

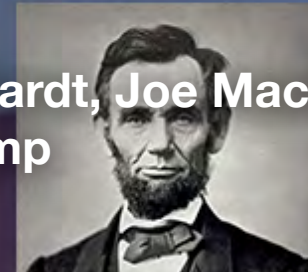
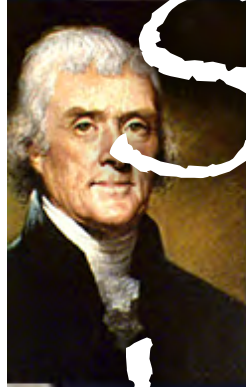
MI OPEN BOOK PROJECT

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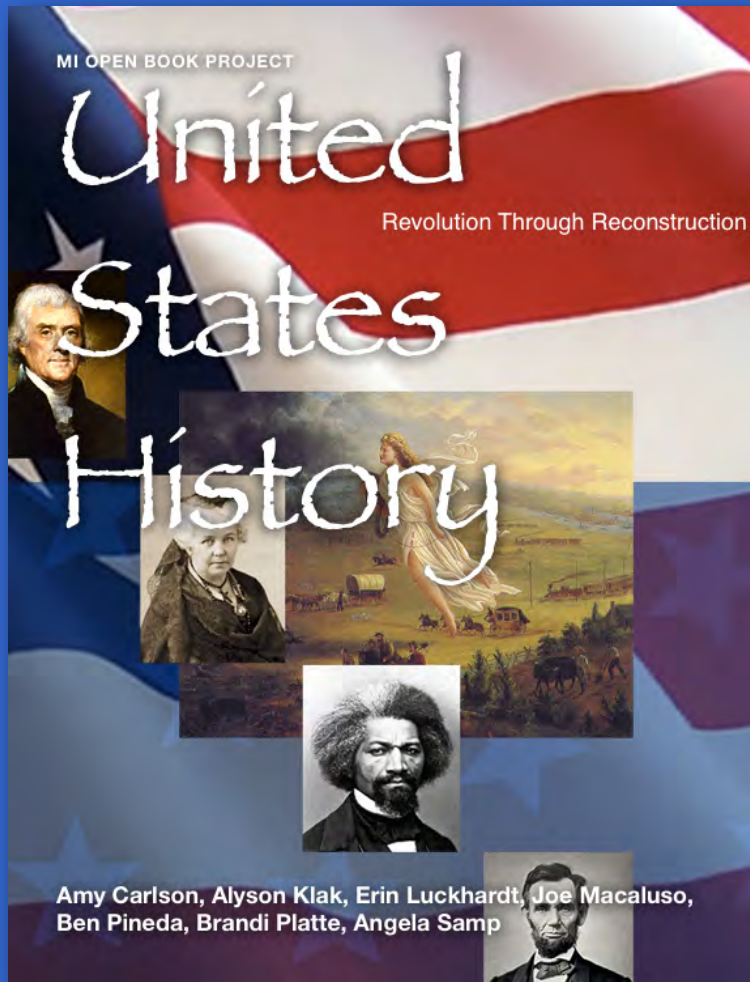
Revolution Through Reconstruction

States

History



Amy Carlson, Alyson Klak, Erin Luckhardt, Joe Macaluso,
Ben Pineda, Brandi Platte, Angela Samp



This is version 1.0.9 of this resource, released in August 2018

Information on the latest version and updates are available on the project homepage: <http://textbooks.wmisd.org/dashboard.html>



MICHIGAN OPEN BOOK PROJECT

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**MICHIGAN
OPEN BOOK PROJECT**

About the Authors - US History - Revolution through Reconstruction



Amy Carlson

Thunder Bay Junior High

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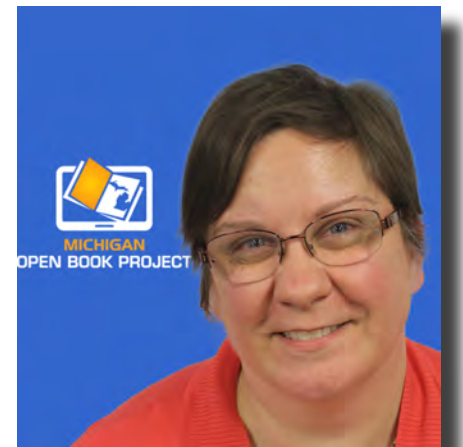
Amy has taught in Alpena Public Schools for many years. When not teaching or working on interactive Social Studies resources like this one she enjoys reading, hunting and fishing with her husband Erich, and sons Evan and Brady.

Allyson Klak

Shepherd Middle School

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Erin Luckhardt

Boyne City Middle School

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Erin is an 8th grade social studies teacher at Boyne City Middle School in Boyne City, MI. She formerly served as the district's technology coach when they were integrating their 1:1 iPad initiative. Before teaching in Boyne City, she taught high school social studies in the Lansing area for 4 years. Erin has her master's in Educational Technology and Educational Leadership, both from GVSU, and has an interest in effective integration of technology into the classroom for teachers as well as students.





Joe Macaluso

Elk Rapids Schools

Cherryland Middle School

Joe earned his Bachelor of Arts from the University of Michigan in 2000 with a major in History concentrating on early United States History. He minored in Social Studies and earned his Certificate of Secondary Education. He graduated from Michigan State University in 2004 with a Masters in Curriculum and Teaching. During his career at Cherryland Middle School in Elk Rapids, MI, Joe has served as Social Studies department head, technology coach, student council advisor, student senate advisor, YMCA Michigan Youth in Government trip coordinator and volleyball coach. He is passionate about using technology in the classroom to engage and enrich student learning. Joe lives with his wife, Amanda, and his two daughters in Elk Rapids. As a family they love traveling and spending their sum-

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Haslett Middle School

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MSU graduate - Go Green! Life is busy and life is good! Ben is a... teacher of 28 years, lead mentor teacher for the TE Social Studies department at MSU, workshop/conference professional development speaker, organization-skills tutor, writer, storyteller, V-ball and Ultimate player, fisherman, camper, cyclist, and MOST importantly, blessed with a loving wife, Meghan, and four amazing children, Emily, Matt, Conner, and Catherine.



The Michigan Open Book Project Team would like to thank the following individuals for their help in reviewing some content in the book and guiding the development process.

Keith Erekson - The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

Eric Hemenway - Director of Repatriation, Archives and Records, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians

Jim Cameron, Michigan Department of Education



Brandi Platte

Central Middle School

L'Anse Creuse Public Schools

Brandi Platte teaches Social Studies and Language Arts at Middle School Central in Macomb, Michigan. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in education from Oakland University, and a graduate degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Concordia University. She spends a great deal of time writing curriculum for the Macomb Intermediate School District and the National Parks Service. She is a sponsor for the National Junior Honor Society at her school, and in her free time she enjoys spending time outdoors with her family, especially her two sons, Ethan and Ryan.





Angie Samp
Thunder Bay Junior High

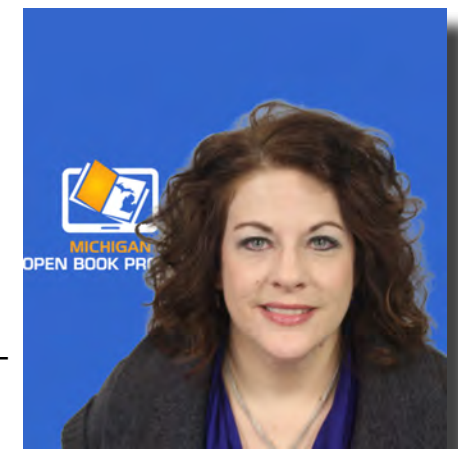
Alpena Public Schools

Angie has enjoyed teaching many grades in Alpena Public Schools over the last 13 years. Her passion lies in teaching history to 8th graders. Angie has a Bachelor of Arts in Group Social Studies from Grand Valley State University and a Masters in Education from Marygrove College. When she's not teaching, Angie enjoys many outdoor adventures including camping, traveling, and attending sporting events with her husband Gene, and sons Avery and Eli.

Rebecca Bush
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Rebecca Bush is currently the Social Studies Consultant at the Ottawa Area Intermediate School District (OAISD), where she assists K-12 social studies teachers in developing curriculum, modeling instructional strategies in social studies literacy, and designing district-level formative and summative assessments. Additionally, as Project Director, she has written and received multiple Teaching American History grants, working with teachers throughout an eight-county radius. She has presented at various national conferences on multiple topics surrounding social studies instruction as well as innovative techniques and topics in formative and summative assessment design. Currently she is Co-Project Director of The Performance Assessments of Social Studies Thinking (PASST) Project and assists with the professional development of teacher writers for the MI Open Book Project where she serves as an editor of several of the project's texts. Rebecca currently leads the Michigan Social



David A. Johnson
Project Manager

Michigan Open Book Project

Dave began his career teaching 8th grade United States History in Mesick, Michigan. After almost a decade in the classroom, he took a job at Wexford-Missaukee Intermediate School District (WMISD) as an Instructional Consultant for Social Studies. He is shared across 11 ISDs in Northern Michigan that form the Northern Michigan Learning Consortium. He completed his Masters in Educational Leadership through Central Michigan University in 2011 and is Co-Project Director of the Performance Assessments of Social Studies Thinking (PASST) Project in addition to his duties as the Project Manager for MI Open Book.



Chapter 6

How Did the Cultural Diffusion of Westward Expansion Forever Impact America's Identity?

1. How did geography shape the social, political and economic values of those in the West?
2. How might the country have developed differently if gold or other precious metals hadn't been discovered in the West?
3. What did 19th-century federal legislation and military activity reveal about the government's attitude toward westward expansion?
4. What were some of the largest sources of conflict between indigenous people and settlers in the West?
5. If the idea of Manifest Destiny hadn't had the influence of nationalism attached, would the amount of land the U.S. acquired been as significant?



Westward Bound



QUESTIONS TO GUIDE INQUIRY

1. How did geography shape the social, political and economic values of those in the West?
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TERMS, PLACES, PEOPLE

Mountain men

Have you ever had to move? Think about the reasons behind why you had to move. Were you forced to move (pushed) or did something draw you and/or your family to a new location (pulled)? Think about push and pull factors as you read. Highlight the push factors in yellow and the pull factors in blue on your device. At the end of the sections, view your notes and use them on the Check for Understanding.

Americans moving westward in the mid-1800s did so for a variety of reasons.

Stories of rich farmland in the Oregon Territory interested many to sell everything they owned and head out for a new beginning. The flood of immigrants from Europe, along with a higher birth rate, fueled a push west as large-scale farming could help support growth in the East. The US population had grown from more than five million in 1800 to more than twenty-three million by the mid-1800s. Others looked to make it rich in the expanding fur trade and were up for the adventures of trapping. In 1849, the news of gold in California caused a mad dash for wealth. Some were curious about the mysterious West and felt that what lay across the Mississippi River might just be the change they were looking for.

Whatever the reason, an estimated 4,000,000 Americans moved into the new frontier between 1820 and 1850 and in the process shaped a new identity in the American West built on ruggedness, new feelings of freedom, and a spirit of individualism.

Moving West

In the early 1800s, how do you think Americans would have moved West? Many simply walked the 1,000+ miles while others went by wagon train and horseback and boated on rivers along the way. Many of the first travellers took the same path that Lewis and Clark did up the Missouri hoping to make their fortunes trapping beaver in mountain streams. Beaver furs were used to make the fashionable and water-repellant felt hats for European and US consumers. The beaver populations in the East were depleted and mountain men came West to trap and trade beaver skins to make their fortunes in the industry.

Mountain Men

These first mountain men had to compete with Indian trappers who had been trapping and trading with the Spanish, French and British for decades and did so by setting up new trading companies. In 1807, Manuel Lisa, a Spanish merchant, established the first American trading post at Fort Raymond in present day Montana. After

Interactive 6.1 Mountain Men



What did a Mountain Man look like? Sketch a picture of what you think a mountain man would look like. What supplies would they take with them? What would their clothing be made from? Now, compare it to these photos of real mountain men What differences/ similarities do you see from your drawing?



Image source: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beaver>

being joined by William Clark, they created the Missouri Fur Company. A few years later in 1811, John Jacob Astor created one of the largest fur trading posts at the mouth of the Columbia River known as Astoria. Americans were making their mark financially on the new frontier.



