

WESTWARD EXPANSION STUDY GUIDE

Westward Expansion Introduction

People began to explore west of the Appalachian Mountains.

Pioneer – one of the first of a group of people to enter a region.

Daniel Boone was a pioneer who cleared the Wilderness Road, which allowed families to cross the Appalachians.

People were in search of good, inexpensive land.

Settlers settled on the frontier.

Frontier – the edge of a country or settled region.

Flatboats were used to travel waterways.

Flatboat – a large rectangular boat that was partially covered by a roof.

When pioneers crossed the Appalachians, they moved the boundaries of American settlement west of the 13 Colonies.

Louisiana Purchase

In 1800, France owned Louisiana, which was a large area of land west of the Mississippi River.

Americans feared France would not let them use the port in New Orleans.

President Jefferson sent United States representatives to ask French ruler, Napoleon Bonaparte, to agree that the US could use the New Orleans port.

France needed money for the war against Britain, so they offered to sell Louisiana.

The United States bought the land for \$15 million. This piece of land was known as the Louisiana Purchase.

The Louisiana Purchase doubled the size of the United States.

Lewis and Clark Expedition

President Jefferson sent an expedition to explore the new found land in the west.

He chose Meriwether Lewis and William Clark. They set out from St. Louis.

Corps of Discovery – The 30 people traveling with Lewis and Clark

President Jefferson asked Lewis and Clark to do 3 things:

- Gather information about the landforms, plants, animals and climates in the West
- Study the cultures of the West Indians
- Explore and Missouri and Columbia Rivers

Sacagawea – interpreter on the Lewis and Clark expedition

The Corps of Discovery traveled down the Missouri River, across the Rocky Mountains, and down the Columbia River to the Pacific Ocean.

Lewis and Clark completed the 3 tasks set by President Jefferson.

War of 1812

In 1808, Britain and France were at war. The United States wanted to stay neutral, but tensions between the United States and Britain began.

Impressment – When American navy sailors were captured and forced to work on British ships.

War Hawks- group that wanted to go to war with Britain.

June 18, 1812- United States declared war with Britain.

United States goals for the war:

- Stop impressment
- Keep British from helping American Indians
- Drive the British out of Canada

Battle of Lake Champlain – Battle was important because it drove the British back into Canada.

August 1814- The British attacked Washington, DC. They burned many important buildings in Washington, including the White House, Capitol Building, and many others.

British moved onto Fort McHenry in Baltimore. The US Army stood strong.

Francis Scott Key saw the United States flag flying over Fort McHenry, which inspired him to write the poem, “The Star Spangled Banner.”

Treaty of Ghent- agreement between United States and Britain to end the war

Monroe Doctrine – Written by James Monroe in an effort to keep European countries out of North and South America

Indian Removal Act and Trail of Tears

Indian Removal Act- law that required all Indians to move west of the

Mississippi River

Indian Territory – area of land that Indians were forced to move to; present-day Oklahoma

John Ross – Indian chief who led the fight against the Indian Removal Act

The Supreme Court ruled in favor of the American Indians.

President Jackson ignored the Supreme Court's ruling.

Indians were forced to make the 1,000 mile journey to Indian Territory. This trip was known as the Trail of Tears.

Due to harsh conditions and lack of food and water, about one-fourth of the Indians died along the journey.

Mexican-American War

In 1821, Texas belonged to Mexico. United States settlers began to enter Texas. After ten years, there were more Americans in Texas than Mexicans.

Settlers did not agree with Mexican laws in Texas, so they wanted to break away.

Tejanos – Mexicans that wanted to break away from Mexico

Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna – President of Mexico

Sam Houston – led the army in the fight against Mexico

Houston surprise attacked Santa Anna and captured him. Santa Anna agreed to give Texas independence to gain his freedom.

Texas voted to annex, or join, the United States. Some were in favor of this and some were not.

The United States and Mexico could not agree on its borders. United States declared war on Mexico.

Mexico City was captured. Mexico agreed to the annexation of Texas and set the Rio Grande as the border.

Mexican Cession – large area of land Mexico was forced to give up after the war.

Oregon Trail

Oregon Trail – trail through the Rocky Mountains wide enough for wagons

Oregon Trail was wide and open, but became narrow over rivers and

mountains.

In 1843, the first group of about 1,000 people set out on the Oregon Trail looking for good, inexpensive land.

Pioneers traveled by wagon train.

Wagon train – a line of covered wagons that all moved together

Travelers often faced disease, lack of food and water, injuries, and bad weather on the trail.

Despite the issues, many people made it to Oregon.

Oregon Territory – the land south of the border between the western United States and Canada

California Gold Rush

1849 – Gold was discovered in California.

Forty-niner – miner who went to California in 1849 in search of gold.

Boomtowns – towns whose population grows very quickly

The California gold rush lasted about 5 years. Most miners did not find gold. In 1850, California had enough people to become a state.

Industrial Revolution

Industrial Revolution – changes in the manufacturing of goods and advancement of transportation

Eli Whitney – invented the cotton gin and idea of interchangeable parts

Interchangeable parts – parts made by a machine to be the exact same size and shape

Mass production – making many products at once

In 1811, the construction of the National Road began.

Steamboats were used to travel canals and waterways.

Wagons, steamboats, steam locomotives, and canals all changed transportation.

The Industrial Revolution changed the way people worked and the goods that were produced in the United States.