

10

SHOEBOX

ACTIVITY

The Mormon pioneers coming
off Big Mountain into
Mountain Dell.
July 1847.



LESSON 2

1840

1850

1840s
Families begin
moving west
along the
Oregon Trail

1846
Border is established
between Oregon
Country and Canada

1847
Mormons settle
in Salt Lake City



Trails to the West

PREVIEW

Focus on the Main Idea

Using a network of trails, people moved west to make better lives for themselves.

PLACES

Oregon Country
Oregon Trail
Mormon Trail
Salt Lake City

PEOPLE

Marcus Whitman
Narcissa Whitman
Joseph Smith
Brigham Young

VOCABULARY

mountain men
wagon train

You Are There

Teenager Mary Ellen Todd is learning to use a whip so that she can drive the team of oxen that are pulling her family's wagon west to Oregon. Since her parents decided to sell their farm in the east in 1852 and start over in Oregon, Mary Ellen says her life has been busy with "many things to be thought about and done."

Now they are finally on the westward trail with a group of other families and life has been very different from the routine on the farm. Just yesterday they had to cross a river, where one of the wagons was swept away in the fast-moving current.

Despite the dangers of the trail, Mary Ellen looks forward to a new life in Oregon. From the news she has heard, she expects her new home to be a beautiful place where she can make a better life.

Summarize As you read, consider what opportunities moving west offered settlers.

“Oregon Fever”

Mary Ellen Todd was just one of the more than 350,000 people who moved to Oregon Country between 1840 and 1860. Oregon Country was the name given to the region that makes up the present-day northwestern United States. Before 1846, both the United States and Great Britain claimed it.

The first settlers to Oregon Country from the United States were fur trappers and missionaries. The fur trappers in the West were known as **mountain men**. They explored the area, often using skills taught to them by Native Americans to survive.

Missionaries traveled to Oregon Country to teach the Christian religion to Native Americans. **Marcus Whitman** and his wife, **Narcissa**, left New York to live and work among the Cayuse Indians in 1836. Like other missionaries, they sent letters back east praising their new home.

The large movement of people to Oregon Country began in the 1840s. The 2,000-mile route they traveled became known as the **Oregon Trail**. In 1846, the United States and Great Britain signed a treaty agreeing on the border between Oregon and Canada. Settlement of the border question encour-

aged even more settlers to head for Oregon. People eagerly seeking a new life in Oregon were said to have “Oregon fever.”

This long and difficult journey was taken in covered wagons pulled by oxen or horses. People traveled in large groups, creating a long line of wagons called a **wagon train**. Life was hard and tiring for everyone. Rebecca Ketcham wrote in her journal:

