

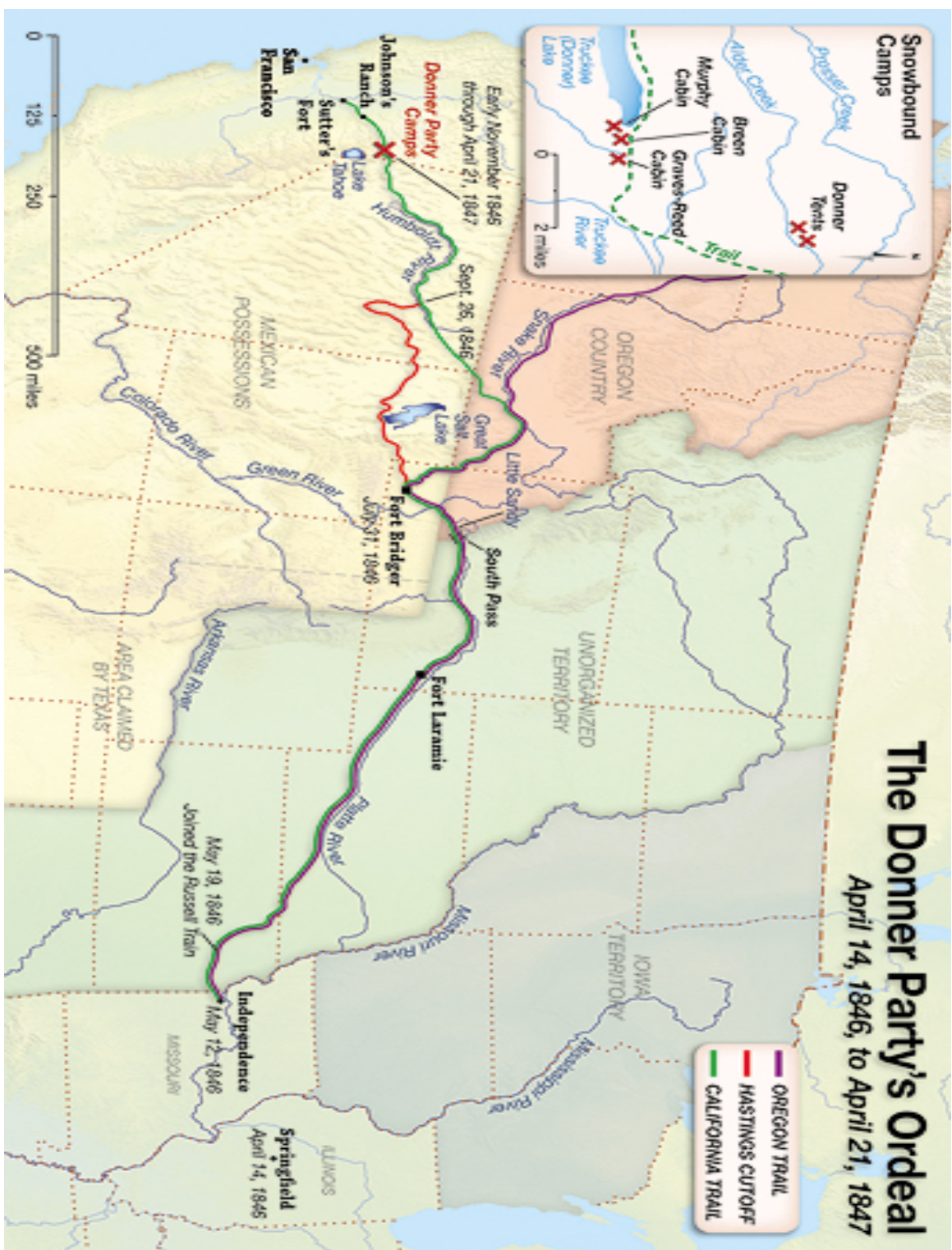
# **The Donner Party**

**By American Experience**

1. Why were the group's members moving west?
2. Why did they go all the way to California?
3. Who moved west?
4. What did it take to make the move west?
5. How did they decide which way to go?
6. How were wagon parties organized?

