

Westward Expansion Overview- Key Concepts

IN WHAT WAYS WAS WESTWARD EXPANSION BOTH A POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE EXPERIENCE?

Identify political and economic reasons for the westward movement.

Understand the significance of the Manifest Destiny as a mission of the United States to expand its western boundary.

Explore causes and goals Lewis and Clark Expedition?

Students will understand the Homestead Act and other factors that motivated families to leave their homes and move west.

Students will understand that hardships faced along the Oregon Trail.

Students will examine the role of the Gold Rush on westward expansion.

Students will study how the railroad changed life in the new country for the Native Americans and the Settlers.

Students will know how the Native Americans were affected by key events during the Westward Expansion.

Word	Definition
Manifest Destiny	A phrase used by leaders and politicians in the 1840s to explain that it was the United States' destiny and mission to expand its boundaries by moving westward
Lewis and Clark Expedition	An expedition implemented by President Thomas Jefferson to find a water route to the Pacific and explore newly acquired territory
The Louisiana Purchase	1 million square miles from the Mississippi River west to the Rockies and from the Gulf of Mexico north to Canada purchased for 15 million dollars from France in 1803
Homestead Act	An act signed by President Abraham Lincoln in 1862 as a way to motivate settlers to move west and cultivate new lands. The act gave settlers up to 160 acres of land for a filing fee of \$10. All land claimed needed to be settled and cultivated for 5 years.
The Gold Rush	The period of time when gold was found on John Sutter's estate in California and validated by President James Polk making way for settlers to move west in search of gold. Miners were referred to as the "forty-niners"
Oregon Trail	From 1863-1869, the Oregon Trail was the most feasible way for settlers to travel across the mountains.
Transcontinental Railroad	System of transportation from the eastern part of the United States to the west. The two railroads met in Promontory Point, Utah, May 10, 1869 when the Golden Spike Ceremony was held celebrating the railroads completion
The Pony Express	A mail service using horse and rider relay teams delivering messages, newspapers, and mail across a 2,000 mile trail from Missouri to California. Operating for 19 months between 1860 and 1861 and boasting an average delivery time of 10 days

The Pacific Railway Act	In 1862 the Pacific Railway Act authorized two companies to build the Transcontinental Railroad - The Central Pacific Railroad and the Union Pacific Railroad
The Great Race	Refers to the time when the government approved a race between the Central Pacific Railroad and the Union Pacific Railroad to reach the furthest point in their particular direction
Boomtowns	Towns that had been settled along the railroad and characterized by violence and lawlessness
The Trail of Tears	The period of history known when the Cherokee were forced off their land in Georgia.