take** a picture walk through the first story in this comic, “The Oregon Trail,” to see what Chester is learning. **Point** to the parts of a comic: title, timeline, panels, word balloons, and characters.

## 2. INTRODUCE THE STORY VOCABULARY

➤ **Write** the story vocabulary and content phrases (presented below) on a classroom board. Use color as a way to build memory by writing the proper nouns in a different color. (These words and their definitions can also be written on separate cards and placed face down on a table for students to play a matching or memory game.)

➤ **Tell** students on which page to find each word. Have students read the sentence that has a given vocabulary word and use context and picture clues to form a definition.

### VOCABULARY DEFINITIONS (in order of appearance)

**bison** (p. 2) – large four-legged North American mammal with hump and shaggy mane-

**need** (p. 3) – a good or service essential to survival: clothing, food, shelter

**want** (p. 3) – a good or service that would be nice to have but is not essential to living

**Rocky Mountains** (p. 3) – largest mountain range on the North American continent

**soil** (p. 2) – the surface layer of Earth, made of rock particles and supporting plant life

**Oregon Trail** (p. 3) – 1,900-mile path from Missouri River to Oregon on Pacific coast

**barter** (p. 5) – direct exchange of goods and services without use of money or credit

**Lewis and Clark** (p. 5) – explorers who traveled from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean in the early 1800s to map the United States’ claim to the Louisiana Territory