Activity - How do you get to California?

Theme: Emigrants who traveled on the California Trail traversed 2000 miles over a variety of landscapes.

Goals: Students will understand that the California Trail follows a distinct pattern following natural resources.

Objectives: Students will learn:
1. Geographic features the Trail passes through
2. The significance of water on the Trail.

Standards:
G5.4.2 Identify spatial patterns on a map of Nevada, i.e., deserts, mountains, population.
G6.4.1 Describe the distinguishing features of historical regions in Nevada, i.e., Native American tribal territories, pioneer trails, and settlement areas.
How do you get to California?

On the Map below, draw where you think the California Trail was located.

Answer the following questions:

1. How did you decide where to place the California Trail?

2. What landforms (mountains, rivers, etc.) does it cross?

3. Which modern states does it cross?
Below is a picture of the California Trail.

Answer the following questions:

1. Why isn’t the California Trail one line?

2. Does the trail follow any patterns?

3. What is the significance of the location?