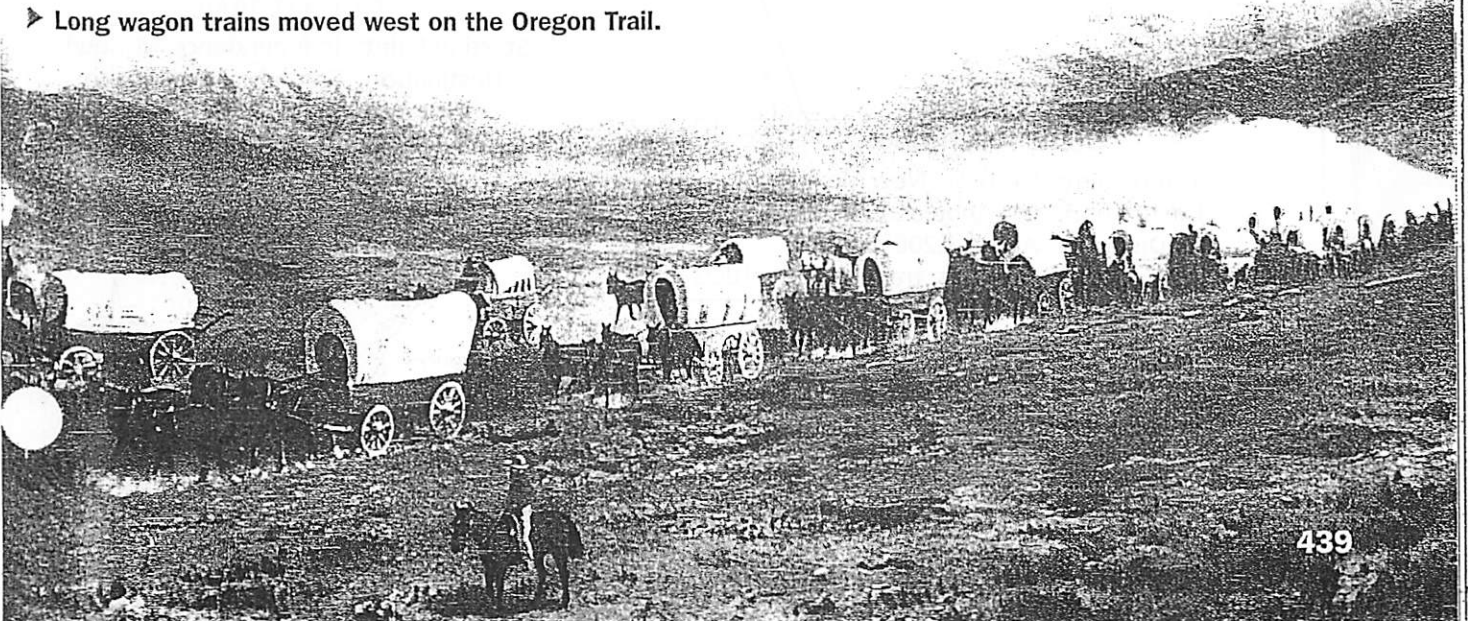
“We can all, as soon as we stop, lie down on the grass or anywhere and be asleep in less than no time at all.”

There were many dangers on the trail. A fast-running river current could easily carry away a wagon trying to cross. Bad weather slowed the wagon trains. Many people died along the way from sickness and accidents.

Despite all the problems faced by the new settlers, they continued to pour into Oregon Country. One settler, Sarah Smith, wrote, “I could hardly believe that the long journey was accomplished and I had found a home.”

REVIEW What kinds of difficulties did people on wagon trains face on the Oregon Trail? **Main Idea and Details**

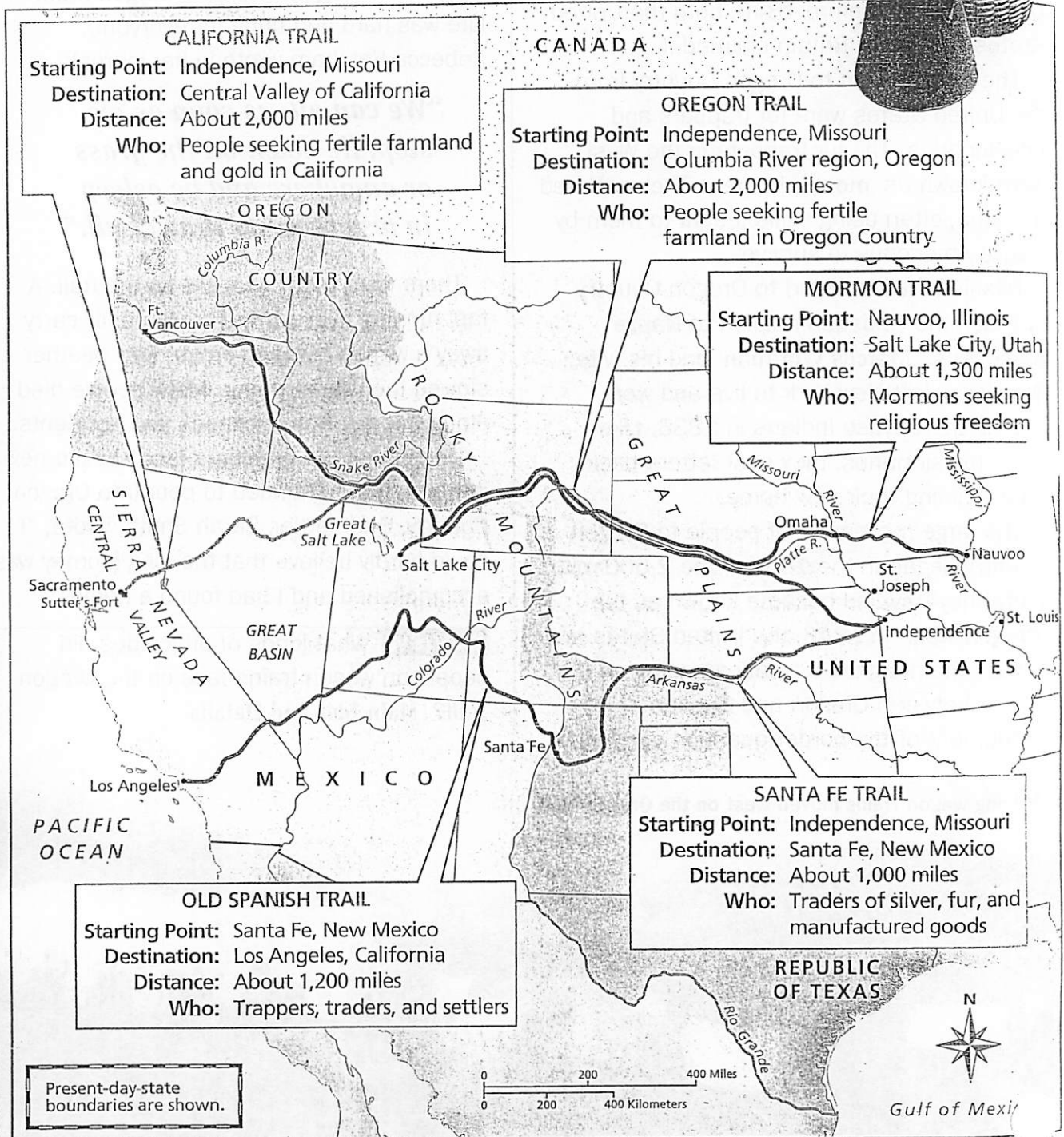
► Long wagon trains moved west on the Oregon Trail.