Image source: <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/06/JedediahSmithEnglishVersion.png> map of Jedediah Smith's journey's west

Whether battling the frigid cold of crossing icy streams or co-existing and trading with various indigenous tribes allied to the British in the region, mountain men led dangerous lives. One young twenty-three year old named Jedediah Smith found out about the danger of grizzly bears after signing up for a Rocky Mountain trapping expedition. After a disaster with their **keelboats** led to twelve men getting shot and killed by a Lakota tribe, the group, led by pioneer William Ashley, sought a new path to the Rockies over land. This, too, proved dangerous for Smith when he was attacked and nearly mauled to death by a grizzly

bear. His wounds which included broken ribs and most of one ear being torn off, were attended to by a member of his crew: "One of his ears was torn from his head out to the outer rim... I put my needle and stitched it through and through... This gave us a lesson on the character of the grizzly bear which we did not forget."

Other legendary trappers became known throughout the region for their experiences in this new and sometimes confusing landscape. Jim Bridger, a St. Louis blacksmith, joined an Ashley expedition into the Rockies. He became the first white man to see the Great Salt Lake, confusing it as an inlet of the Pacific Ocean. Jim Beckwourth was a former slave who'd been set free in St. Louis and began working as Ashley's servant. Soon, he made a name for himself as a trapper and lived

with the Crow Nation for six to eight years. Joseph Meek, the son of a Virginian planter, went West to join his brothers and spent a decade in the mountains. Meek wrote of a time when, needing food, he took the "soles of his moccasins, crisped them in the fire, and [ate] them."

Meek and other mountain men needed help in this new environment and found it among indigenous women who they often married. The wives helped the trappers prepare skins and

gave them connections to the indigenous cultures and tribes in the region.

Mountain men would look forward to the annual summer rendezvous. These meetings, which took place from 1825 to 1840, gave the men a chance to meet up, socialize and trade with one another and other Indian traders. The men spent their earnings from sold pelts on goods from St. Louis at inflated prices. For instance, tobacco cost only a few cents a pound in St. Louis but was worth more than four dollars, the cost of a pound of beaver fur. By the end of the rendezvous, the men were often broke and headed back out to continue their search for adventure and wealth. By 1840, most mountain men had left due to both changes in supply (the beaver disappeared) and demand (fashion trends in the eastern region of the country had changed). These brave men had begun to tame the West; future US expansion would soon follow.

Interactive 6.2 Mountain Men Diaries



Review the diaries, narratives and letters from early mountain men at this link. Read through a few and ask yourself: Would you choose to live this lifestyle of possible wealth and adventure yet great risk and danger? Use primary source quotes to justify your decision:

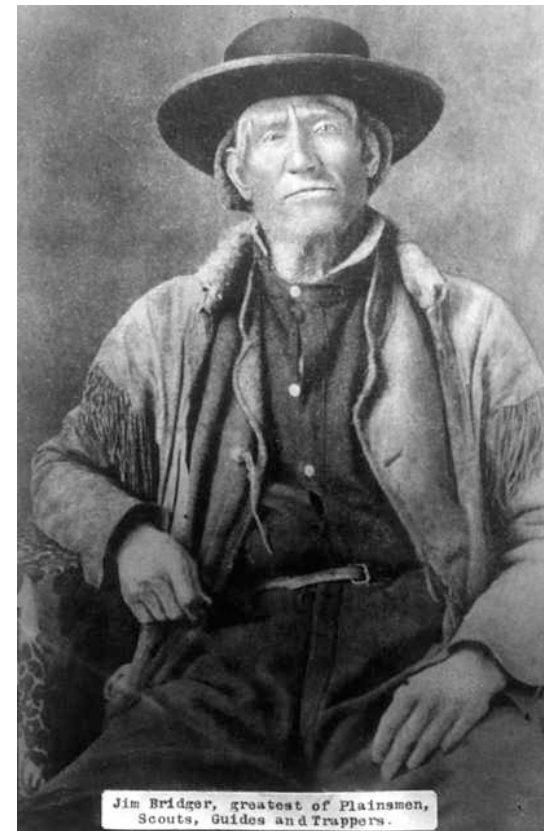


Image source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jim_Bridger#/media/File:Jim_Bridger.jpg

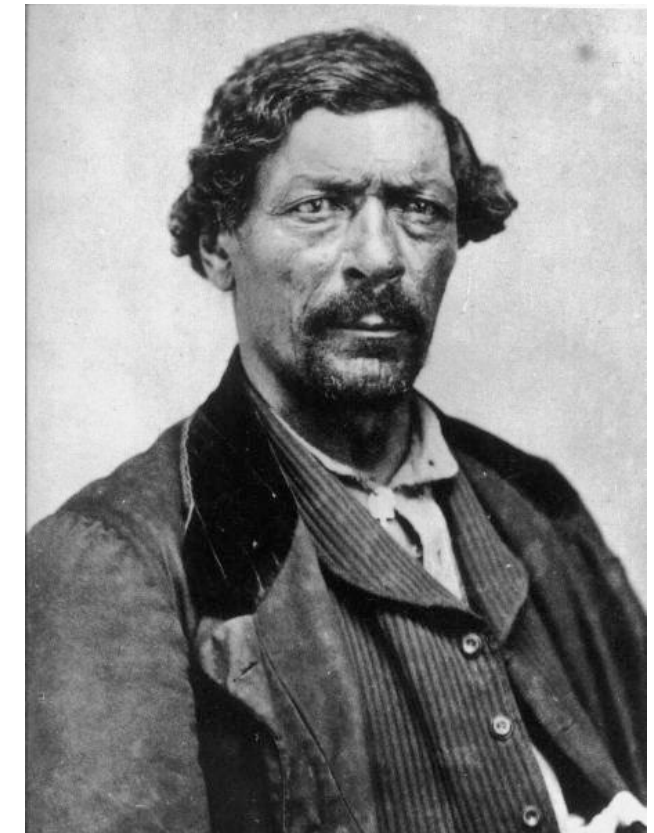


Image source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Beckwourth#/media/File:James_Beckwourth.jpg



Check for Understanding: How did the mountain men of the 1800s deal with their new environment? What economic factors pushed the mountain men West and eventually caused them to depart?

Activity: As you read through the next few sections on the trails settlers took west, think about the route these trails would have taken from Independence, Missouri. On this map, trace where you think the Oregon, Santa Fe, Mormon and California Trails might be. Click the button to overlay a physical map showing natural features. How might your route need to change? What other factors might change the trail routes that are not shown on the map?

Interactive 6.3 Trail Map



Section 2

The Oregon Trail

QUESTIONS TO GUIDE INQUIRY

1. How did geography shape the social, political and economic values of those in the West?
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TERMS, PLACES, PEOPLE

The Oregon Trail

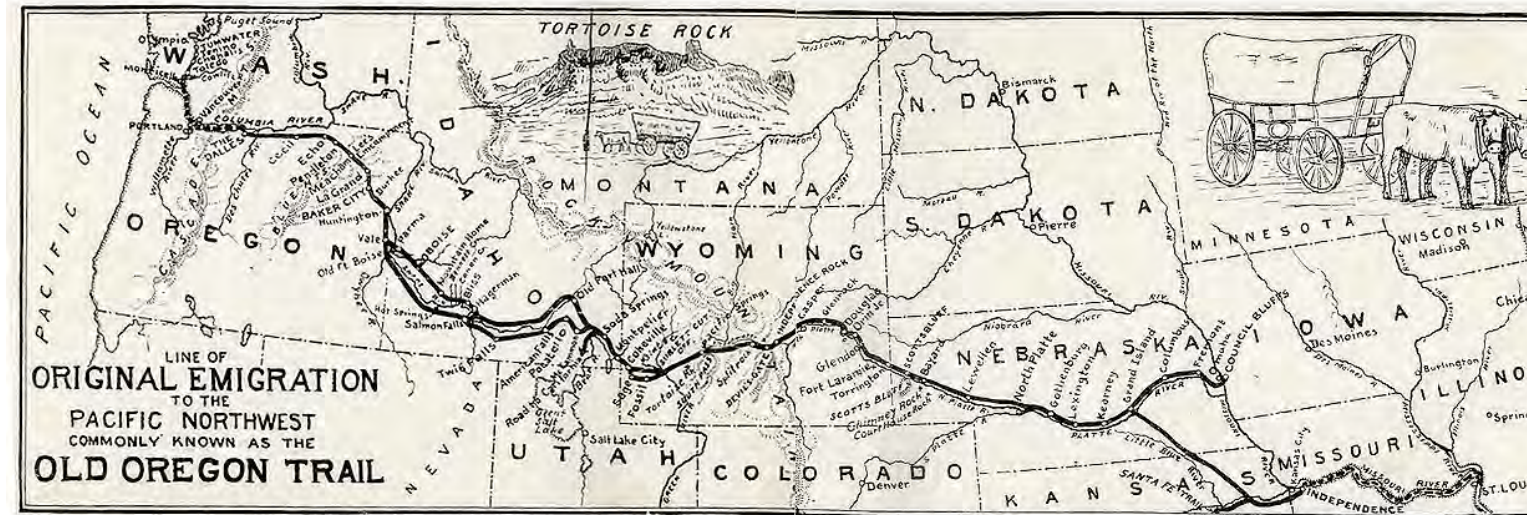
Oregon Country

When John Jacob Astor formed Astoria, it became one of the first settlements in what became known as Oregon Country--a portion of the same area Lewis and Clark had explored a few years earlier. The region was occupied by indigenous tribes along with British, Spanish and Russian settlements. Seeing the economic value of the land and its resources, the United States negotiated treaties to secure the area from the Russians and the Spanish, agreeing to share the territory and its wealth with the British. Eventually, a treaty in 1846 would divide the territory at the 49th parallel. But in the



The German born immigrant came to America after the Revolutionary War and developed a lucrative fur trade business and eventually became the first multi-millionaire in the United States

1840s, as mountain men left the region, a new type of traveller would move into Oregon Country in search of rich farmland in a warm climate and new beginnings.



The Oregon Trail

The path that they would take would come to be known as the Oregon Trail--a 2,000 mile path from Independence, Missouri into Oregon country. The trip for these settlers-- pioneer families who had sold their possessions and purchased wagons and animals to pull supplies for the six month trek, would be challenging. The rutted trail would follow the Platte and Sweetwater Rivers over the Plains, into the Rockies, through the South Pass and then down into the Willamette Valley. The trail would expand to ten miles in some places while in others it was a wagon width.

Family groups would form wagon trains and head out together in the spring, crossing over the Missouri River, as Henry Sager did with his six children and wife in 1844. Together, their party totalled 72 wagon and 323 people, seemingly ready for the harrowing trek. Their journey would be one first of tragedy and then new, hopeful beginnings.

Map of Region: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/09/Oregon_boundary_dispute_map.PNG

What does the 54-40 Line represent on the map? What is significant about the location and path of the Oregon Trail?



Image source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/9/94/Alfred_Jacob_Miller_-_Prairie_Scene_-_Mirage_-_Walters_371940149.jpg

Just over a month into their trip, after navigating muddy trails and flooded rivers, Naomi Sager, Henry's wife, gave birth to a new baby. After losing the group leader to a disagreement, the wagon train would move on leaderless, but still hopeful. Upon attempting to cross the South Platte River, Henry lost control of the oxen and one of his daughter's had her leg broken by the wagon wheel. But disaster was only just beginning. Sickness, common for families on the trail, spread across the group and

eventually killed Henry Sager and Naomi succumbed to fever later on. A family that had lost their own children adopted the seven children and finished the trek to Oregon-- a new family forged together in tragedy and renewal.

Strategy: Use this link from the Library of Congress to read excerpts from the autobiography of J. Henry Brown who set off West with his parents and grandparents on the Oregon Trail.

Interactive 6.4 J. Henry Brown



Answer the questions below after reading this document from the Library of Congress



As you read the journals in the widget above answer the following questions: What factors were given as the reasons to head West to Oregon?

What environmental obstacles did Brown his his group face?

What supplies did they bring that they disposed of along the way--why?

The New Economy of the West

To make the journey as the Sager's had, families needed many supplies. Oxen were the animal of choice and covered wagons were the vehicle most used to haul the cargo. Everyone walked to leave space for the dry goods, household items and wagon replacement parts needed. Families that brought too much from back home often discarded belongings along the trail. Animals, such as goats and cattle, walked along side too and were used as a food supply. Pioneers carried guns for hunting game such as buffalo and deer.

Interactive 6.5 Trail Supplies



Activity: Use this link of a supply list to investigate what items you would have needed on the Oregon Trail. Justify what items you are bringing and why. How does the geography of the west impact your economic decisions?

