Make Your Own Covered Wagon



Before trains, planes, and cars, the covered wagon was the dominant form of long distance transportation in the United States. American settlers stowed their families and belongings in these wagons and then headed on the trails west. Can you imagine fitting your entire family and all of your possessions into one vehicle? Wagons started going through the meadows of Las Vegas in 1848 due to trade links between Salt Lake City and Los Angeles and migrations of people to California. Constructed in 1855, the Old Fort watched over the wagon road that went through this area. Now you can make your own miniature replica of this important pioneer vehicle by following the steps below!

1. Select a piece of colored paper and trace the outline of what will be the base of your wagon using the template provided. Cut out this outline.









2. Fold the flaps on both the left and right side inward. Fold the flaps on the top and bottom inward as well. Fold inward the tabs on the top and bottom flaps. You should be able to fold your paper into the shape of an open box.

3. Flip over your sheet of paper. Glue a row of four popsicle sticks on your left and right flaps. These will be the sides of your wagon. Glue a row of six popsicle sticks in the middle of your sheet of paper, in the space between the left and right flaps. This will be the bottom of your wagon.





4. Glue a row of six of the pre-cut popsicle pieces on the bottom and top flaps. This will be the front and back end of your wagon.







5. Select a new sheet of paper and cut a long, even strip. This will be the cover of your wagon. You can use the template provided if you wish

6. Flip over your wagon and glue your long strip of paper to either your left or right flap. Apply glue to the tabs on your top and bottom flaps as well.





7. Fold all of your flaps inward to create a box shape and secure your glued tabs to the inside of the left and right sides of your wagon. Glue your long strip of paper (the wagon cover) to the opposite inside of the wagon.

8. Select a piece of cardboard and use the template provided to trace four wheels. Cut out these wheels. You may also use any pre-cut wheels that are still available.









8. Glue your wheels to the side of your wagon. If you wish to draw any designs on your wheels or on your wagon, you may want to do so before you glue your wheels on. Let your imagination run wild!