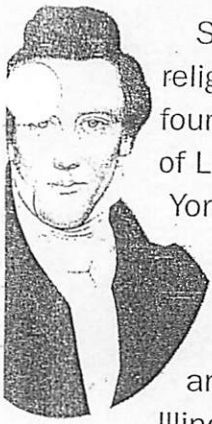
FACT FILE

On the Western Trails, 1840s

As you can see from this map, there were many trails westward. Notice that many of these trails followed the path of rivers, which provided travelers with water for drinking, cooking, and cleaning.



The Mormon Trail



Some people moved west for religious freedom. Joseph Smith founded the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Fayette, New York, in 1830. He and his followers, known as Mormons, were often treated badly because of their religious beliefs. After an angry anti-Mormon crowd in Illinois killed Smith, the new

leader, Brigham Young, decided that church members should build their own community further west to be able to live and worship as they chose.

Starting in 1846, Young led a large group of Mormons from Illinois across the Great Plains, and over the Rocky Mountains. Many others followed, and the path Young took came to be known as the Mormon Trail. In

▶ Joseph Smith (above) was 25 when he founded the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

1847, Young and his followers reached the Great Salt Lake area, which then belonged to Mexico. The Mormons founded Salt Lake City in the present-day state of Utah. Their well-planned community grew rapidly.

As you will read in the next lesson, the possibility of finding gold also attracted many people to the West.

REVIEW What events led to the founding of Salt Lake City? Sequence

Summarize the Lesson

1840s Families began to travel in wagon trains along the Oregon Trail.

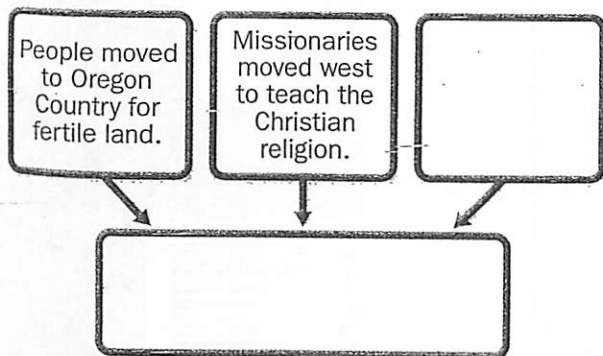
1846 The United States and Great Britain agreed on a border in Oregon Country, encouraging more settlers to move to the area.