Interactive 6.6 \$650 to Spend



Strategy: Imagine that you only had \$650 for your family of four. Use this price list and determine what you would purchase to bring with you. Justify what you would buy and what you would not and the reasons why.

Along the way, businesses sprang up to meet the new needs of settlers. Blacksmiths fixed broken wagons and horses, mules and oxen were given shoes. Outfitters and hardware stores allowed families to resupply. Early on, guides were available to help lead settlers west, but as the trail became more worn, bridges were built and ferries arrived to take wagon across deep rivers, their demand decreased. Forts like Laramie, Bridger Hall and Walla Walla served the settlers, too.

The vast majority (some 90%) of settlers made it into the Willamette Valley and began staking claims to lands in Oregon Country, many near modern day Portland (named after the eastern city of the same name in Maine). From the first expedition that brought thirteen settlers to Oregon in 1840, the area grew to reach 5,000 settlers by 1845.



Check for Understanding: What drew settlers West on the Oregon Trail? What pushed them West? What hardships did they encounter?



QUESTIONS TO GUIDE INQUIRY

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TERMS, PLACES, PEOPLE

The Santa Fe Trail

Mormons



Image Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/9/98/Map_of_Santa_Fe_Trail-NPS.jpg

The Santa Fe Trail

The trail that started in Independence didn't only lead to Oregon: two other major trails emerged for those who wanted a different destination. The ancient trading route used by indigenous people that ended in the settlement of Santa Fe in

Mexico was popular among American traders looking to make huge profits from Mexican traders. The Santa Fe Trail was a 1,200 mile trail that took two months to traverse in hot, dangerous conditions in a mountainous desert environment.

After Mexico became independent of Spain in 1820, Missouri traders began taking the treacherous trail to Santa Fe. Due to a financial depression in Missouri and the inability to sell products locally, William Becknell first blazed the Trail for America in 1821. He encountered rockslides, rainstorms and flash floods as his team made their way through the Cimarron Desert, barely avoiding dying of dehydration. The Comanche in the area demanded payment for passage and would harass travellers. His risks paid off. Becknell and other traders eventually received protection against the Comanche in the form of US troops. They returned with high profits in precious gold and silver among other goods.

Interactive 6.7 The Santa Fe Trail Diaries



Activity: Read through the excerpts of two diary entries from wives travelling with their husbands on the Santa Fe Trail. What similarities do you read in both of the excerpts? What does this tell you about challenges and obstacles they faced?

Mormons Seek a New Home

America's history is filled with groups seeking new land and opportunities to grow communities where religious freedom was possible. The New England Puritans of the Massachusetts Bay Colony was one of the original religious groups from England that set out to accomplish this goal. Similarly, a group of Christians in the early 1800s set out to find new land and opportunity in the growing American West.

Sites Along the Mormon Trail



Image source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mormon_Trail#/media/File:Mormon_Trail_3.png



Image source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_Smith#/media/File:Joseph_Smith,_Jr._portrait_owned_by_Joseph_Smith_III.jpg

Joseph Smith, a New Yorker who'd grown up on his father's farm, founded a new church in 1830 that would become known as the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, or the Mormons. Smith indicated that golden plates he dug up near Manchester, NY in 1827 held God's true word. According to Smith, his translations of the plates revealed that the Indigenous people of America were the lost tribes of Israel and that

Smith was to be the prophet, a teacher of the word of God, of a new church. Smith published the Book of Mormon and set out to grow his church.

Over time, Smith moved his growing congregation of several hundred people west, first to Ohio, then to Missouri. At each stop, Smith and the Mormons encountered resistance to their beliefs and practices. Mobs attacked the church in Ohio and the governor of Missouri ordered the Mormons to leave his state or

be killed. Smith turned the group back to Illinois and continued to grow his church there. Communities in Illinois grew concerned with Smith and his practice of polygamy, or marriage to more than one spouse. He was arrested in 1844 and was killed by a mob.

Brigham Young took over leadership of the church after Smith's murder and set his sights on movement West and, specifically, the Great Salt Lake Valley where the group could hopefully settle in peace. They set off from Nauvoo, Illinois in 1846 along a route now known as the Mormon Trail. They arrived in July of 1847 and eventually prospered in the Utah reaching 40,000 members by 1860. Today there are more than six million Mormons in the United States and more than fifteen million globally.

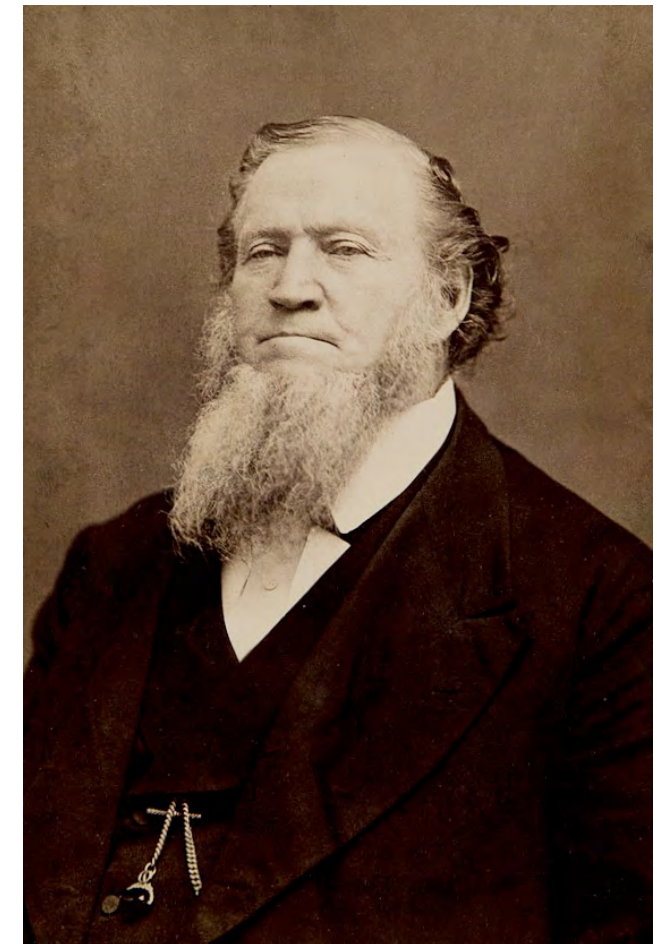


Image source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brigham_Young#/media/File:Brigham_Young.jpg

Interactive 6.8 Latter Day Saints



Learn more about the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints here: <https://www.lds.org/>



Check for Understanding: What obstacles did the Mormons face during their early years and movement West? How might challenges and hardships affect a group's future?

The Gold Rush

QUESTIONS TO GUIDE INQUIRY

1. How did geography shape the social, political and economic values of those in the West?
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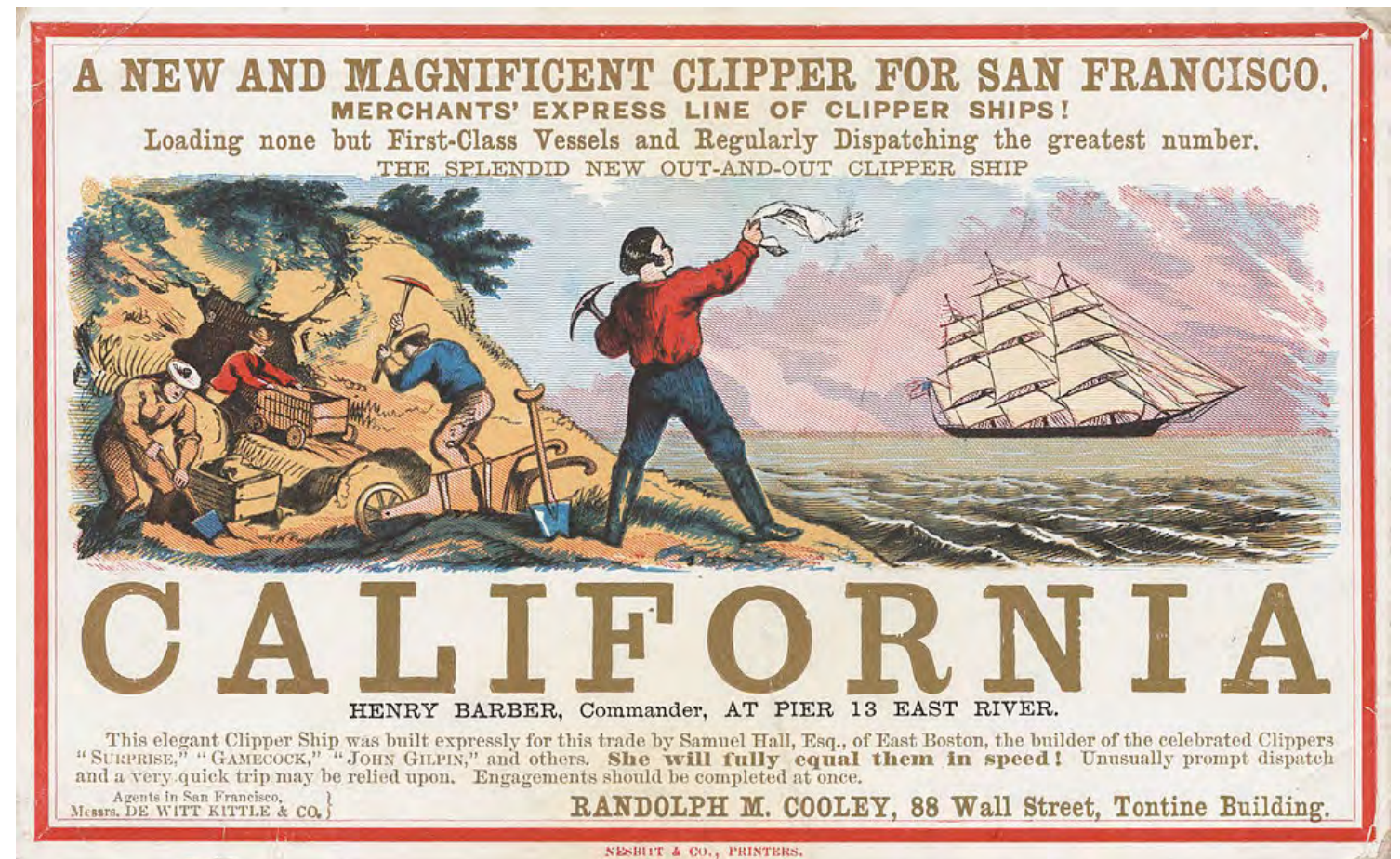


Image: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/California_Gold_Rush#/media/File:California_Clipper_500.jpg

In the early years of the California Gold Rush, some took ships from the East like the clippers shown in this advertisement. What route would the ship have taken from the East coast to San Francisco?

The California Trail

The discovery of gold by James Marshall in January of 1848 would ignite the famous Gold Rush of 1849 that would bring a flood of new settlers west in search for riches and wealth that some would find but many would not. The larger impact of the Gold Rush lay in the population boom it gave to California and the economic impact that population would have on the West and America.



Image source: <http://cdn.loc.gov/service/pnp/pga/03500/03551v.jpg> Sutter's Mill in 1847.

Prior to the Mexican-American War (1846 - 1848), most of California was made up of indigenous people and Mexicans. Americans who made it to California were mainly traders who'd arrived via the California Trail, the southern route of the Oregon Trail that split off at the Snake River in present-day Idaho. Like traders on the Santa Fe Trail, they traded for gold and silver coins and animal hides with Mexican traders. John Sutter had been given permission by the Mexican government to start a colony in California in 1839. Sutter's Fort was built along the Sacramento River and it became a popular stop for traders and settlers coming west. It was just 100 miles from Sutter's Fort, high in the Sierra Nevada Mountains that a settler group, faced with unimaginable challenges, would go down in history for the decisions they made.

