

Pack your wagon

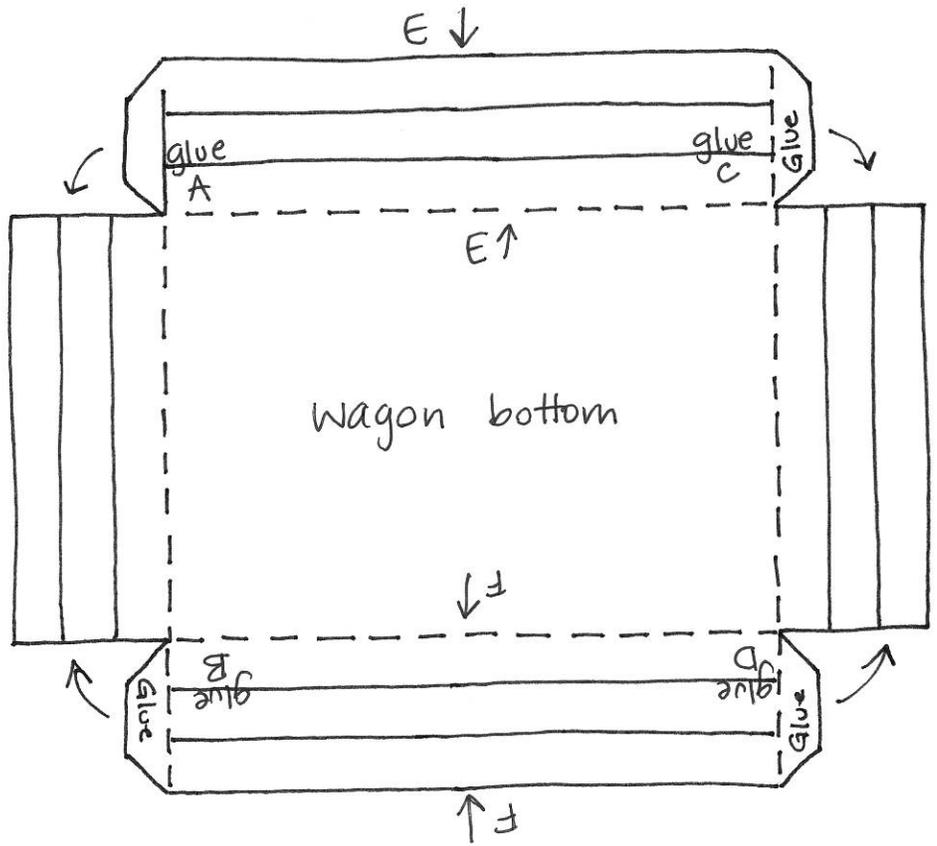
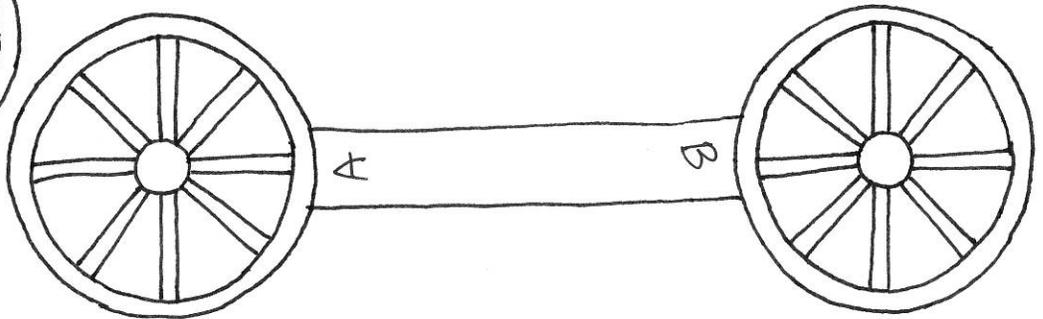
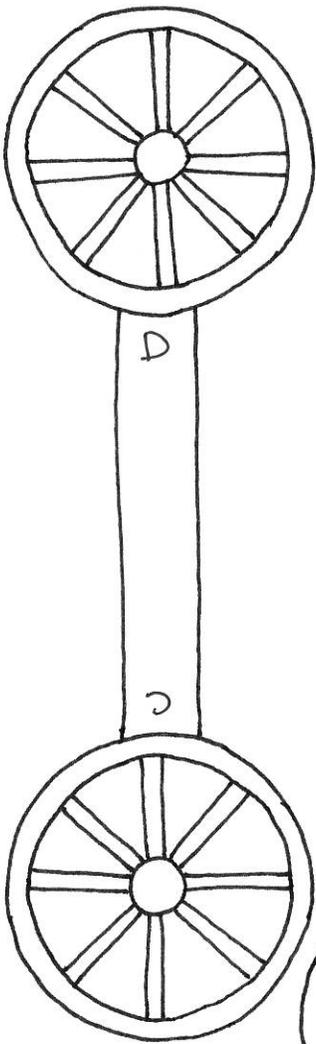
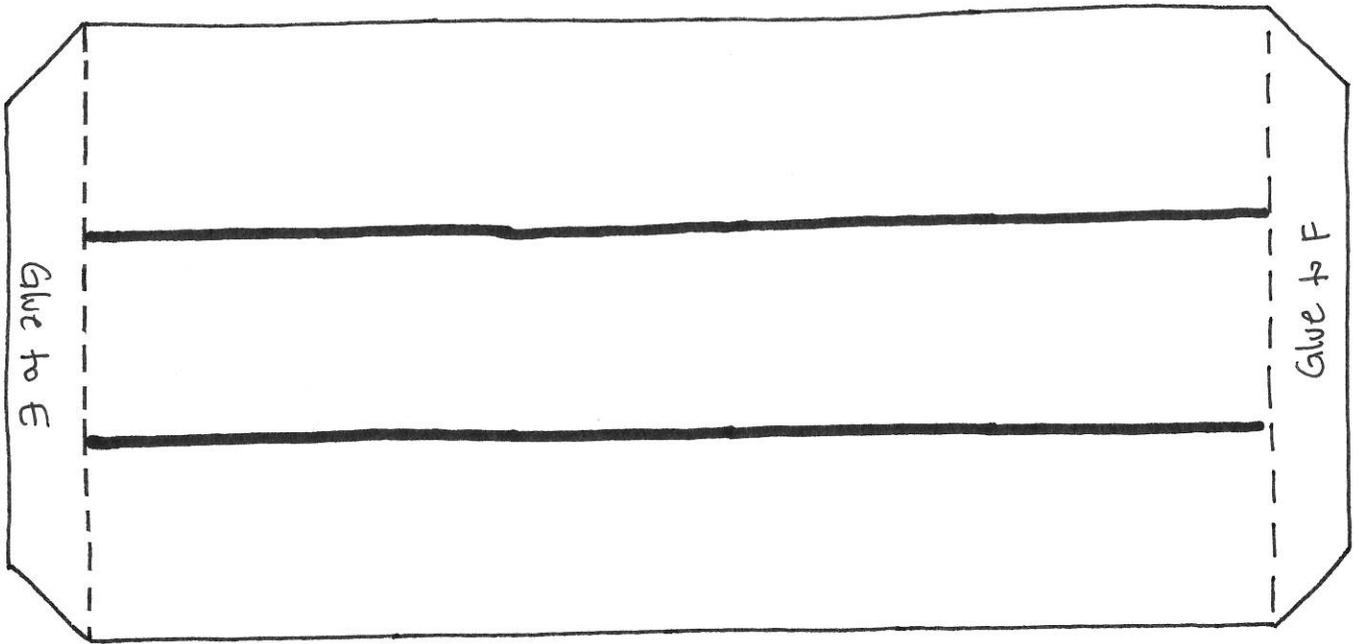
Imagine you are a pioneer, and you want to pack your belongings to start a new life in Texas. What items would you take with you? Space is limited in your wagon, so you'll have to decide: Do you need medicine or coffee? A shovel or a plow? A stove or a washtub?