1847 Mormons settled in Salt Lake City after moving West in search of religious freedom.

LESSON 2 REVIEW

Check Facts and Main Ideas

1. Summarize On a separate sheet of paper, fill in the missing detail and summary of the lesson.



2. What were the advantages and disadvantages of traveling west by wagon train?

3. Write a one-sentence summary describing each of the main trails leading west.

4. Explain the reasons different groups of people moved west.

5. Critical Thinking: *Draw Conclusions*

Why do you think the 1846 treaty between the United States and Great Britain encouraged more settlement in Oregon Country?

Link to Writing

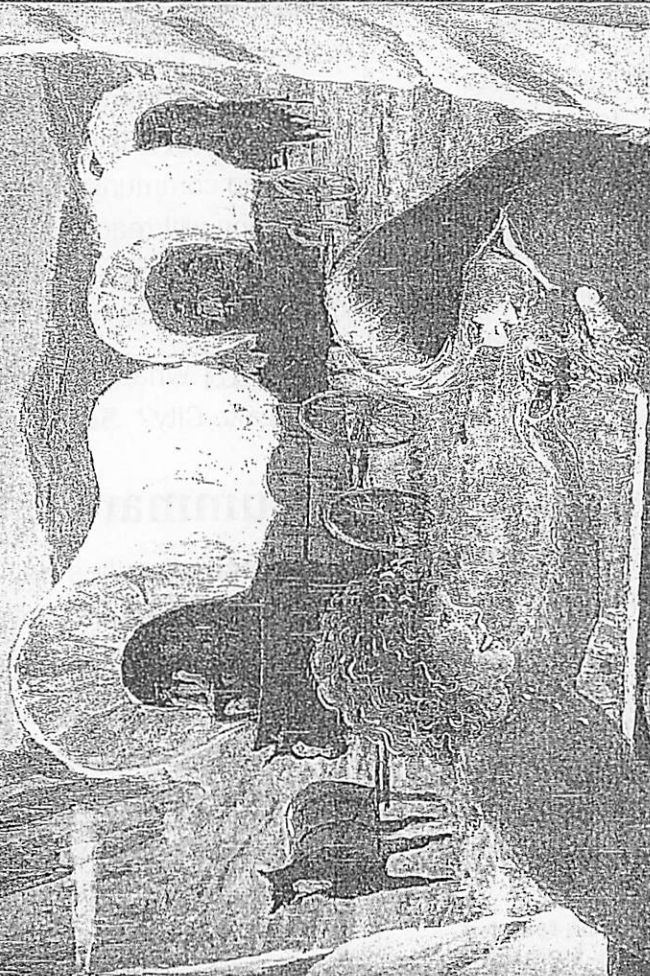
Write a Short Story Suppose you are a settler moving west in the 1840s. Which of the trails would you take and why? Write a short story describing your journey by wagon train.

Could her stowaway cat stay a secret—
all the way to Oregon?



Pioneer Cat

25¢



Illustrated by
Charles Robinson

By
William H. Hooks



THE SECRET THAT MEOWED

Nine-year-old Kate Purdy is traveling from Missouri to Oregon by wagon train, and she's worried. She isn't worried about how long the trip will be or the hardships she'll have to suffer. She's worried about Snuggs—the pretty little cat who took a shine to her in Missouri and decided to come along for the ride. Kate can't bear to give Snuggs up, even though there are no pets allowed on the wagon train. So no matter what happens—from a buffalo stampede, to a dangerous river crossing, to an Indian attack—Kate Purdy is sure of only one thing. Snuggs the cat just *has* to stay a secret!

RL: 2.5

ISBN 0-394-82038-X



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Random House

"We're going to sail her all the way to Oregon!" shouted Duffy.

I had to laugh. The wagon did look like a ship, with its big white canvas top. Then I felt that old choking thing in my throat again. What a lot of fun it would be, traveling in the prairie schooner, if only Doris could come along.

