

# Travel to the Gold Fields Worksheet

## Answer Key

1. What event drew thousands of people from all over the world to California in 1849?

**Discovery of gold by James Marshall along the American River**

2. List the three major routes to California?

- a. **Cape Horn**
- b. **Isthmus of Panama**
- c. **Overland on the California Trail**



3. Which was the longest route to California? **Cape Horn**

4. Where is Cape Horn located? **Southern tip of South America**

5. How many nautical miles was the Cape Horn route? **18,000**

6. What were two problems travelers encountered on this route?

- a. **Dangerous weather, crowded conditions**
- b. **Boredom, stale water and low food, sickness**



7. How did gold seekers cross the Isthmus of Panama? **Small boat or canoe, mule**

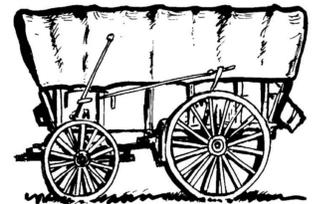
8. What two tropical diseases did travelers face when crossing the Isthmus of Panama? **Yellow fever, malaria**

9. Name two American cities that became the main starting points for wagon trains headed west? **Independence, St. Joseph, Council Bluffs**

10. Name two kinds of animals that pulled the wagons? **Oxen, mules**

11. What were three difficulties travelers faced along the wagon trails?

- a. **Terrain: mountains, desert, rivers**
- b. **Accidents**
- c. **Disease**



12. You are living in New York in 1848 when President Polk announces gold was discovered in California. You decide to join the gold rush. What route would you choose and why? Give three reasons. **Answers will vary**