

GROWING PAINS: WESTWARD EXPANSION AND "MANIFEST DESTINY"
FLIP CARD

Big Idea: Look at the shape of the present-day United States. What if the US ended at the Appalachian Mountains? At the Mississippi River? At the Rocky Mountains? As the United States grew westward to the Mississippi River and beyond, it came into conflict with more Native American tribes and neighboring nations. The United States did not have to stretch "from sea to shining sea," but in the middle 1800's writers and leaders called it our "Manifest Destiny."



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| <p style="text-align: center;">1783 Treaty of Paris</p> <p>The 13 original colonies now own former British territories up to the Mississippi river. These are the lands won from the French at the end of the French and Indian War (1763). American colonists had wanted access to this territory since the end of the French and Indian War. Conflicts between colonial pioneers and Native Americans, and the expensive need to keep redcoats on the frontier had led King George III to make the Royal Proclamation of 1763, limiting Americans to lands east of the Appalachian mountains. Even before the American Revolution, frontier explorer Daniel Boone had blazed (marked and improved) a trail through the Appalachians at Cumberland Gap in 1769. After the Treaty of Paris, Thomas Jefferson suggested the lands be divided into rectangular states of the same size, and the news states be free of slavery. The Northwest Land Ordinance of 1787 creates rules for settlement and statehood. (Brown).</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">1803 Louisiana Purchase</p> <p>Napoleon of France takes Louisiana back from Spain, planning a North American Empire, but sells it to the United States to raise \$15 million for his European wars. It includes all lands drained by the Ohio, Mississippi, and Missouri Rivers. (Speckled) President Thomas Jefferson had long been fascinated with the West and dreamed of a United States that would stretch across the entire continent. Once the Louisiana Purchase had been secured, Jefferson instructed Meriwether Lewis, who asked his friend William Clark to command the expedition with him, to seek new trade routes, befriend the western tribes of Indians, and report on the geography, geology, astronomy, zoology, botany, and climate of the West. Zebulon Pike explored the southern portion of the Louisiana Purchase that includes the high Rocky Mountains, plains and deserts of the Southwest, but his expedition was captured by a Spanish Army patrol in the Rocky Mountains and sent back to the US.</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">1819 Spanish Cession</p> <p>Spain agrees to sell Florida (light blue and medium brown) and parts of Louisiana and Colorado (purple) to the United States under the Adams-Onis Treaty. General Andrew Jackson was fighting the Native Americans along the United States’ southern border and crossed repeatedly into Spanish territory in Florida. Rather than go to war, the Spanish agreed to sell Florida and other smaller portions of land to the U.S. When General Jackson became President, he insisted the Seminole of Florida and the Cherokee, Creek, Choctaw, and Chickasaw tribes move west of the Mississippi under the Indian Removal Act of 1830. Thousands died along the trail of exposure to winter weather and illness. The tribes called it the “Trail of Tears,” and their descendants remember it to this day. Increasing concern for Native American rights in the 1960s and 1970s made it possible for the Eastern tribes to return to some of their ancestral lands.</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">1845 Texas Annexation</p> <p>After fighting for independence from Mexico in 1836 (“Remember the Alamo!”), Americans in Texas ask Congress to join the Union. (medium blue)</p> <p>The Lone Star Republic became the Lone Star State, entering the Union as a single slave state instead of 5 states. The addition of western territories to the United States settled into a pattern—neither the leaders in free states in the North nor the slave states in the South wanted to tip the balance of power in Congress. Through a series of compromises, each new slave state would be added at the same time as a free state, and after the Missouri Compromise of 1820, slavery was limited to lands south of the southern border of Missouri. Texas could have entered the Union as 5 slave states, but both sides wanted to preserve the balance. The United States’ annexation of Texas would lead to war with Mexico.</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">1846 Oregon Treaty</p> <p>After staking early claims to the Pacific Northwest through marine exploration and the fur trade (British) and the explorations of Lewis & Clark (American), the U.S. and Britain agree to share the Oregon territory until it is more settled. (Gold)</p> <p>After the Louisiana Purchase, the reports of Lewis and Clark, Zebulon Pike, and John Fremont focused on the rich lands west of the Rockies, while dismissing the central Plains as an “American desert.” Pioneers who wanted access to the lands of the Oregon territory began their trek in Missouri, the “Gateway to the West.” At first they passed through the Plains area quickly, so relations with Native tribes of the Plains were good, but conflicts between settlers and Native Americans over the lands around the Columbia River in the Oregon territory required US Army posts. The large number of US citizens in the territory resulted in extending the 49th parallel as the border between the US territory and British Canada in 1846.</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">1848 Mexican Cession</p> <p>After the annexation of Texas, conflicts between US and Mexican troops along the Rio Grande end up causing a war that resulted in the US invasion of Northern Mexico and the capture of Mexico City. In the Mexican Cession, the United States gained all of California, Nevada, Utah, and parts of Wyoming, Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico. The Cession took place after the United States won the Mexican War fought over disputed borders and invasions by both sides of the other’s territories. Following the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, the United States bought the territory in the Mexican Cession. The motives for this acquisition were to expand United States claims all the way to the Pacific in the southwest and to put an end to border disputes in local areas. Shortly before the treaty was signed, gold was discovered at Sutter’s Mill in California and the California Gold Rush began. The United States now stretches “from sea to shining sea.” (pink)</p> |