# The Donner Party's Ordeal

April 14, 1846, to April 21, 1847



**TABLE 1. Data for the Members of the Donner Party**

Settler	Gender	Age	Date of death
<b>Donner Family</b>			
Jacob Donner	M	56	died in Nov. in Alder Creek camp
George Donner	M	62	died in Apr. in Alder Creek camp
Elizabeth Donner	F	45	died in Mar. in Alder Creek camp
Tamsen Donner	F	45	died in Apr. in Alder Creek camp
Elitha Donner	F	13	
Solomon Hook	M	14	
William Hook	M	12	died Feb. 28 with first rescue party
Leanna Donner	F	11	
George Donner	M	9	
Mary Donner	F	7	
Frances Donner	F	6	
Isaac Donner	M	5	died Mar. 7 with second rescue party
Georgia Donner	F	4	
Samuel Donner	M	4	died in Apr. in Alder Creek camp
Lewis Donner	M	3	died Mar. 7 or 8 in Alder Creek camp
Eliza Donner	F	3	
<b>Murphy-Foster-Pike Family</b>			
Levinah Murphy	F	36	died around Mar. 19 in Lake camp
William Foster	M	30	
William Pike	M	32	died Oct. 20 by accidental gunshot
Sarah Murphy Foster	F	19	
Harriet Murphy Pike	F	18	
John Landrum Murphy	M	16	died Jan. 31 in Lake camp
Mary Murphy	F	14	
Lemuel Murphy	M	12	died Dec. 27 with snowshoers
William Murphy	M	10	
Simon Murphy	M	8	
Naomi Pike	F	2	
George Foster	M	1	died in early Mar. in Lake camp
Catherine Pike	F	1	died Feb. 20 in Lake camp
<b>Graves-Fosdick Family</b>			
Franklin Graves	M	57	died Dec. 24 with snowshoers
Elizabeth Graves	F	45	died Mar. 8 with second rescue team
Jay Fosdick	M	23	died Jan. 5 with snowshoers
Sarah Fosdick	F	21	
Mary Graves	F	19	
William Graves	M	17	
Eleanor Graves	F	14	
Lovina Graves	F	12	
Nancy Graves	F	9	
Jonathan Graves	M	7	
Franklin Graves, Jr.	M	5	died Mar. 8 with second rescue team
Elizabeth Graves	F	1	
<b>Breen Family</b>			
Patrick Breen	M	51	
Margaret Breen	F	40	
John Breen	M	14	
Edward Breen	M	13	
Patrick Breen, Jr.	M	9	
Simon Breen	M	8	
James Breen	M	5	
Peter Breen	M	3	
Isabella Breen	F	1	
<b>Reed Family</b>			
Sarah Keyes	F	70	Died before reaching California
James Reed	M	45	

*(table continues)*

**TABLE 1. (Continued)**

Settler	Gender	Age	Date of death
<i>Reed Family (continued)</i>			
Margaret Reed	F	32	
Virginia Reed	F	13	
Martha (Patty) Reed	F	9	
James Reed, Jr.	M	6	
Thomas Reed	M	4	
<i>Eddy Family</i>			
William Eddy	M	28	
Eleanor Eddy	F	25	died Feb. 7 in Lake camp
James Eddy	M	3	died in early Mar. in Lake camp
Margaret Eddy	F	1	died Feb. 4 in Lake camp
<i>Keseberg Family</i>			
Lewis Keseberg	M	32	
Phillipine Keseberg	F	23	
Ada Keseberg	F	3	died Feb. 24 with first rescue team
Lewis Keseberg, Jr.	M	1	died Jan. 24 in Lake camp
<i>McCutchen Family</i>			
William McCutchen	M	30	
Amanda McCutchen	F	25	
Harriet McCutchen	F	1	died Feb. 2 in Lake camp
<i>Williams Family</i>			
Eliza Williams	F	31	Sister of Baylis
Baylis Williams	M	25	died Dec. 16 in Lake camp
<i>Wolfinger Family</i>			
Mr. Wolfinger	M	?	killed around Oct. 13 by Reinhardt and Spitzer
(Doris?) Wolfinger	F	20	
<i>Unrelated Individuals</i>			
Mr. Hardkoop	M	60	died around Oct. 8; abandoned by Lewis Keseberg
Patrick Dolan	M	35	died Dec. 25 with snowshoers
Charles Stanton	M	35	died around Dec. 21 with snowshoers
Charles Burger	M	30	died Dec. 29 in Lake camp
Joseph Reinhardt	M	30	died in Nov. or early Dec. in Alder Creek camp
Augustus Spitzer	M	30	died Feb. 7 in Lake camp
John Denton	M	30	died Feb. 24 with first rescue team
Milford (Milt) Elliot	M	28	died Feb. 9 in Lake camp
Luke Halloran	M	25	died Aug. 29 of tuberculosis
William Herron	M	27	
Samuel Shoemaker	M	25	died in Nov. or early Dec. in Alder Creek camp
James Smith	M	25	died in Nov. or early Dec. in Alder Creek camp
John Snyder	M	25	killed Oct. 5 by James Reed
Jean Baptiste Trudeau	M	16	
Antonio	M	23	died Dec. Lake camp
Noah James	M	16	
Luis	M	?	Killed by William Foster
Salvador	M	?	Killed by William Foster

\*Data available from many sources including: Dan Rosen's Web site: <http://members.aol.com/danrosen/donner/survivor.htm>; Jared Diamond's "Living through the Donner Party."