This packet has three sets of buildable things. Page one is a wagon that can be packed with the cubes. Page two is a set of filled out cubes. Each cube has a different item on it. Page three is a set of blank cubes. There are a number of ways that these items can be used.

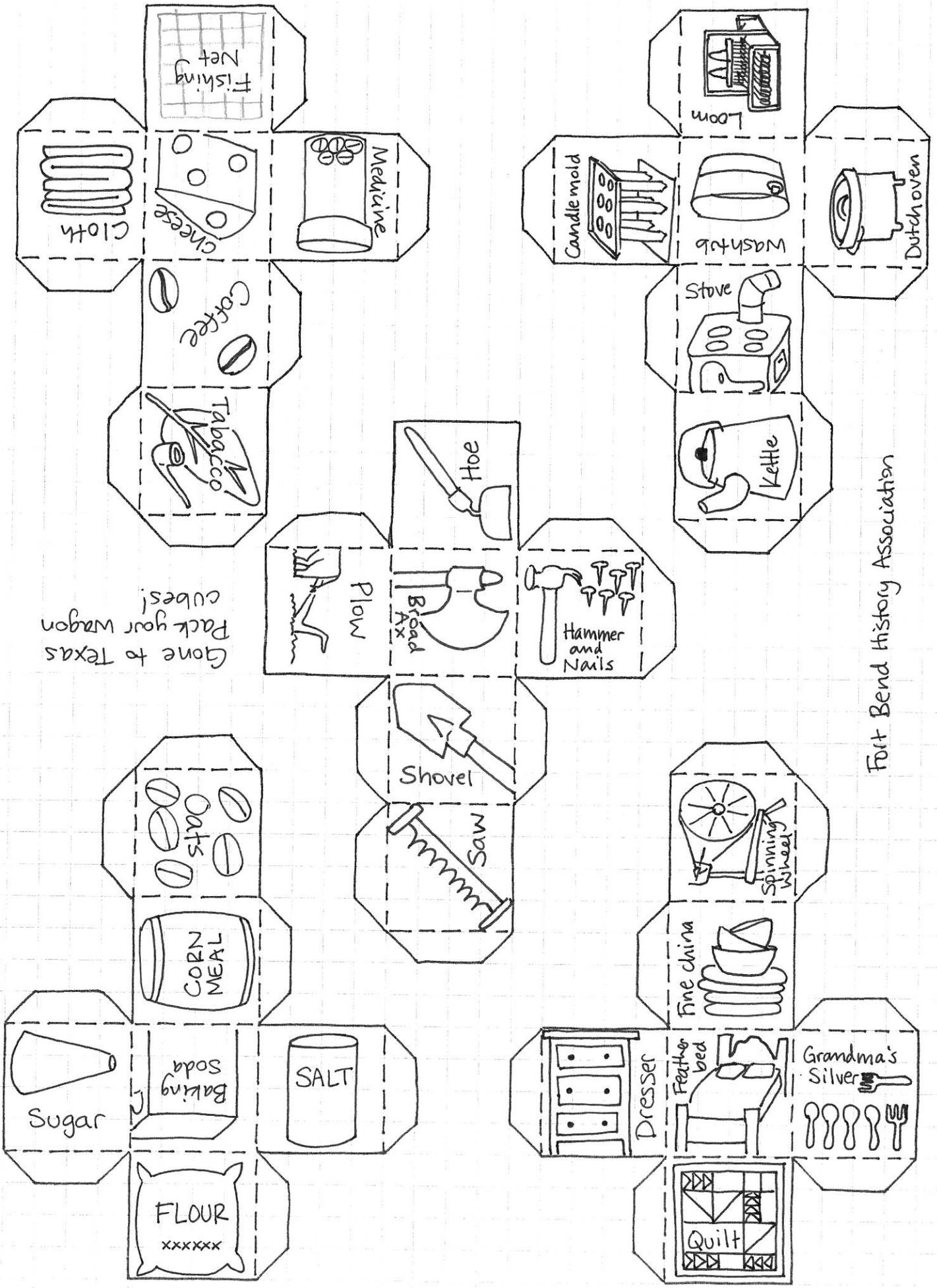
1. Examine each pre-printed cube carefully and decide which item is the one that you would bring with you to Texas. Explain why you chose the items that you did and what benefit the item will bring you when you get to Texas
2. Roll the preprinted cubes like dice and then figure out how you would survive with whatever items land are facing up on the cubes.
3. Use the blank cubes to add in items that you think are missing from the game, and try either picking, or rolling the cubes to see if you would survive.

Here are some notes and quotes from Mary Austin Holley (Stephen F. Austin's Cousin) about what people brought with them to Texas from her book *Texas Observations Historical, Geographical and Descriptive*:

- Mattresses at the time were a giant sack filled with things like cornhusks, feathers, or moss. Which meant the only part you had to bring with you was the bag, because moss and corn husks were easy to find (unlike feathers)
 - “Those who must have a feather-bed, had better bring it, for it would take too long to make one; and though the air swarms with live geese, a feather-bed could not be got for love or money.”
- “Furniture, such as chairs and bureaus, can be brought in separate pieces and put together, cheaper and better, after arrival, than they can be purchased here, if purchased at all.” (page 125)
- A few well selected standard books, must not be forgotten. (page 125)
- House-keepers should bring with them all indispensable articles for household use, together with as much common clothing (other clothing is not wanted) for themselves and their children, as they, conveniently, can. Ladies in particular, should remember, that in a new country, they cannot get things made at any moment, as in an old one, and that they will be sufficiently busy, the first two years, in arranging such things as they have, without occupying themselves in obtaining more. (pages 123-124)



Gone to Texas
Pack your wagon
cubes!



Fort Bend History Association