Our small rooms were crammed with things for the trip. Duffy and I hardly had space for our pallets. Bags of dried beans, tin buckets of lard and brown sugar, and jars of apple jelly crowded around our beds. When I looked up at night, I was staring at slabs of bacon and dried beef hanging from the ceiling.

"We'll need food enough to last us through six months," said Ma.

Saint Joe was filling up fast. New wagons pulled in, crammed with goods and people. New children and dogs were all over the place.

Ma said, "I'll bet you'll make lots of new friends in the wagon train."

"No thanks," I told her. "I was perfectly happy with my old friends."

Ma gave me that look I get when I know I'm trying her patience. To tell the truth, I was

using most of my worry power on what to do about Snuggs. Not much was left over for Doris. I was afraid to even ask if I could take a stray cat on the trip. I already knew the answer.

My worry came to a head the day Pa said, "Time to pack the wagon. Captain Jonah, the trail boss, says the train moves out tomorrow."

Pa and Duffy loaded all the heavy boxes into the wagon.

I was half sick with worry. My brain just felt dazed. I couldn't come up with one single way to take Snuggs along.

That night Ma gave Duffy and me each a small box.

"It's going to be hard to fit everything in the wagon," she said. "But all of us ought to have our own little space. You can take anything you want, as long as it fits into your box."

I took my box out on the porch. It wouldn't hold much. Maybe my doll with the china head. And the hair ribbons Doris had given me. Suddenly Snuggs brushed against my leg. I patted her head and started talking to her.

"I've just got to think of a way to take you with me. You're as good a friend as I ever had.

And I'm not going to leave you. You can count on that."

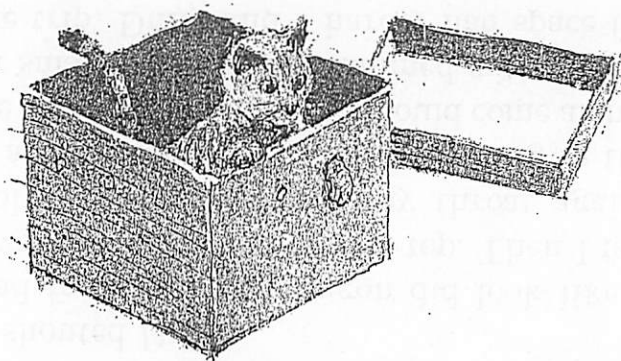
Snuggs jumped into my lap. She landed right in the box. My worry-sick brain finally snapped into action.

"That's it, Snuggs!" I cried. "You've solved our problem. Ma said I could take anything on the trip as long as it fit in my box. And you just fit!"

I punched holes in the box while I explained things to Snuggs.

"These are air holes for you. You've got to stay still. No noise until we're far out on the prairie. Understand?"

Snuggs swished her tail and tried to put her paw through one of the holes. I think she did understand.



I was so tired that night, I couldn't fall asleep. I kept whispering to Snuggs, "Tomorrow's the day. Tomorrow's the day."

Finally I slept and dreamed.

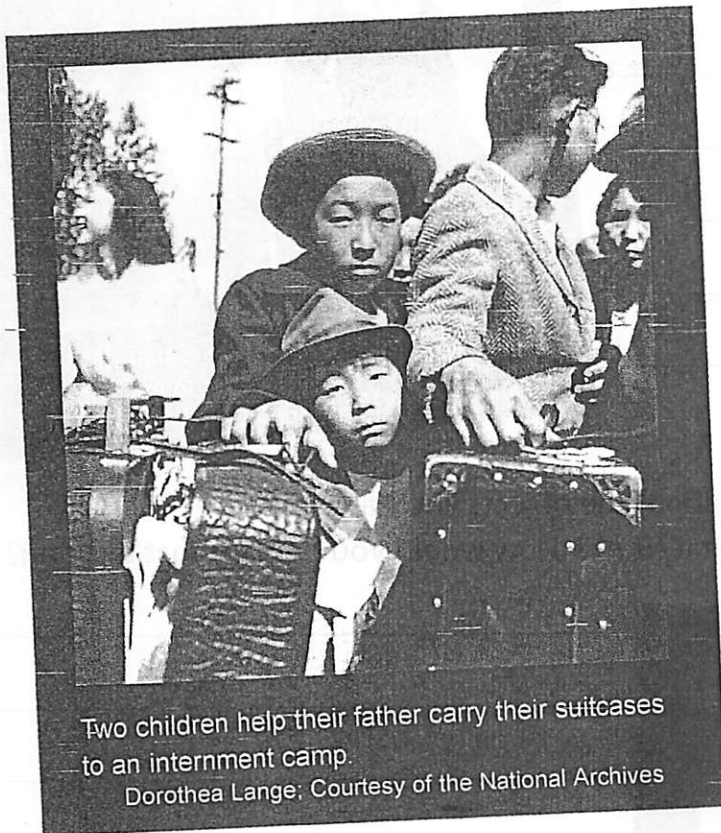
Doris and I were riding on the front seat of the wagon. Snuggs was sitting in my lap. Captain Jonah rode up on his snow-white horse. "That's a mighty fine-looking cat you young ladies have there," he said. "Pity your folks didn't tell you we don't allow cats on the trail. They're bad luck. You'll have to get rid of it. Sorry, Miss."

