The Travels of Jedidiah Smith

Jedidiah Smith was the most traveled of the mountain men. The map below shows his wanderings and explorations between 1823 and 1830.

Directions: Use the map to answer the questions at the bottom of the page.

Jedidiah Smith viewed the following natural features on his journeys.

In what state is each of these located?

1. Black Hills  
2. Columbia River  
3. Missouri River  
4. Platte River  
5. Snake River  
6. South Pass
The map below shows the trails that were used to travel west across the United States.

**Directions:** Use this map to answer the questions on the bottom of this page and the next.
**Western Trails Map Questions**

1. What are the six major trails used for the westward migration of the American people?  
________________________________________________________

2. Which city was the starting point for MOST of the trails? ___________________________

3. In which two states did most of the trails end? ________________________________

4. Which city and state did the Mormon Trail begin? _______________________________

5. Which city and state did the Mormon Trail end? ________________________________

6. Which trail went from Santa Fe to Los Angeles? ________________________________

7. Which trail went from Santa Fe to San Diego? ________________________________

8. Which trail was the longest? _______________________________________________

9. Which western mountain range did the California Trail cross? _______________

10. Which two trails crossed the Rio Grande River? ______________________________

11. Which trail followed the Humboldt River part of the way? ______________________

12. Which trail went over the Cascade mountain range? __________________________

13. Which trail went over the Sierra Nevada mountain range? ______________________

14. Which two trails followed the Platte River for a long distance? __________________
Western Trails Facts and Figures

Directions: Use your math skills to solve the following problems about travel along the Western trails. SHOW YOUR WORK, EVEN IF IT IS SIMPLE MATH! (and don’t forget to label!)

1. The Oregon Trail was 2,170 miles long. One branch of the Santa Fe Trail was 900 miles long. How much longer was the Oregon Trail?

2. In 1842, 125 pioneers followed the Oregon Trail. The following year, 875 people used this trail, and then the next year 1,475 pioneers took this route. In 1845, 2,500 settlers traveled along this trail. What was the total number of people who went on the Oregon Trail during those four years?

3. In 1849, only 450 people traveled to Oregon along the Oregon Trail, but 25,500 took the California Trail to the gold fields. How many more people went to California?

4. Forty-Niners could take the ocean voyage around South America to California, which was 13,000 miles long; or they could take the Oregon-California Trail, which was 2,200 miles long. How many more miles was the ocean voyage?

5. One branch of the Santa Fe Trail was 780 miles long. The Cimarron Crossing was 100 miles shorter but more dangerous. How long was the Cimarron route?

6. Fort Laramie was 650 miles west of Independence, Missouri, where the Oregon Trail began. How many more miles did pioneers have to go before their 2,170-mile journey was over?

7. Independence Rock was 900 miles from Independence, Missouri. How far was it from the end of their 2,170-mile journey?

8. For Hall in Idaho was 1,200 miles from Independence, Missouri. How many more miles did the pioneers have to travel to reach Oregon, a 2,170-mile trip from Independence?

9. The transcontinental railroad was 1,775 miles long and reached from Omaha, Nebraska, to Sacramento, California. The Central Pacific laid 690 miles of track. The rest was built by the Union Pacific Railroad. How many miles did they build?

10. The bed of a covered wagon was 6 feet wide, 12 feet long, and 3 feet high. What was the volume of the wagon bed?