Hello, my name is Joseph! Welcome to my state of Idaho! I love living here in the Pacific Northwest. My state has an amazing history, and I can’t wait to share part of it with you!

I know we’re going to get to see and do all sorts of amazing things on this trip! First, let me tell you about my name. Now, I’m sure you’ve heard the name Joseph before, but have you ever heard of Chief Joseph? He was a Nez Percé chief who is remembered as a very brave and wise man.

Back in 1877, he led his people in an attempt to escape the U.S. military, who was forcing them to move to a reservation. For over three months, Chief Joseph and his people eluded the military. And, all through that time, Chief Joseph earned a good reputation for the kind way he treated people, including the ranchers and storekeepers he met on his way. Instead of raiding for the supplies he needed, he bought them! But, eventually, the military surrounded Chief Joseph and his people. Chief Joseph surrendered, saying, “Hear me, my chiefs; my heart is sick and sad. From where the Sun now stands, I will fight no more forever.” Chief Joseph and his people were sent to a reservation and never allowed to return to their homeland.

So, welcome to Idaho, the land of the Nez Percé and Chief Joseph. Welcome to the land of appaloosa horses (they are said to have first been bred here) and the beautiful Rocky Mountains. Welcome to the “gem of the mountains,” Idaho, my state!

Tomorrow, I’ll take you to the Spalding Mission Site in 1838! Hope you’re ready for a wonderful adventure!

These notebooking pages will guide you through the first two days of our expedition! Explorer Pack 1.

Explore More:

Timeline—We’re getting ready to visit the Spalding Mission Site in 1838. Find another event that was happening in Idaho, the United States, or the world in 1838! Make a note of it in your Explorer Pack.

Extra Exploration—What year did Idaho become a state? What number state did it become (first, second, fiftieth, etc…) What is the state flower of Idaho? What is the state bird? Explore history a little more and answer these questions in your Explorer Pack by writing down what you discover.
Idaho
Day Two

Here we are in the town of Spalding, Idaho, in 1838. Do you see the mission over there? That was started by Rev. Henry Spalding and his wife Eliza. They were the first missionaries to come to the Clearwater River valley, but they would not be the only ones to come. Many others would follow, and some of the churches that were started during the “mission era,” as it was called, are still active congregations in the present!

The Spaldings actually planted their first mission a few miles from here, but they moved here near Lapwai Creek because it was cooler and didn’t have as many mosquitoes! Many of the Nez Percé, whom the Spaldings became friends with as they taught and preached, helped them build their new home here.

The Spaldings worked here among the Nez Percé for ten years, until an attack in Walla Walla on some other missionaries convinced them that it was no longer safe to remain. But, the Reverend Spalding did come back in the 1860’s and worked among the Nez Percé again.

Explore More

Use the pages from your Explorer Pack to help you complete these activities.

Grades K-2

Do the coloring activity in your Explorer Pack. Color in ONLY the shapes that have dots in them, and try to stay inside the lines. When you are done, you’ll see a hidden picture!

Grades 3-6

With a parent’s permission, take a look at the pictures of types of clothing the Nez Perce (also called Nimiipuu) wore. You’ll find pictures at: http://www.nps.gov/history/museum/exhibits/nepe/genderRoles.html#. Now, design your own dress or shirt based on the types of designs and patterns you see there.

Grades 7-12

For the last two thousand years, people have been sharing the Good News of Jesus with people who have not heard. If you were to help one group of people hear about God’s love and salvation, who would it be and why? What are some ways you can help them hear?
Idaho
Day Three

Look at them go! Can you imagine, crossing a river so deep your horse has to swim across, pulling you and your wagon behind it? Those men you see out in the river are reenactors. They want to show people living today what the pioneers who came out here on the Oregon Trail faced at Three Island Crossing.

Those reenactors work hard, every year, to recreate what it would have been like back in the 1840’s to cross the Snake River with a team of horses and a wagon. The reenactors know what it’s like to feel some of the same fear and excitement their ancestors felt. The reenactment can be dangerous. Some of the horses haven’t been able to cross the river safely.