I woke up really scared. "Doris," I called. Then I saw all the stuff around me for the wagon train and knew where I was. I felt for Snuggs under the quilt. She was gone!

Introduction

When Japanese Americans were forced to leave their homes during World War II, they were given as little as ten days to prepare for the move, and could only take what they could carry to the internment camps. Children did not have much room for toys or special objects from home.

Mary Tsukamoto was one of the Japanese Americans who was forced to leave her home during the war. This is what she said about packing up and moving to the camp.



Two children help their father carry their suitcases to an internment camp.
Dorothea Lange; Courtesy of the National Archives

"...I started to gather rice, small sacks of rice and...and collected the packages of dehydrated soup and jello and things that were light, so that they wouldn't be such a heavy baggage for us to carry because they said you could only take what you could carry. And we knew we had to take blankets and sheets and bedding and things as well as some of our clothes."

What Do You Think?

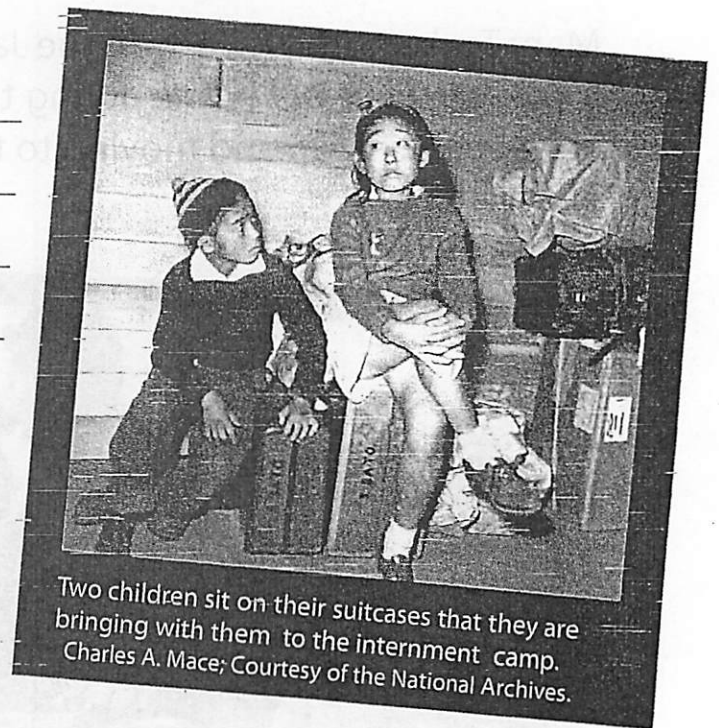
Answer the questions on the next page to express how you feel.

What Do You Think

A Few Things to Think About

1. What decisions did Mary have to make when she was packing up to go to the internment camp? Why?

2. Look at the picture to the right. How do you think the children feel? Why?



3. Look at the trunk pictured below. Think about the objects you have in your house. How many things would fit inside that trunk? How would you decide what to bring?



Leaving Things Behind

4. If you were forced to move with your family to an internment camp, what personal belongings would you take with you?

5. In the suitcase below, draw the special things you would take to the camp. Why would you bring those things?