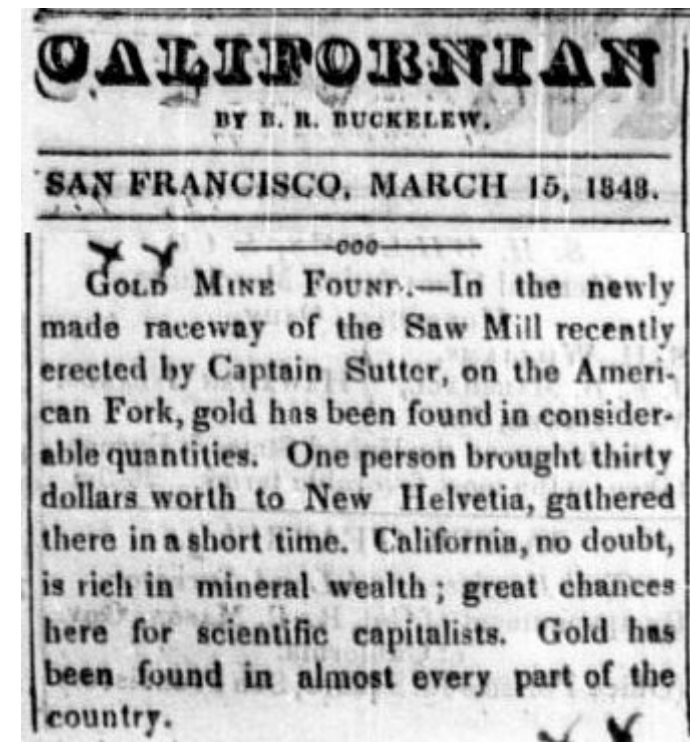


Image: News article on Gold discovery at Sutter's Fort https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/California_Gold_Rush#/media/File:CalifornianNewspaperGoldFoundMarch15-1848.jpg

The Donner party, a group of settlers seeking fortune, land and a new beginning in California, became stranded in the Sierra Nevada Mountains in an enormous snowstorm in the spring of 1846, hoping to cross the mountains before the heavy winter snows. Attempting a shortcut indicated on an inaccurate trail guide, the group of eighty-seven travelers became trapped in approximately six feet of snow without food after eating all their food supplies. The ultimate horrors of the expedition were retold by Patrick Breen in one of his journal entries: "... The Donners [sic] told the California folks that they commence to eat the dead people 4 days ago, if they did not succeed that day or the next in finding their cattle then under ten or twelve feet of snow..." — February 26, 1847. Forty-five or so people including Breen, his wife and all seven of their children were rescued that February. The story of survival and terrible suffering did not deter future travelers but did educate them on the dangers of leaving too late in the season and taking unknown shortcuts.

Thurs. 25th The froze hard last night fine & sun shine to day wine & Mr. Murphy says the wolves are about to dig up the dead bodies at her shanty the nights are too cold to watch them we hear them howl
 Frid 26th froze hard last night to day clear & warm Wind S.E. blowing briskly Marthas swelled with the tooth ache ^{sew} many times in camp, plenty ^{hidden} but the folks will not eat them we eat them with a tolerable good appetite thanks be to Almighty God. A Man ^{Mr. Murphy} said here yesterday that thought she would commence on Mill & eat him I dont that she has done so yet it is distressing the Donnos told the California folks that they commence to eat the dead people 4 days ago, if they did not succeed that day or next in finding their cattle then under ten or twelve feet of snow & did not know the spot or near it I suppose they have done so ^{are this time}

<https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/9/9d/>

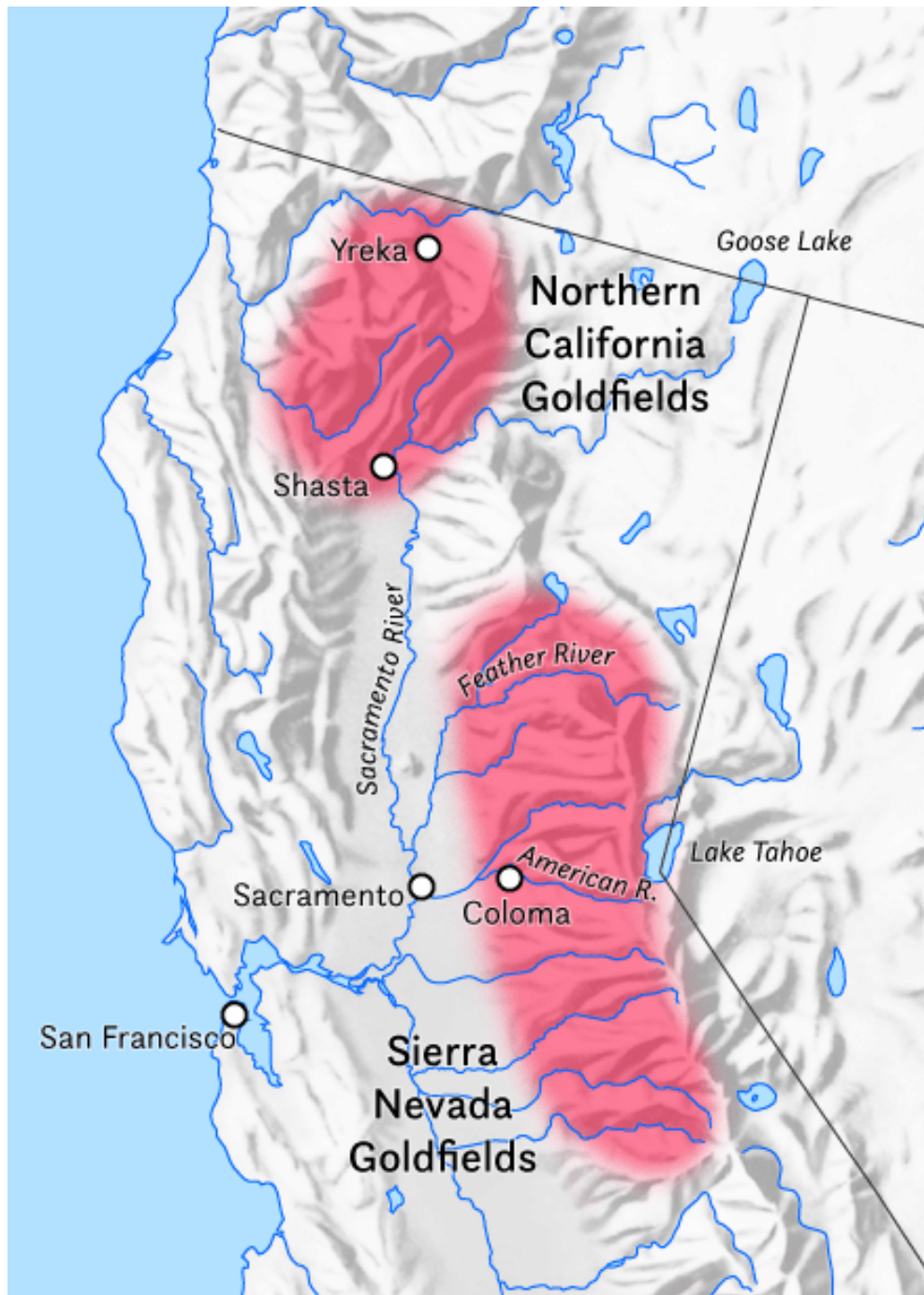
[PatrickBreenDiaryPage28.jpg](#) Excerpt from the Breen diary indicating that lengths that people when to for survival in an harsh, unyielding enviornment.



Map Reading Strategy: Review this image of the Donner party's route and the Hastings Cutoff they took. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Donner_Party#/media/File:Donner_route_map.png



Using the map, explain why this cutoff was ultimately a poor decision for the party.



Map: <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/33/CaliforniaGoldRush.png>
(Credit: Hans van der Maarel) This map shows the locations of the California Gold fields.

Forty-Niners Catch the Fever

After the Mexican-American War, the United States gained control of California and settlement began to increase slowly at first then boomed after the gold discovery leaked from Sutter's Mill. In the first year, 1849, around 80,000 prospectors came from the East and made it to California to search for gold. These travellers took on the name forty-niners. How do you think forty-niners traveled West? There were two primary ways and both took around six months. One, shown in the advertisement at the beginning of the section was by ship around the southern tip of South America. Sickness, boredom, high cost and bug-infested food made many prefer the second option: the California-Oregon Trail. The overland route was also dangerous, as indicated previously, which spurred the creation of the Panama Railway in 1850 across the isthmus of Panama that took months off the journey.

If you were moving for the rest of your life, how long would you plan for the trip? What preparations would you make for your arrival? How long would it take you to pack? Gold rush settlers often dropped everything and headed West as fast as they could without much planning or regard for the land they owned. Luzena Wilson, a settler living with her husband and two small children in Missouri captured the "gold fever" in a journal entry: "The gold excitement spread like wildfire, even out to our log cabin in the prairie, and as we had almost nothing to lose, and we might gain a fortune, we early caught the fever... It was the work of but a few

days to collect our forces for the march into the new country, and we never gave a thought to selling our section, but left it, with two years' labor, for the next comer. Monday we were to be off."

Mining Life

What would you bring with you to mine gold? Some settlers were not really sure, as this cartoon illustrates.

According to this cartoon, what supplies did an settler seeking riches in gold bring with him? Which items would be useless in California?



Image of Gold Hunter: <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/resource/cph.3a04669/>

Most settlers arrived with their belongings in San Francisco and purchased supplies which skyrocketed in price as the gold rush continued. Pickaxes, shovels and pans were the most common

tools. Few had experience mining anything, but after "staking a claim" to an area of land, many would find an old stream and pan for gold by washing gold nuggets out of the small stones, called placer mining. Other methods included using "sluice boxes" or "long toms" for larger mining operations and some companies would dig shafts into the ground along streams and attempt to reach "pay dirt" by finding a rich gold vein.

Interactive 6.9 Gold Mining Tools



Activity: Gold Mining Tools. What was each item used for in the gold mining process? Which do you feel would have been the most valuable?



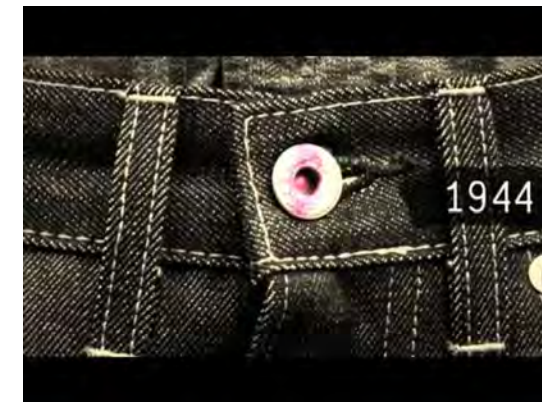
Image of Miners in Gold Field: <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/resource/ds.04487/> What do you see in the environment around these miners? What challenges does it present?

Miners were mostly young, unmarried men, although the small number of women and children that came made money in the services they provided for the miners such as cooking, running of boarding houses and washing clothing. Early miners were able to snatch up the easily accessible gold and were making, in six months, what would have taken them six years to make back in the east. More of the wealth from the Gold Rush was made by individuals who set up businesses to profit from the miners.

Gold Rush Immigrants

Immigrant miners were flooding into the region from around the world, especially from Mexico and China, as news spread in 1849. The Chinese had been drawn to California for the wealth and had faced economic hardships and famine in China. Foreign workers, especially the Chinese, faced racism, violent attacks, additional taxes and discriminatory laws aimed at pushing them out of the region. Most immigrant miners and Americans intended to get rich quick and then head home, but many stayed and made a new life in California. Levi Strauss, a German immigrant, began selling denim overalls in San Francisco in 1853 and turned it into a successful company.