But, the men want to do it. They want us to remember the courage and bravery our ancestors had when they moved out here to the wild countryside, with no guarantees that they would make it to the other side. Tomorrow, I’ll take you to 1843, and we’ll join a family crossing Snake River for real. Are you ready?

These notebooking pages will guide you through the first two days of our expedition! Explorer Pack 1. And, this website will get you started on your trip!

Explore More

Timeline—We’re getting ready to visit Three Island Crossing in 1843. Find another event that was happening in Idaho, the United States, or the world in 1843! Make a note of it in your Explorer Pack.

Extra Exploration—If you had to pack everything you own and load it in a wagon, which things would you choose, and why?
Idaho
Day Four

Shhh! I want to hear what the wagon master is saying. That big man up there doesn’t want to cross the Snake River here. He wants to head south and try the safer route. But, the wagon master said it’s not really safer, it’s just a different danger. Here, the rushing water is the threat. If we head south, we won’t have enough water or food, and the trip will take so much longer.

It sounds like the wagon master has decided to cross the Snake River at Three Island Crossing. Come on, we’d better help. There’s a lot of work to do.

Whew! I’m tired already, and we haven’t even started across the river. But, it looks like we’re getting ready to pull out. The horses are stepping into the water. I think I’m going to close my eyes and pray.

Wait—why did we stop? Are we across yet? Oh, no, it looks like we just stopped on a little island. We’ve only gone about one hundred yards. Feels like we’re moving again. If we don’t make it across…

Stopped again! Oh, it’s another little island. We’ve come about another seventy-five yards, but we’re still not there! What’s the wagon master doing? It looks like he is tying a string of wagons together with a chain. We’re going to try this last leg of the trip together, all moving as one.

Here we go! The water is getting so high! We have to get across, we have to! Some of these families have traveled all the way here from Independence, Missouri!

The water—the water is starting to go down! I think we’re almost across!

We made it! We made it! Praise God, we made it safely across!

Explore More

Use the pages in your Explorer Pack to help you complete these activities.

Grades K-2

Imagine the prettiest river you can. Now, draw a picture of it, using as many colors as you like.
Grades 3-6

Find Snake River on a map and trace its path. What states does it travel through?

Grades 7-12

Rivers—one thing you will find almost everywhere on earth! Today, you can choose between two projects to do. You can either 1) write a poem about a river, or 2) explore the world until you find the answer to at least three of these questions:

What river is the longest? The deepest? The widest (at its widest point)? The one in the coldest climate? The one in the hottest climate? One that has played an important role in a battle or war?
Idaho
Day Five:

I’ve had so much fun this week, taking you to the Spalding Mission Site and Three Island Crossing!

It’s very important for an explorer to keep a record of all the places they’ve explored. That helps the people who travel there after them to find their way and stay safe. You could run into all sorts of dangerous surprises if you got lost in the forest!

So, we’re going to write down some facts about what we’ve seen on our expedition this week. Go get your explorer packs, and we will get started.

In my Travel Journal, I have written down the weather of the places we visited. I have logged the miles we have traveled, and I have recorded the time periods we have visited.

Use these pages to create your own Idaho Travel Journal. We’re going to use it every week, so don’t forget where you put it when you finish today’s lesson!

Directions

In your weather log, fill in the answers from your Explorer Packs. Record the distance you traveled between the Spalding Mission Site and Three Island Crossing. On your Timeline, record the events happening in Idaho in the years 1838 and 1848. Don’t forget to record the other events you discovered.

I hope you enjoyed your first week of exploring Idaho. I will see you next week, when we will travel further into the 1800’s!
Week One Enrichment Ideas

Idea #1: Who were the Nez Perce? Do a little research and write an essay about what you find. See if you can write at least 500 words.

Idea #2: On a map, trace the route of the Oregon Trail. How many miles long was it? Have you ever taken a trip that long? Where did you go, and what did you do there?