

Name: _____

Period: _____

Routes Assignments

Bidwell-Bartleson Route Page 85

1. What does this map show?
2. What trail is also shown on this map?
3. Where do both these trails begin?
4. Where do these trails split and go a different direction?
5. What states do the Bidwell-Bartleson Route pass through?
6. Where does the Bidwell-Bartleson Route end?

John C. Fremont Page 87

1. What do the lines on this map represent?
2. What features on this map do you recognize?
3. Compare this map to the map on page 9. If Fremont traveled the same routes today, what cities might he pass through?

Hastings Cutoff, A Shorter Route Page 88

1. What does the map show?
2. What forts are shown on this map?
3. What natural feature in Utah did Hastings Cutoff pass along the south end of?

Using the map below draw the routes for the Bidwell-Bartleson party, John C. Fremont's three trips through Utah, And Hastings Cutoff, The Oregon Trail, and the California Trail, make sure to make a key and to label each route separately.



Patty Reed Writes a Letter

You read about the trek of the Donner-Reed pioneers on pages 90-91. Several members of the group kept diaries. Some members later recalled the fateful trip and published their writings in newspapers and books. After the rescue of the group in California, some wrote letters to send back home with travelers going the opposite direction. Thirteen year old Virginia (Patty) Reed described the crossing of the salt flats of the Great Salt Lake in a letter to her cousin.

MAY 16, 1847

Speaking of the people at Bridger's Fort, she wrote:

"... they persuaded us to take Hastings cut off over the salt plain they said it saved 3 Hundred miles, we went that road & we had to go through a long dry drive of 40 miles With out water or grass Hastings said it was 40 but i think it was 80 miles We traveld a day and night & a nother day and at noon pa went on to see if he Coud find Water, he had not been gone long till some of the oxen give out and we had to leve the Wagons and take the oxen on to water one of the men staid with us and the others went on with the cattel to water."

"Pa was a coming back to us with Water and met the men thay was about 10 miles from water pa said they get to water that night, and the next day to bring the cattel back for the Wagons any bring some Water"

Note: Mr. Reed and others went on ahead to find water. They left their wagons on the desert in order to let the animals travel without the added burden of heavy wagons to pull. Once water was found at some springs at the foot of mountains, Reed started back to meet the cattle and to get his family. Mr. Eddy accompanied him back five miles, with a bucket of water for his oxen that had "become exhausted, in consequence of thirst, and had lain down."

1. Compare the dates Patty Reed traveled across the salt flats of the Great Salt Lake and the date of her letter.
2. Why do you think members of the Donner-Reed party wrote about the trip after it was over?
3. The letter says the route of Hastings Cutoff went "over the salt plain," which today we call the salt flats of the Great Salt Lake. What natural resources the group needed does Patty say were not available on that part of the trip?
4. The wagons were packed with goods that would have helped the group survive the cold mountains of California. Why were the wagons left behind as the group crossed the salt flats?

Jedediah Smith's Journal

In 1827, almost fifty men from St. Louis, loaded with freight wagons of supplies, arrived at the Sweet Lake (Bear Lake) rendezvous near today's Laketown. A small black iron cannon mounted on two wheels was pulled to the site along with the freight wagons.

One day in July a surprise guest entered the rendezvous camp. Jedediah Smith had left St. Louis in late October with sixty men, 160 mules, and \$20,000 worth of trade goods. Most thought he had died in the deserts of the Great Basin or in California. These entries from Smith's journals shed light on the surprise:

July 1st

25 Miles North East along the shore of the Lake. Nothing material occurred. Made our way to the Cache. But just before arriving there I saw some Indians on the opposite side of a creek. It was hardly worth while as I thought, to be any wise careful, so I went directly to them and found as near as I could judge by what I knew of the language to be a band of the Snakes. I learned from them that the Whites, as they term our parties, were all assembled at the little Lake, a distance of about 25 Miles. There was in [the] camp about 200 Lodges of Indians and as they were on their way to the rendezvous I encamped with them.

[July] 3d

I hired a horse and a guide and at three o'clock arrived at the rendezvous. My arrival caused a considerable bustle in camp, for myself and party had been given up as lost. A small Cannon brought up from St. Louis was loaded and fired for a salute.

1. Smith refers to the Snake Indians, which are actually Shoshone. What can you learn about interaction between the whites and Shoshone by reading this journal entry?
2. Do you think Smith was confident that he would be safe as he approached the Indians?
3. What can you learn about the number of Indians who attended the rendezvous?
4. Why might the Indians have wanted to attend the rendezvous?
5. Why was the cannon fired with Smith and his group entered the rendezvous site? Imagine the scene and write about what you think might have happened next.