DIY Covered Wagon

Settlers first came to California in wagons in 1841. Many more followed and brought wagons packed with everything they needed to start a new life. This activity is inspired by those settlers packing up their lives for the hope of a better life in California.

Supplies:
- Cardboard box (shoe box preferred)
- Paper
- Glue (hot glue preferred)
- Craft sticks or popsicle sticks
- Scissors or utility knife
- Markers (optional)
- Duct tape (optional)

Instructions:
1. Use an existing box or use cardboard to create a box. Then decorate it however you want.

2. Use a piece of paper for the cover over the open part of the box. Decorate that too if you’d like your wagon to be bright and colorful.

3. Cut circles out of cardboard for the wheels. Use a cup to trace equal sized circles for matching wheels.

4. Glue the wheels on the box, so the bottom of the box sits up off the ground. Hot glue would be a great here, but craft glue will work too.
5. Place and glue the cover over the opening of the box. Make sure any decorations are facing out to display after it’s glued on the wagon.

6. Glue two popsicle or craft sticks together along the long skinny edge to create two flat panels. Hot glue will work much faster!

7. Glue one craft stick panel flat against one end of the wagon, and glue the other panel gutting out underneath the upright panel. It will make a seat for the wagon driver.

8. Enjoy your completed wagon!

You can also try making other versions of a covered wagon, for example you might make one that is more historically accurate, or create one with rotating wheels.