Lesson Questions Answer Key

1. Compare the historic trail map with current Google map of the same area. Which two highways are close to the original Mountain and Cimarron routes? Highway 50 (Mountain) and Highway 56 (Cimarron)

2. Which highway from question 1 is closer to the original route? Highway 50

3. What other natural feature(s) do either of these routes cross? Point of Rocks, Round Mound, Raton Mountain Pass

4. How are rivers both a positive and a negative feature to travelers? The water from rivers sustains the lives of humans and animals and the plants that support them. However, they also threaten life through periods of flooding and drought. They are often difficult to cross and during certain times of the year their fast currents cause drowning.

5. Look up the distance between Independence, MO and Santa Fe, NM. Using 12 miles per day as an average, how many days would it take a traveler to reach either end of the trail? 770 miles. 770 divided by 12 = 64 days.