

SS4H6 The student will explain westward expansion of America between 1801 and 1861.

The intent of this standard is for students to understand the rapid growth of American territory in the first half of the 19th century, and describe the impact of this growth on those living in that territory.

a. Describe territorial expansion with emphasis on the Louisiana Purchase, the Lewis and Clark expedition, and the acquisitions of Texas (the Alamo and independence), Oregon (Oregon Trail), and California (Gold Rush and the development of mining towns).

In 1803, President Thomas Jefferson purchased the *Louisiana Territory* from France. This territory stretched far beyond the modern state of Louisiana, encompassing much of thirteen modern states west of the Mississippi River. The *Louisiana Purchase* nearly doubled the size of the United States. For an extensive background on exploration of the lands eventually purchased: <http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/lewisandclark/lewis-before.html>.

Jefferson wanted a better understanding of what he had bought, so in 1804 he sent *Meriwether Lewis and William Clark* on an expedition to uncover the secrets of Louisiana. Over the course of the next three years, the team traveled through land previously seen only by Native Americans. The reports and artifacts the team sent back to President Jefferson piqued national interest in the new territory, and eventually helped encourage rapid emigration to the area. The group also learned a great deal about the Native American nations present in the territory, though their communication about these nations is certainly clouded by prejudice. Visit this online exhibit for information about the expedition, artifacts collected, and Jefferson's personal involvement: <http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/lewisandclark/lewis-landc.html>.

Not included in the Louisiana Purchase was the desert Southwest, most of which was part of Mexico. *Texas* had declared itself independent, and sought to join the United States. One of the major events of the Texan war for independence was the Battle of the *Alamo*, fought in 1836 in San Antonio. After a long siege by Mexican forces, Texan independence fighters made a "last stand" at the Alamo. A more numerous Mexican army defeated them, but "remember the Alamo" became a rallying cry for the remaining months of the independence struggle. In 1846, Texas became an American state, which Mexico saw as a declaration of war. The resulting Mexican War lasted until 1848, when Mexico gave up all claims to Texan lands (including portions of modern New Mexico).

At the same time, politicians in Washington looked to end three decades of shared ownership of the *Oregon Territory* with Great Britain. The British proposed a northern border drawn further south than President James K. Polk and his supporters preferred. However, facing war over Texas, few in Congress were willing to risk additional armed conflict. In 1846, Congress ratified the British treaty, and gained Oregon for the United States. Many Americans had moved to Oregon (using the overland *Oregon Trail*) following reports of abundant fertile land for settlers.

For background information on American expansion into Texas and Oregon, visit: http://www.smithsonianeducation.org/educators/lesson_plans/borders/resources.html. Gold was discovered at Sutter's Mill, California, in 1848, and the resulting *gold rush* sent people from around the world to *California*, hoping for instant wealth. Many reports of how easily gold could be obtained were exaggerated, and thus many migrants found themselves in an unfamiliar land with few prospects. Fortunately, California's mild climate encouraged a variety of economic activities and the area's population boomed. In 1850, California became a state. For more information on the Gold Rush, and its impact on the millions of lives that it touched, visit: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/goldrush/>.

Sample Question for SS4H6a

Gold was discovered in California in 1848. What did this discovery cause?

- A. the southern states to leave the Union.
- B. the British to raise taxes
- C. Native Americans to move off reservations
- D. many people to move to the West *

<p>b. Describe the impact of the steamboat, the steam locomotive, and the telegraph on life in America.</p>	<p><i>*Steamboat:</i> Developed at the end of the 18th century, steamboats in America were first used commercially in the 1810s in New York state. Since steamboats powered themselves, and were not reliant on variable winds, they could travel on a consistent, predictable schedule. They were also able to travel against river currents, making them particularly useful for local transport of goods. As technology improved, steamboats moved onto the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River, improving transportation for commerce throughout the young United States. For a great deal of steamboat trivia, visit: http://www.steamboats.org/index.php.</p> <p><i>*Steam locomotive:</i> While the use of steam to create motion has been in use since ancient times, the modern steam engine came about in the early years of the 19th century. Used for a multitude of applications, the steam engine allowed power to be generated away from water sources, and also created the possibility of moving, self-powered devices (locomotives, automobiles, etc.). The steam locomotive made cross-country transportation of goods and people possible. It also contributed heavily to the population of the western territories/states, as people could travel safely and quickly, and needed supplies could be obtained.</p> <p><i>*Telegraph:</i> The telegraph, developed in 1832 and perfected over the next decade, revolutionized communication. No longer dependent on anything more than a wire to deliver messages, Americans were able to “talk” to people far away through a simple transmitter and code. As the nation moved west, messages could be sent quickly and effectively, removing the fear of being “cut off” from the rest of the country for potential migrants. For an extensive history of the telegraph, visit the Smithsonian: http://historywired.si.edu/detail.cfm?id=324.</p>
<p><u>Sample Question for SS4H6b</u> How did the telegraph impact life in America?</p> <p>A. It led to the development of the railroad. B. It allowed messages to be sent through the mail. C. It took longer to send messages over long distances. D. It allowed a speedy way to send messages over long distances. *</p>	
<p>c. Describe the impact of westward expansion on Native Americans.</p>	<p>There is no single description possible for the impact of westward expansion on all Native American groups. It is best for students to identify the impact of specific events during this time period on specific Native American groups.</p> <p>As in the eastern states, as more and more people moved into an area, Native Americans were generally forced from their lands. Some entered into treaties to retain specific portions of their homes, while others engaged in armed conflict. Disease continued to kill untold number of Native American people, as new germs arrived with each wave of settlers. Finally, the United States government had settled on a policy of “Indian removal,” meaning that Native Americans had virtually no legal rights to any of their ancestral lands, and U.S. Army troops were often involved in relocating people against their will.</p> <p>Specific events, such as the Gold Rush in California, caused Native Americans to take an active stand to preserve their homes and ways of life. This escalated tensions, and resulted in armed conflicts in a variety of places. By the beginning of the Civil War in 1861, Native Americans were faced with numerous challenges, and their legal status had diminished considerably.</p> <p>For much more information, visit http://ethemes.missouri.edu/themes/865, where a multitude of additional sites are linked.</p>

Name _____

Westward Expansion Study Guide

Questions to know:

Describes life for pioneer children in the 1800.

What was the Industrial Revolution?

How did the Industrial Revolution change the focus of American workers?

How did steamboats and locomotives affect transportation and shipping?

What effect did locomotives have on shipping?

What was the Louisiana Purchase?

Who did we buy it from?

How much did it cost?

What land did we get?

Who were Louis and Clark?

What did they explore?

What was their mission?

Why did Thomas Jefferson send them out?

Who was Sacagawea and how did she help Louis and Clark?

What happened in the California Gold Rush?

What happened to California's population?

What were Boomtowns?

How did Westward Expansion affect the Native Americans?

What was the trail of Tears?