

Name _____ Period _____

THE DONNER PARTY

TRAGEDY IN THE MOUNTAINS. WHO IS AT FAULT? YOU DECIDE...

The Donner Party was a group of families heading to California on the Oregon Trail in 1846. They had heard about a shortcut promoted by Lansford Hastings that promised to shorten their journey. The decision to take the shortcut proved tragic and many members of the Donner Party died in the mountains that winter. Who was at fault for this tragedy? As you watch the video pretend you are an investigator at the scene of a crime. The information you hear on the video is the evidence you are collecting. Write down any evidence in the column you believe it belongs. You must have at least 3 items for each column - more are encouraged. After the video examine your evidence and then decide who you believe is to blame. Remember - take no shortcuts.....

**EVIDENCE AGAINST
LANSFORD W. HASTINGS**



**EVIDENCE AGAINST
DONNER PARTY MEMBERS**

WHO DO YOU BELIEVE IS TO BLAME FOR THIS TRAGIC EVENT?

LANSFORD HASTINGS _____

THE MEMBERS OF THE DONNER PARTY _____