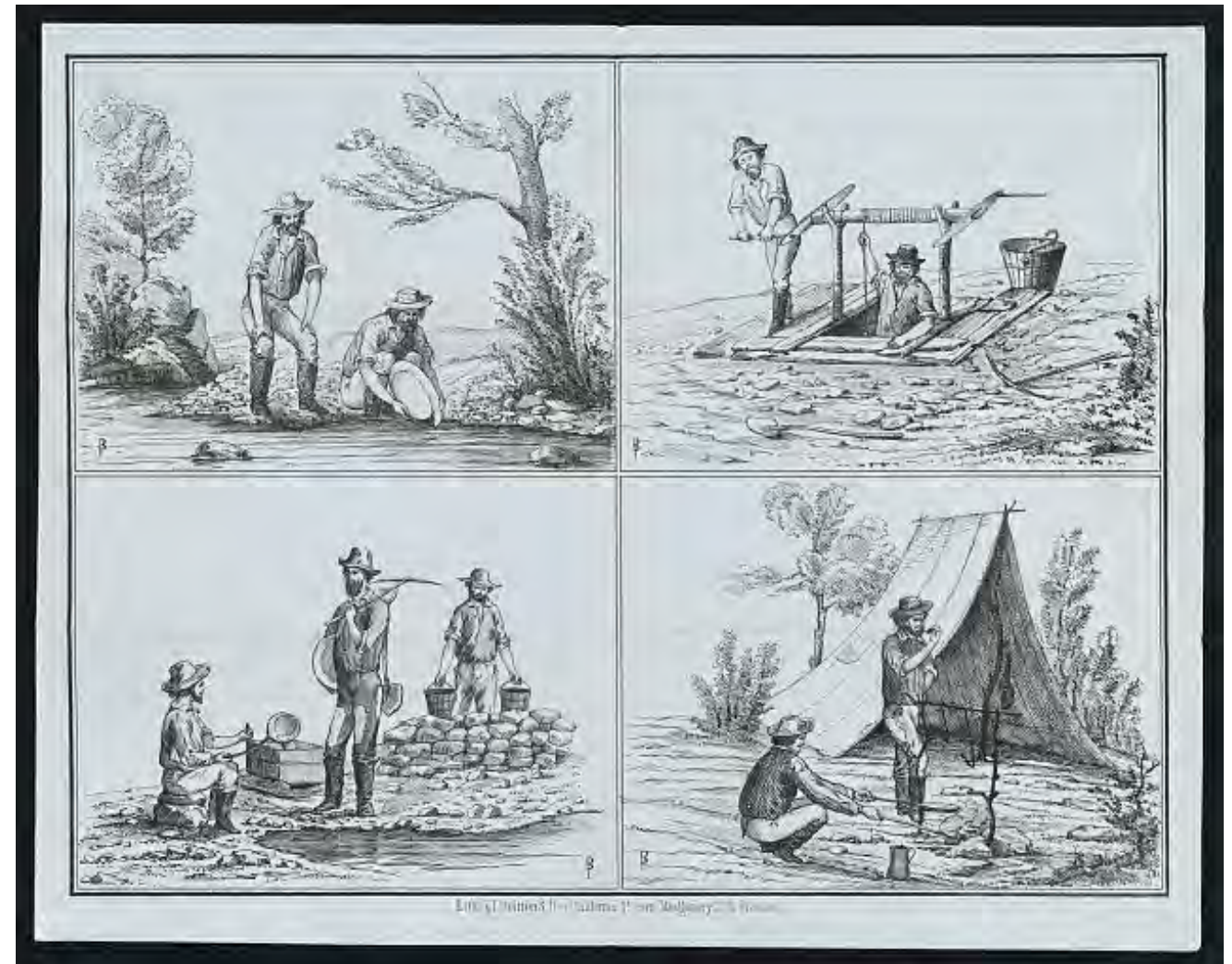
Interactive 6.10 The Story of Levi's Jeans



Learn more about the story behind Levi's jeans here.



Cartoon: <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/resource/cph.3a48137/> The “Used-Up Man” tells another story about the life of gold miners in California. What story do the man’s clothing and the song (sung to the tune of “Oh Susannah!”) tell?



Cartoon: <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/resource/ppmsca.32195/> This cartoon shows four main activities that miners were involved with in California: Miners panning for gold, entering a mine shaft, miners with equipment, and miners cooking at camp. Create a journal entry that ties the images together and describes the day.

Effects of the Gold Rush

Images Strategy: Study the two images of San Francisco, one in 1846 and the other in 1850-51. What differences are evident? How did the California Gold Rush contribute to this change?



San Francisco 1846: <http://www.zpub.com/sf/history/sfh-2.jpg>



San Francisco 1850-51: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/California_Gold_Rush#/media/File:SanFranciscoharbor1851c_sharp.jpg

The effects of the Gold Rush on California can be seen in the state's population boom and economic growth that were both immediate and long-lasting. For instance, San Francisco's population grew from 1,000 in 1848 to more than 20,000 by 1850. In that same year, with its population likely exceeding 100,000, California sent representatives to Congress to apply for statehood and received it with the passage of the Compromise of 1850, just two year's after the United States took control of the territory.

The Compromise would again put the issue of slavery back in the hands of lawmakers where they would find only a temporary solution. Economically, wealth from the Gold Rush was eventually replaced with an agricultural boom as settlers began to farm crops and operate ranches.

Unfortunately for the indigenous peoples, the arrival of so many new Americans had long-lasting negative impacts on their populations in the region. Persecution of the California's indigenous peoples was widespread, took many forms and was devastating to groups that had lived in the region for more than 14,000 years. The population, estimated at 150,000 in 1845, was less than 30,000 by 1870. American settlers formed groups to hunt down and kill communities of indigenous peoples, seeing them as impeding their mining operations. Pollution from mining camps seeped into river streams, killing fish and destroying habitats that the traditional hunter-gatherer indigenous communities depended on for survival. The farming boom that came after the gold rush took further hunting lands away. New

diseases brought by settlers like smallpox killed up to 80 - 90% of populations by some estimates. California laws allowed the capture and bondage of indigenous peoples who were often put to work in the mining industry creating, in essence, a system of enslavement of indigenous peoples. As you'll read in the next section the systematic persecution and removal of indigenous peoples in California had roots decades earlier in the southeast region of the United States.



Check for Understanding: What were the costs of western expansion on indigenous peoples?

Interactive 6.11 Push Pull

Western Settlers	Push: What forced the group West?	Pull: What attracted the group West?
Mountain men	Men in search of better jobs	Adventure & beaver trapping and trading
Oregon Settlers	Families needed more farmland & economic opportunity	Rich farmland and moist climate & a new beginning
Santa Fe Traders	Financial depression and a west American market for goods	High profits trading for silver and gold
Mormons	Religious persecution	Open, free land in the West in the Great Salt Lake Valley
Gold Rush Miners	Mostly young men in need of better economic opportunity	Adventure and the chance to strike it rich quickly and return home
Chinese Immigrants	Famine and economic hardship	The chance for quick wealth overseas to be brought back home

Test your knowledge of push/pull factors in this interactive widget

Interactive 6.12 Primary Source Explorer

Match the pioneer to the quote

Development of American Culture

QUESTIONS TO GUIDE INQUIRY

1. How did geography shape the social, political and economic values of those in the West?
2. How might the country have developed differently if gold or other precious metals hadn't been discovered in the West?
3. What did 19th-century federal legislation and military activity reveal about the government's attitude toward westward expansion?
4. What were some of the largest sources of conflict between indigenous people and settlers in the West?
5. If the idea of Manifest Destiny hadn't had the influence of nationalism attached, would the amount of land the U.S. acquired been as significant?

TERMS, PLACES, PEOPLE

The Hudson River School

Prior to the beginning of westward expansion, of of the cultural ideas that influenced Americans came from Great Britain and Europe. As American politics and the economy were shaped by settlement of the West, a new national culture began to develop. Writers and artists were inspired by American history as well as the exciting and adventurous western American landscape.

American Writers

Similar to cultures throughout the world, Americans expressed their thoughts and feelings through literature. The settling of the western frontier was probably the largest factor responsible for the birth of a new genre of American writing. This movement profoundly affected the American character-it encouraged individual initiative; it made for political and economic democracy; it roughened manners; it broke down conservatism; it bred a spirit of local self-determination coupled with respect for national authority.

Perhaps one of the best known new writers of the time was James Fenimore Cooper. While his first books weren't extremely successful, the publishing of his 1823 book, *The Pioneers*, the first of five novels featuring the heroic character Natty Bumppo, changed his popularity immensely. In addition to the subject matter of rugged frontier life of which Cooper wrote, he also popularized a specific genre of writing known as historical fiction. Other authors of historical fiction

included women. Catharine Maria Sedgwick and Susan Shelby Magoffin and Mollie Dorsey Sanford were just a few who wrote about life on the frontier for pioneer women.

Art, Religion, and Music

Literature about life in the West inspired significant changes in other forms of expression. Art was one of those forms. Prior to the movement of thousands across the western frontier, most artists' work consisted of the painting of portraits. Now artists began to paint landscapes that showed the beauty of the land as well as its history. By the 1830s the **Hudson River School** had emerged creating paintings that reflected national pride and an appreciation of the American landscape.

Changes in religion were substantial during this time as well.

Through the mid 1800s, several waves of religious revivalism swept the U.S. with the purpose of reawakening religious faith, thus giving birth to spirituals--folk hymns that called out Biblical text. Additionally, popular folk music also reflected unique views of the growing nation.

Architecture and Education

Creative ingenuity even extended to the way buildings were designed. Prior to westward expansion American architecture reflected styles used in ancient Greece and Rome; after all, many American core democratic ideas and values were derived from

those two civilizations. Growing American cities soon had distinctive styles.

Progress in education emerged as well. Eventually, the idea of state-funded public schools gathered support. Boards of education were created and the number of public schools began to grow. You will learn more about public schools in particular in Chapter 8.



Section 6

The Indian Removal Act

QUESTIONS TO GUIDE INQUIRY

1. How did geography shape the social, political and economic values of those in the West?
2. How might the country have developed differently if gold or other precious metals hadn't been discovered in the West?
3. What did 19th-century federal legislation and military activity reveal about the government's attitude toward westward expansion?
4. What were some of the largest sources of conflict between indigenous people and settlers in the West?
5. If the idea of Manifest Destiny hadn't had the influence of nationalism attached, would the amount of land the U.S. acquired been as significant?

TERMS, PLACES, PEOPLE

The Indian Removal Act

By 1830, the notions of expansion had long been set in motion as American farmers in the south sought new farm land for an expanding population in the region. For decades, Americans in the south had lived side-by-side with indigenous nations in both peace and conflict. US Presidents sought to find solutions that benefited both Americans and, in their minds, the indigenous populations. The issue of land use and property rights for indigenous people would reach its tragic culmination for many tribes in the United States with the election of Andrew Jackson, a famed Indian fighter and southerner, to the Presidency in 1828.

Washington and Indian Nations

From the very beginning of the United States government under the Constitution, Presidents were instrumental in establishing the policies that would guide the nation's relationship with tribal nations. George Washington had long felt that Indian tribes would eventually assimilate into the more dominant American culture expanding around them. To help the tribes, they would be given tools for farming to transition their ways from hunting (Which Americans at the time called "savagery" in treaties) to agriculture (which Americans at the time called "civilization"). In a 1796 letter to the Cherokee nation, Washington stated the the key to their survival would be to build houses, grow crops on large farms and raise animals. They should give up hunting which couldn't be relied on to feed their

people. And if they did so, the future US government would enforce the treaties and laws for “the preservation of peace, for the protection of your lands, for the security of your persons, for your improvement in the arts of living, & to promote your general welfare.” These promises to the Cherokee would not be kept.



Image: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cornplanter#/media/File:Cornplanter.jpg>

Interactive 6.13 Washington’s Letter to Cherokee Nation



Click here to view the full letter.

As President, Washington placed indigenous affairs under the direction of the executive branch, choosing to view tribes as foreign nations, not citizens of a state. This policy would set the stage for future conflict between rights of the states and the federal government that continue to this day. His administration set forth policies that looked to recognize tribal ownership

of lands and set to establish treaties with tribes that were to last forever. Even after early treaties were put into place, white encroachment onto tribal lands caused Seneca leaders to complain to Washington saying 1790, “does this promise bind you?” Washington replied that “...all the lands secured to you, by the treaty of fort [sic] Stanwix, excepting such parts as you may since have fairly sold, are yours, and that only your own acts can convey them away.” Washington’s firm stance to federally protect indigenous lands would be challenged by future US leaders.



Check for Understanding: What was President Washington’s stance on protecting the rights of indigenous peoples like the Seneca?

Jefferson and Assimilation

After the Federalists departed from the Presidency, Thomas Jefferson took on the Indian nation issues by continuing to pursue treaties that would tie indigenous groups to the United States government, keeping them from allying with European powers. Jefferson also wanted to gain land for the United States through these treaties and establish trading relationships. He also set out to continue the “civilization” program that Washington had also suggested. By connecting tribes to the US through trade and treaties, Jefferson felt that American commercial influences would gradually change tribal economic ways of life away from hunting to farming. This, in turn, would give Americans more access to land to farm.

Jefferson’s policy was not to force indigenous people to give up lands but his plan still sought to exploit their assimilation into American culture. In order to move his civilization program forward more rapidly as the US looked to expand West in the early 1800s, he pushed indigenous groups into buying US goods on credit. The indigenous groups would then need to pay off their debts which they would be encouraged to do through the sale of lands to the United States. The benefits were twofold for Jefferson: Tribes would “civilize” while whites gained more land. Some tribes did accept Jefferson’s plan and became known as the “Five Civilized Tribes,” the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creek (Muscogee), and Seminole. These southern nations invested heavily in farming, built towns and even held slaves. One nation in particular, the Cherokee, actively made changes to their

economic system, political structure and culture in the hopes of preventing conflict.



