

The Oregon Trail: American Settler

V 2.8.6

Gameloft

Target Audience: General (both kids and adults)

Software Type(s): This app is a simulation app because it simulates living life in the Wild West and overcoming struggles common during the time.

Curriculum & Environments: I would use this app in a history class when discussing the Wild West

Cost: Free to play, although users can purchase in-game currency using real money

About the Software:

The Oregon Trail is a game that lets users build their own town in the Wild West while overcoming struggles such as illness, stampedes, and natural disasters. Some highlights of the game include building and managing your own town, searching for gold and growing a farm. This game features an in-depth tutorial to get you started off on the right foot and is based off the old computer game of the same name. This game also allows you to interact with other players towns to grow yours and become a team.

Impressions and Classroom Usage:

We were impressed with this app and found it to honestly be a little bit addicting. However, one complaint that we have is how long the tutorial is. The tutorial took about 30 minutes to work through and we honestly felt like it could have been made to be completed in half the time. The tutorial does cover everything from buttons to building a home. We really liked how the game had realistic sounds and there was always something to do while you waited on a task, such as a building being constructed, to be completed. This game reminded us of games like Farmville on Facebook and Hay Day. We could see ourselves using this in a history class when discussing the Oregon Trail and the Wild West. This would be a great class activity if we were to Airplay it from our iPad to the board and have students assist in making decisions.