

Teacher's Manual • Lesson 14

3. *Answer these questions.*

a. *What were the advantages and disadvantages of each of the three routes to California?*

The overland routes were shortest, but they were difficult and dangerous because of mountains, deserts, and attacks by Indians and robbers. The route around South America was easier but more expensive, and it involved some nine or ten months of hazardous sailing. The route across Panama was shorter than sailing around South America, but travelers faced the danger of diseases carried by insects in Panama.

b. *Why was the Pacific coast settled before other areas of the West?*

Most of the West between Missouri and the Pacific Coast was a dry region, which at that time was called the Great American Desert. The lure of gold in California and rich soil in Oregon motivated people to cross this dry land and settle the Pacific Coast.