CHEROKEE



CHOCTAW



MUSCOGEE
(CREEK)



CHICKASAW



SEMINOLE

Image: <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/f/f6/Five-Civilized-Tribes-Portraits.png> Investigate the portraits. Do you see any evidence of the ways tribes adopted to white culture?

Early Resistance to Assimilation

Others, like the Shawnee war-leader Tecumseh, lead groups in resistance prior to the War of 1812. In a confidential letter to Congress in early 1803 as Jefferson set his eyes on an exploration west in what would soon become the Louisiana Purchase, he reflected on his plan for the indigenous people in the east: “In leading them to agriculture, to manufactures, and civilization; in bringing together their and our settlements, and in preparing them ultimately to participate in the benefits of our governments, I trust and believe we are acting for their greatest good.” Jefferson’s vision reflected what Washington before him and Presidents after him would feel--that the United States alone was suited to determine what was best for the indigenous people living in the United States. Two decades after Jefferson’s Presidency, a new President would emerge that would make a final decision for the indigenous peoples east of the Mississippi that would result in the death of thousands, relocation of 60,000 and the destruction of centuries of indigenous history and culture.

Interactive 6.14 The Cherokee Nation Adapts



Review the following documents--what evidence is there that the Cherokee nation adopted the culture of white people? Under each document, note the evidence found that helps support this Cherokee change.

Andrew Jackson And The Indian Removal Act

The emergence of Andrew Jackson and his new political party, the Democrats, had a profound influence on the political and cultural landscape of America through the 1820s and up to his election in 1828 and beyond. This new period often called Jacksonian Democracy is addressed in more detail in the “Northern Industry Booms” chapter next.

In his final address to Congress in 1825, James Monroe stated that “the removal of the tribes from the territory which they now inhabit . . . would not only shield them from impending ruin, but promote their welfare and happiness. Experience has clearly demonstrated that in their present state it is impossible to incorporate them in such masses, in any form whatever, into our system.” Seemingly, President Monroe had now abandoned the idea that assimilation was a viable alternative for indigenous peoples. President Jackson took up this new policy framed by Monroe and escalated it quickly.

Jackson, along with southern leaders, wanted to open up more land to farming settlement in the East. Decades of treaties and agreements between the US and several Indian nations came crashing down with the passage of the Indian Removal Act of 1830. Jackson’s pressure he put on Congress was enough to get the controversial bill through by slim margins in the Senate (28 to 19) and in the House of Representatives (101 to 97). The Act would authorize the President to remove the indigenous people

living east of the Mississippi River to lands in the West. Congress created the Indian Territory in what is today Oklahoma as the land that would become the new home to a variety of culturally unique and independent nations that had never set foot on that land.



which is lessening their numbers, and perhaps cause them gradually, under the protection of the Government and through the influence of good counsels, to cast off their savage habits and become an interesting, civilized, and Christian community.”

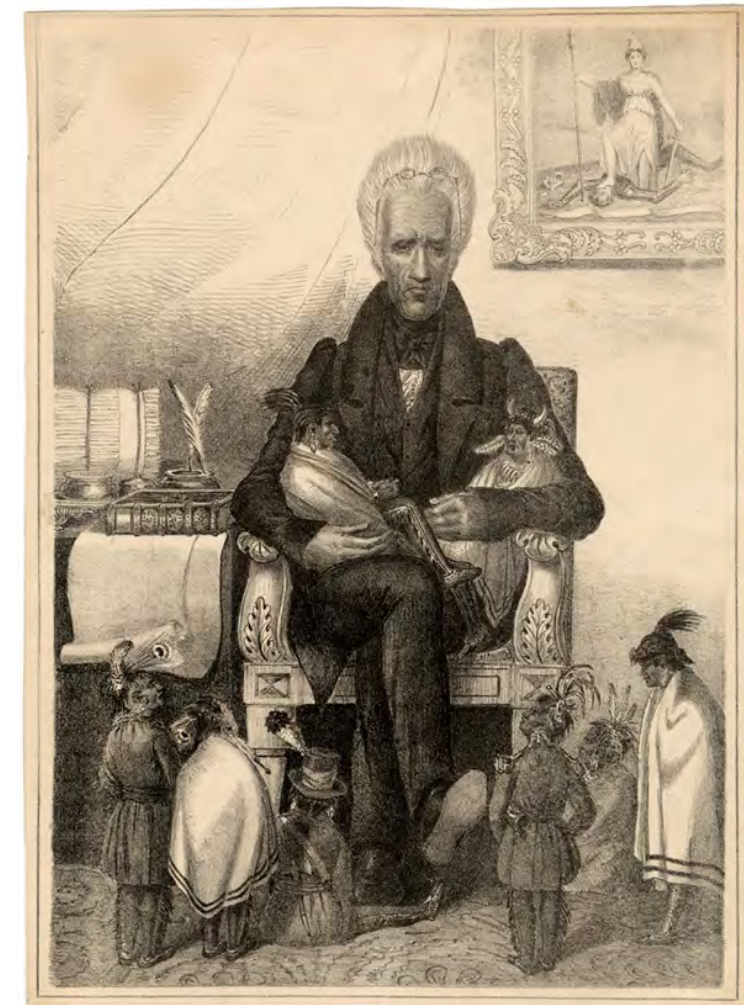


Image: Indian Territory Map (loc.gov) <https://www.loc.gov/resource/g4021e.ct000226/> After its passage Jackson wanted to get the removal accomplished quickly and saw the removal of tribes as beneficial to both parties as noted in his message to Congress in 1830:

“It will separate the Indians from immediate contact with settlements of whites; free them from the power of the States; enable them to pursue happiness in their own way and under their own rude institutions; will retard the progress of decay,

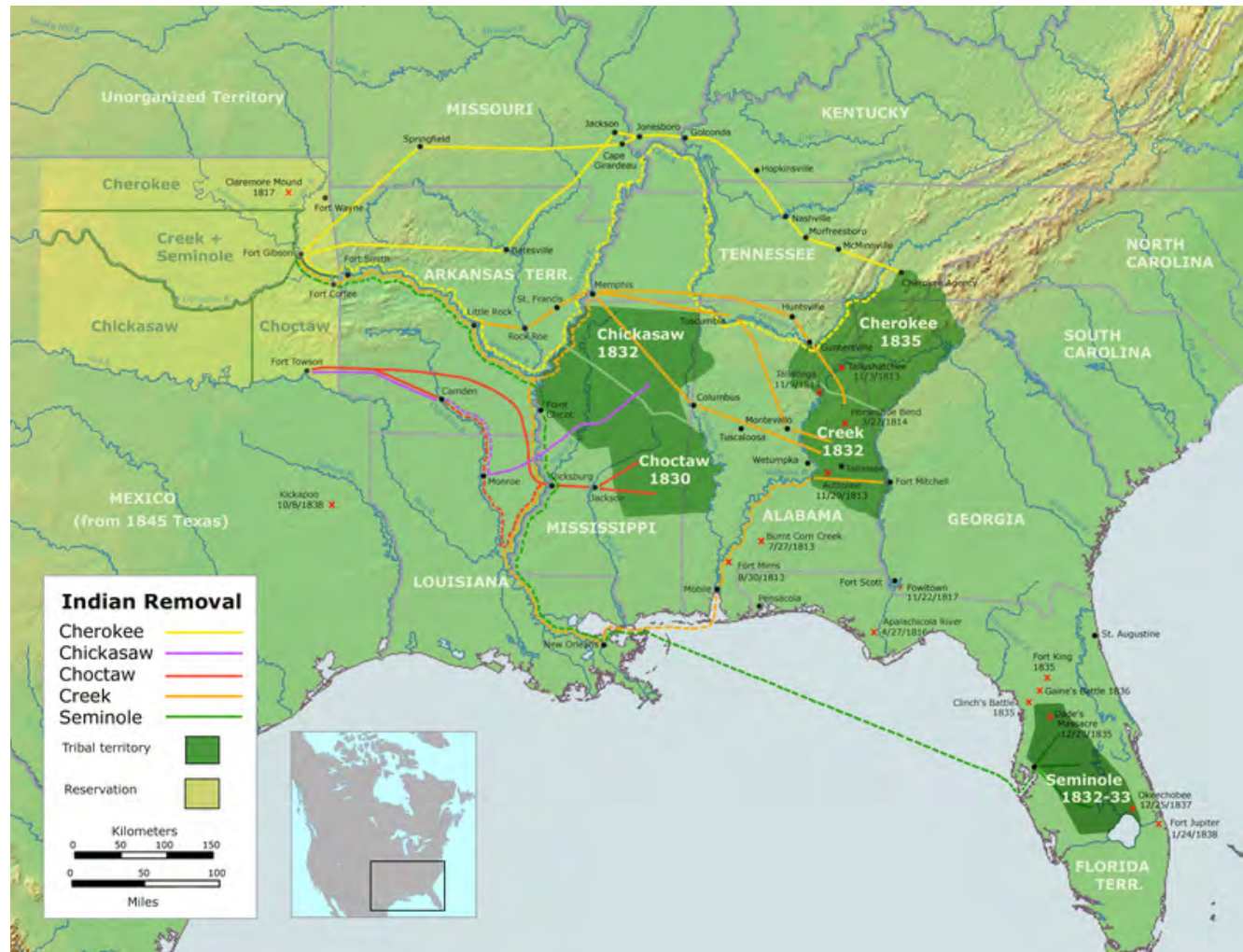
After reading Jackson’s speech and then seeing this cartoon, what message is being sent by the author about Jackson’s professed compassion for indigenous people? Image: Andrew Jackson as the Great Father <http://clements.umich.edu/exhibits/online/american-encounters/case11/jackson.jpg>

The Congress created the Bureau of Indian Affairs to oversee the removal of the tribes to the Indian Territory. President Jackson then set forth to enforce the new law to its fullest extent.

vandalism, harassment and state-sponsored discrimination until into the 20th century.

Muscogee (Creek): “In the removal treaty of 1832, Muscogee leadership exchanged the last of the cherished Muscogee ancestral homelands for new lands in Indian Territory. Many of the Lower Muscogee (Creek) had settled in the new homeland after the treaty of Washington in 1827. But for the majority of Muscogee people the process of severing ties to a land they felt so much a part of proved impossible. The U.S. Army enforced the removal of more than 20,000 Muscogee(Creeks) to Indian Territory in 1836 and 37.”

Chickasaw: Having learned from other tribes sufferings, the “Great Removal” of the Chickasaw to Indian Territory resulted in less hardship than other nations. The tribe negotiated for better payment and removal terms including when they left when weather conditions were better. Although people died along the way, the foresight of the Chickasaw saved many lives. Unlike their good soils in northern Mississippi for farming, the soil west of the Mississippi would prove a far greater challenge.



Public Domain Map: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_Removal_Act#/media/File:Trails_of_Tears_en.png

Choctaw: The first tribe to be removed, the Choctaw were forced to give up their lands after the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek in 1830. Forced to move in the winter with limited supplies, 2,500 Choctaw died of cold, disease and starvation on their own “trail of tears”. Those that remained in Mississippi endured racism,

Cherokee: The nation had lived in the Appalachain for hundreds of years and embraced Washington and Jefferson’s assimilation programs to avoid removal. Nevertheless, even after winning their right to stay in the Supreme Court case of Worcester v. Georgia, President Jackson ignored the decision and the State of


Georgia forcibly removed the Cherokee nation, resulting in 18,000 deaths on the Trail of Tears march to Indian Territory.

Potawatomi: In one of the lesser known removals of indigenous peoples in our Great Lakes region, 850 Potawatomi were forced at gunpoint to leave their native lands in Indiana and relocate in Kansas in 1838. Known as the Trail of Death, the two-month journey resulted in 40 deaths due to typhoid fever and exhaustion.

Seminole: After signing a treaty to cede their lands to the US government, the Seminole nation resisted removal. Led by Osceola, the nation fought the Second Seminole War from 1835 - 1842 followed by a Third Seminole War in the late 1850s. Many thousand were killed and removed over these years but the US government eventually gave up the effort and those Seminole left, some 5,000, stayed in Florida.

Worcester v. Georgia

Although the Cherokee had assimilated as Washington and Jefferson had suggested, they, too, could not escape the economic opportunities that farmers and the government saw in the rich, Georgia soil. After the discovery of gold in Georgia, the state militia began attacking towns, attempting to force the Cherokee to leave. White missionaries, like Samuel Worcester, were helping the Cherokees in their fight to keep their lands, prompting Georgia to declare that no white persons could enter Cherokee territory. In response the Cherokee sued the State of Georgia indicating they were an independent nation that that Georgia's laws had no power over them. In the 1832 Supreme Court case ruling, Chief Justice John Marshall sided with the Cherokee in the majority 5 - 1 decision. The court ruled that the laws of Georgia had no force over the Cherokee since they were an independent nation.



Check for Understanding: What price was paid by indigenous peoples as a result of the United States push for more farmland and economic opportunity in the southeast?

“The Cherokee nation, then, is a distinct community, occupying its own territory, with boundaries accurately described, in which the laws of Georgia can have no force, and which the citizens of Georgia have no right to enter, but with the assent of the Cherokees themselves, or in conformity with treaties, and with the acts of congress.” --John Marshall, majority decision, Worcester v. Georgia, 1832.

Unfortunately for the Cherokee, the ruling did not result in stopping Georgia's removal attempts and President Jackson ignored the court ruling. Most members of Congress and American citizens did not protest the removal of indigenous peoples at the time, either. In 1838, Georgia soldiers began removing the Cherokee at gunpoint. Private John G. Burnett recalled the details of the forced march later in his life:

"I saw the helpless Cherokees arrested and dragged from their homes, and driven at the bayonet point into the stockades. And in the chill of a drizzling rain on an October morning I saw them loaded like cattle or sheep into six hundred and forty-five wagons and started toward the west....On the morning of November the 17th we encountered a terrific sleet and snow storm with freezing temperatures and from that day until we reached the end of the fateful journey on March the 26th 1839, the sufferings of the Cherokees were awful. The trail of the exiles was a trail of death. They had to sleep in the wagons and on the ground without fire. And I have known as many as twenty-two of them to die in one night of pneumonia due to ill treatment, cold and exposure..."



AGE 82 ELIZABETH (BROWN) STEPHENS TAKEN 1903

Image: <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/2a/Stephens.jpg> Elizabeth Brown Stephens who walked the Trail of Tears.

In total, 18,000 Cherokee died on the 800 mile march that has become known as the Trail of Tears from disease, exposure to cold weather and hunger.

Interactive 6.15 Firsthand Accounts - The Trail of Tears



Sidebar: Use the links on this site to read other first hand accounts of the suffering experienced by the Cherokee:



Check for Understanding: Ultimately, what factors were responsible for the Cherokee's removal? What price did the Cherokee pay as a result of their movement West?

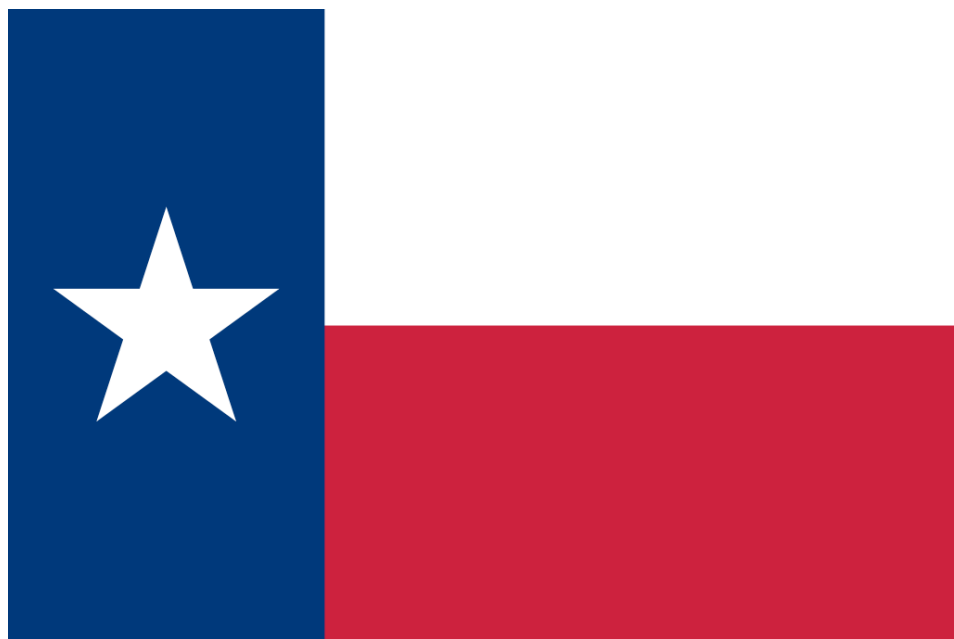
Conquest and Settlement - The West

QUESTIONS TO GUIDE INQUIRY

1. How did geography shape the social, political and economic values of those in the West?
2. How might the country have developed differently if gold or other precious metals hadn't been discovered in the West?
3. What did 19th-century federal legislation and military activity reveal about the government's attitude toward westward expansion?
4. What were some of the largest sources of conflict between indigenous people and settlers in the West?
5. If the idea of Manifest Destiny hadn't had the influence of nationalism attached, would the amount of land the U.S. acquired been as significant?

As the character of the new, independent American was being formed by mountain men and western settlers, Americans increasingly looked West. As people pushed at the boundaries of the United States and beyond, there was a growing sense that as a nation we needed to resolve the political barriers before us. Mexico and Britain still held territory in the West that Americans wanted and Indians still lived in their ancestral homelands.

One writer and her editor in particular believed it was. Jane Cazneau (or her editor, John O'Sullivan) pushed for the United States to take all of the Oregon Country from Britain in 1845. According to the writer, it was America's "manifest destiny to overspread and to possess the whole of the continent which Providence [God] has given us for the development of the great experiment of liberty." Manifest destiny was the idea that it was America's fate, given to them by God, to expand across the entire continent. Politicians began using the term to push for expansion west and taking lands currently held by foreign powers. The issue of western lands would soon be tied up in the issue of slavery.



Flag of the Republic of Texas: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republic_of_Texas#/media/File:Flag_of_Texas.svg

Texas Becomes Independent

After Mexico's became independent in 1821 following a rebellion, the new government began letting in Americans into Texas, a vast empty land in need of settlement. Empresarios, or land agents, like Stephen F. Austin settled some of the first colonies in Texas starting in 1822. The Americans brought slaves with them despite Mexico's laws against it. Texans,



Stephen F. Austin: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stephen_F._Austin#/media/File:Stephen_f_austin.jpg

upset with the laws against slavery, rebelled in 1835 and declared independence for the Republic of Texas in 1836. Their new constitution allowed slavery but independence required defeating the Mexican army.



1854 depiction of the Alamo Mission: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_the_Alamo#/media/File:1854_Alamo.jpg

General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna had taken control of Mexico and assembled thousands of troops to put down the new republic. The Mexican army clashed with a small group of Texans including William Travis, Davy Crockett and Jim Bowie defended the town of San Antonio at an old mission called the Alamo. The Texans fought bravely but all were killed. Following the execution of 350 Texas prisoners at the Battle of Goliad, enraged Texas used the rallying cry "Remember the Alamo! Remember Goliad!" and defeated

Santa Anna at the Battle of San Jacinto, forcing him to sign a treaty giving Texas its independence in 1836. President Jackson refused to annex, or take control of, Texas despite support of Texans and the US Congress. He feared upsetting the balance of slave and free states and angering Mexico further. The issue of Texas would have to wait for the United States.

brought on by a cold. Medical knowledge at the time blamed his cold and proceeding death on his long inauguration speech standing in a cold rain--more modern medical information has suggested this is false. The shortest term of any President to date, Harrison's pro-slavery Vice President, John Tyler, took over as President. Harrison's last words were to Tyler: "Sir, I wish you to understand the true principles of the government. I wish them carried out. I ask nothing more." Tyler was a strong proponent of manifest destiny and annexing the Republic of Texas after its independence from Mexico in 1836. The issue of the western territories and states being free soil or slave soil would affect the election of 1844 and the entire period leading up to the Civil War.



Check for Understanding: What values were displayed in the Texas fight for independence from Mexico? What costs were paid as a result?

Polk Elected President

The nation's leaders continue to leave this issue unaddressed. The landslide election of famed military officer William Henry Harrison in 1840 was a great victory for the new anti-Jackson Whig party. Unfortunately, Harrison only served thirty-two days as President after dying of pneumonia or typhoid fever



Image source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_K._Polk#/media/File:JamesKPolk.png

The Democrats ended up choosing James K. Polk as their candidate, bypassing Tyler. Polk was able to unite both Northern and Southern Democrats by taking a stance on Oregon becoming a free soil territory and Texas being annexed as a slave state.

Beginning with the rise of sectionalism in the 1820s between free states in the North and slave holding states in the South, the nation's leaders continually pushed the issue of our nation's future as slave or free (or even a future with both) down the road. Polk's position sought to do just the same. Both free northerners and slaveholding southerners in the Democratic party could agree the political party's ideas as long as it sought to maintain a free state/slave state balance in one critical place: the United States Senate. If just one side had an additional two Senators it was believed that they could enact legislation to either push slavery

into all of the west or end it entirely in the South. Neither region would back down on this fight.

The Democratic platform, or the stated ideas of a political party, was to seek this balance with a free Oregon and a slaveholding Texas. This was enough to narrowly defeat the Whig candidate, Henry Clay, who was initially against the annexation of Texas in order to keep the nation united and avoid war with Mexico. This was the third and final time that Henry Clay would be defeated in a Presidential election, never achieving the office he often sought.

Interactive 6.17 Free States and Slave States



Interactive 6.16 60 Second Presidents - James K. Polk



Sidebar Video: <https://youtu.be/lhV-t-EoBGs> What evidence is presented in the video that Polk embraced manifest destiny? What big issue did Polk fail to address and, instead, leave for future Presidents to deal with?



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oregon_Treaty#/media/File:Oregoncountry.png

Oregon Acquired

Immediately, Polk began the political process to acquire Oregon and Texas. Since 1818, the United States had shared the territory of Oregon with the British, both nations benefiting from the fur trade in the region. As war with Mexico loomed with the Texas issue, Polk's administration signed a treaty with Great Britain in

1846 to set the boundary of Oregon at the 49th parallel despite some objections within Democratic Party who wanted to fight for the land up to 54°40' north. "Fifty-four forty or fight!" became a rallying cry for this group. Nevertheless, Polk's administration needed to turn their attention to the Rio Grande River near the border of Texas and Mexico where a skirmish would ignite a war.

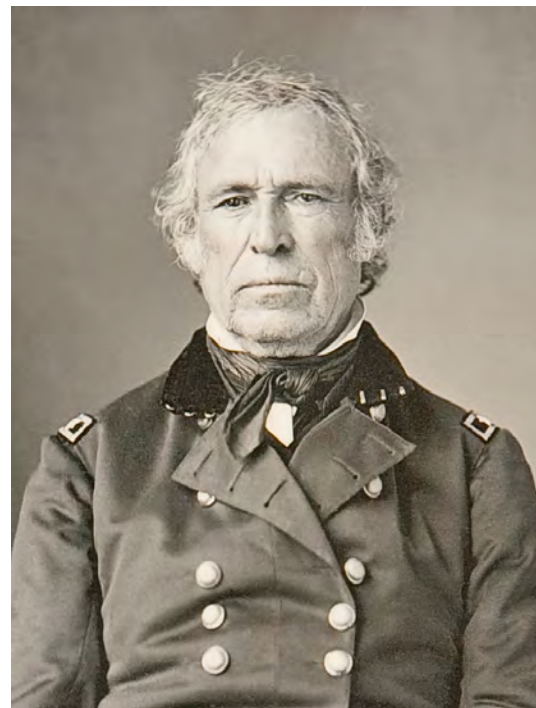
the Rio Grande River, the US claimed border with Texas, although Mexico claimed the border to be further north at the Nueces River. Polk hoped that a show of force at the Rio Grande would push Mexico to negotiate on Texas and other lands in the west. John Slidell was sent as an envoy, a representative or messenger on a government mission, to Mexico to buy Texas outright and to purchase California for \$25 million dollars. The new Mexican president, fearing it would be seen as a sign of weakness and recognition that Texas was lost to the US, refused to speak to Slidell. Slidell got word of this to Polk and pressed the President to take action on the Rio Grande.



Check for Understanding: How did geography shape the social and economic values of those who wanted to fight for "Fifty-four forty"?

Polk Pushes Mexico to Act

As Polk had promised in his campaign, he set his sights on Texas. He sent General Zachary Taylor into the Texas territory with 1,500 troops in May 1845 to guard the border. While Polk tried to negotiate Texas' purchase, he ordered Taylor to move his troops to the bank of



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zachary_Taylor#/media/

File:Zachary Taylor restored and cropped.png

General Zachary Taylor

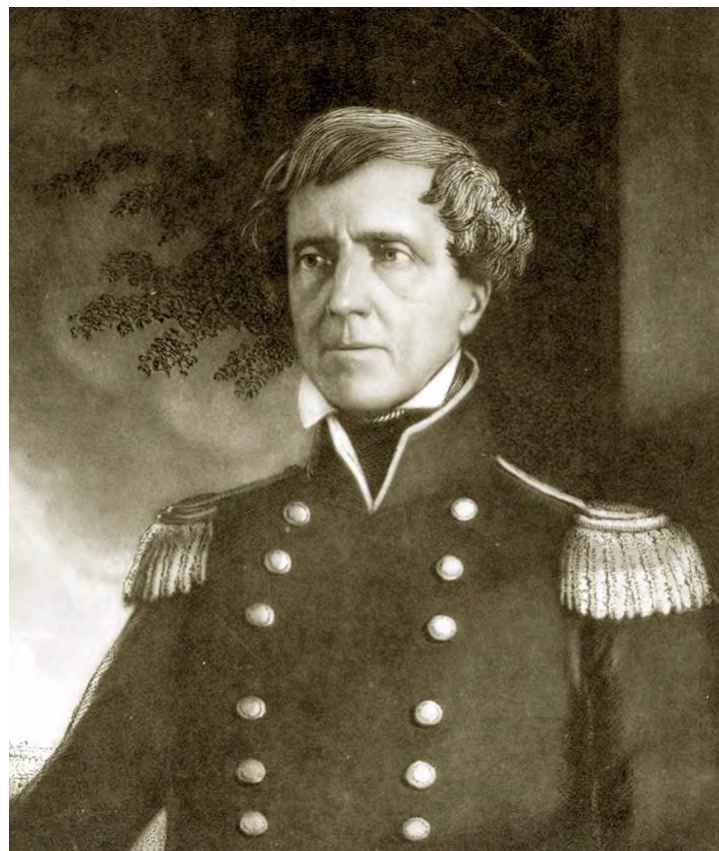


Activity: Use the map to answer the questions: What region of Texas was "disputed"? What geographic features were the key to the conflict that sparked the Mexican-American War? <http://www.irwinator.com/126/w44.jpg>

By January of 1846, Taylor's troops numbered 3,500 men and Polk needed an excuse to declare war. He got it when the Mexican general sent a group across the Rio Grande and killed or captured an entire detachment, a group of troops sent away on a mission. One newspaper back east stated, "American blood has been shed on American soil." Although there was still strong opposition to a war, the death of American soldiers was all that Polk and Congress needed to officially declare war on Mexico in May 1846 by an overwhelming majority. Polk had his war for territorial expansion and, with great tactics and military advantages, would win it quickly.

Polk's Plan is Set in Motion

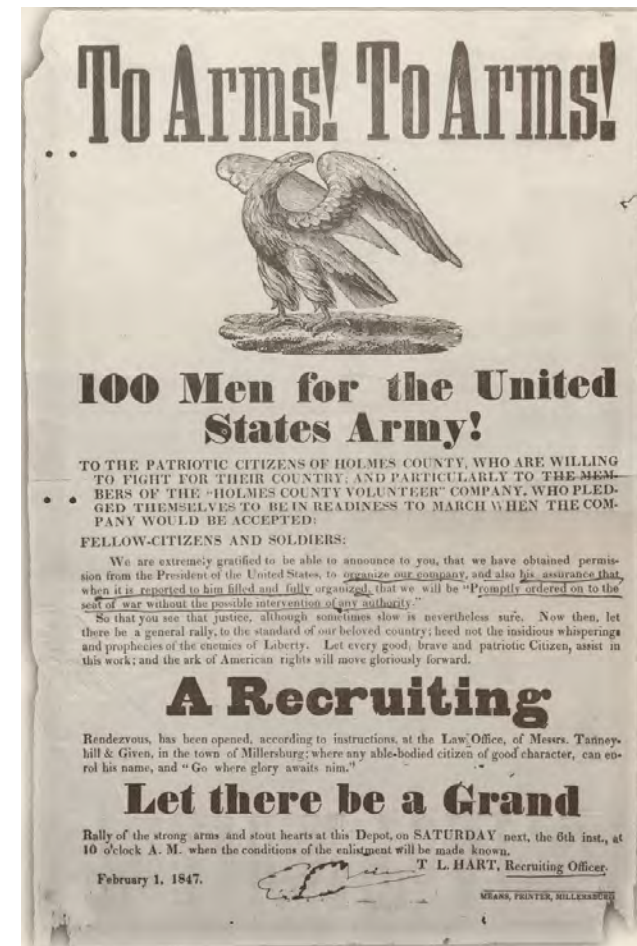
Polk's plan was to have his armies invade into the northern areas of Mexico to force the government there to accept American claims to land north of the Rio Grande River. At the same time, he planned to have General Stephen Kearney



Kearney: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stephen_W._Kearney#/media/File:Stephen_W._Kearney.jpg

take his 2,700 man "Army of the West" to seize Santa Fe and then head to the California coast to join the navy and seize California for the United States. The plan was solid, but the US faced a problem as the war initially broke out: a lack of soldiers. Less than 5,500 soldiers were available when war was declared.

Polk set out to address the shortage issue while also addressing lack of early support back home. The U.S. Congress called for 50,000 troops who would serve as volunteers for a year and close to 200,000 responded! Polk's volunteer army would be filled with young men looking for action and adventure in the West. Around 40% were immigrants and a third of them were illiterate. In addition to a lack of soldiers, the US military was faced with the fact that the soldiers they did have were poorly trained with little experience. It had been over thirty years since the last war and most soldiers were untested in



[1847 recruitment poster; http://www-tc.pbs.org/kera/usmexicanwar/images/primary_sources/poster_toarms_xl.jpg US government continues recruitment effort for soldiers] What language is used in the poster to entice American men to fight in the war?

battle. Polk would also face criticism among Americans who saw the War as entirely avoidable and did not share his vision for expansion. Whigs felt the war was unjustified and northerners against slavery worried that slavery would expand into the new lands in the south.

Just a few months after the Congress' declaration of war, General Taylor had won battles south of the Nueces River as he pushed into northern Mexico and occupied the city of Matamoros.

General Kearney followed Polk's orders and headed into New Mexico and took the capital, Santa Fe, with relative ease in August of 1846. With the Mexican province of New Mexico claimed for the United States, Kearny was ordered to head to California with just 300 men to meet up with the navy and join a revolt that was already in progress.

The Invasion into Mexico

In 1847, General Taylor, having taken Monterrey the previous September, headed with reinforcements to defend his position near Saltillo and await the arrival of General Winfield Scott who would land at Veracruz and march to Mexico City. Taylor's army would be met by General Santa Anna and his Mexican army before the two American generals could connect. Santa Anna had lost his office as leader of Mexico after losing Texas but had now taken power back. His plan was to defeat Taylor's army, then head back to defend Mexico City.

Although out-numbered 5,000 to 20,000, Taylor refused to surrender and in February, Santa Anna attacked. Taylor was nearly defeated but held his position with Mississippi reserves under the command of Colonel Jefferson Davis, future President of the Confederate States of America. The next day, the Mexican army left, declaring victory, but Santa Anna had lost more than 3,400 to Taylor's 650 casualties and the US gained control of northern Mexico.



Despite the success at Buena Vista, Polk distrusted Taylor and placed Scott, known as “Old Fuss and Feathers” for his attention to military discipline and appearance, in charge. Scott arrived in Veracruz, a heavily fortified port city along the Gulf of Mexico, in March of 1847. Scott completed a two-week siege of the city by surrounding the city and cutting its army and civilians off from outside supplies. The city surrendered on March 28th and Scott used it as a base for his attack on the next target: Mexico City.

Mexico City Falls

Scott would fight and win a series of battles that would end with his entrance into Mexico City and see it captured for the United States, ending the Mexican-American War. Santa Anna stopped Scott at Cerro Gordo, a strategic mountain pass but US Captain Robert E. Lee realized that the enemy’s left flank was passable and Scott’s army surrounded the Mexican forces, ending the battle. Scott would win other battles on the way to Mexico City inflicting heavy casualties on the Mexican forces. The last line of defense for Santa Anna was the castle at Chapultepec. Scott ordered a two-pronged attack from General Pillow and General Quitman. Pillow’s frontal assault lasted only an hour and half--Chapultepec had fallen. The Mexican army line fell back to the gates of Mexico city for one last stand. But that stand never came. As Santa Anna took a look at the state of his forces, he realized the cause was lost. He ordered a retreat of his army from the city and on

September 14, 1847, Mexico City officially fell to the United States, ending the military phase of the war.



Battle of Chapultepec, 1850 painting: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_for_Mexico_City#/media/File:Battle_of_Chapultepec.jpg

Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo & the Gadsden Purchase

On February 2nd, 1848, the United States and Mexico signed the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo which ended the war and forced Mexico to give up most of its northern territory to the victorious Americans. America's manifest destiny to expand from coast to coast had been achieved. The area of land ceded, or given up, to the United States became known as the Mexican Cession and included all or part of the present-day states of Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Nevada and California.

The agreement also settled the border dispute at the Rio Grande, the United States gaining the entire area to the river. In all, the US gained over 500,000 square miles of territory, enlarging the nation by nearly 25%.

Interactive 6.18 The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo



Sidebar: Use this link to see a scan of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/299809>



Map Activity: Using the two maps, estimate percentage of land Mexico lost after the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo? Mexico in 1846, prior to the War:

The United States paid \$15 million for this huge territory, a small consolation considering what Mexico could have received had they sold the lands prior to the start of the War. Mexican citizens living in the territory now belonging to the United States would enjoy freedoms that Americans had in regards to religion and property. Despite the promise, new Mexican-Americans would face discrimination and would lose land. The United States also assumed claims of more than \$3 million held by American citizens against the Mexican government. Some representatives in both the United States and Mexico did not like all of the language in the treaty, but it was passed by both nations with the US doing so in March of 1848.

The issue of a railway leading to the west coast forced the Americans to negotiate for an additional purchase of land in 1853. Southerners wanted a southern route to establish valuable trade from east to west but the mountainous terrain made this impossible. The Gadsden Purchase gave the United States territory in the southern parts of New Mexico and Arizona in exchange for \$10 million dollars. This new territory would allow a future railroad to be constructed entirely within the borders of the United States. The purchase marked the last significant land expansion in the contiguous United States.



Check for Understanding: What was the price of US westward expansion for Mexico?

The War's Consequences

America's victory in the Mexican-American War elevated us to the top stage amongst world powers like Britain, France and Russia. Our show of military strength was impressive to these global powers. Military leaders and soldiers had flexed their muscles, although against a lesser foe, or enemy, and the experienced gained in the War would serve as valuable when they would meet on Civil War battlefields against each other in less than a decade. Ultimately, the greatest success lay in the achievement of securing a nation that extended from coast to coast.

The US had fulfilled its manifest destiny but the War was not without its costs. The war had lasted a year and nine months at staggering cost of \$100 million and 13,000 American soldiers died. US relations with Mexico and Latin American nations were also damaged. They began to see America as a colossal power to their north that had abandoned the democratic ideals they used to look up to in the past. Now, they felt that in the future the US might use more aggressive tactics for land expansion.

The aggression and tactics used in the war were even challenged by officers who fought for the US, including Ulysses S. Grant who saw it as "one of the most unjust [wars] ever waged by a stronger against a weaker nation." Grant also stated: "I do not think there ever was a more wicked war than that waged by the United States in Mexico. I thought so at the time, when I was a youngster, only I had not moral courage enough to resign."

Within the United States, the issue of Texas' annexation as a slave state and the war itself continued to widen the sectional wound. The spread of slavery in the west became the top issue in the nation as the public looked to the government for answers.

Would slavery continue to spread West? Could it be stopped? Was slavery in the South in jeopardy of ending? These were all questions that the Mexican-American War not only did not answer, it made their answers even more unclear and uncertain.

Mexican-American War Review: What were the effects of the War for the United States? How was the slavery debate rekindled? How was manifest destiny realized? Did the War lead us closer to Civil War?



Chapter Check for Understanding: How did Americans succeed in their movement West? How did it shape a new American character?



How Did the Cultural Diffusion of Westward Expansion Forever Impact America's Identity?

Create an argument with evidence from the chapter to support your claim