

WESTWARD EXPANSION (1802-1890)

Introduction & Summary

The specific focus of this unit is geographic change, namely, the expansion of the United States. From the earliest colonial period, Americans had been pushing west. You'll recall that westward expansion was a continual source of friction with American Indians and British attempts to restrict westward expansion was a cause of the Revolution. Expansionist impulses continued after the revolution. Several nations including Great Britain, France, Spain, Russia, Mexico and the United States had competing claims to the West. Furthermore, scores of American Indian nations occupied the west and understood it as home. In the end, for good or ill the United States would have it all. The process of winning the west has become inextricably linked with American history and culture.

Theme Focus

- ❑ *Geography*—How do climate, physical environment, resources & population influence societies?
- ❑ *Interaction w/ Others*—What are sources of conflict & cooperation?
- ❑ *History & Myth*--How do people and societies make meaning of the past?

Critical Thinking Skills Emphasized

- ❑ *Generalization Reasoning: Identification, Elements & Diagramming*

Sources

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Textbook: 6.3;6.4;7.3;9.2-4 ❑ Peter S. Onuf, "The Revolution of 1803" ❑ DM: Mexico & Oregon ❑ David S. Reynolds, "Plow in One Hand, Six Shooter in the Other" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Video Clips: <i>The West</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ "What is the West?" ❑ "The Corps of Discovery" ❑ "Empire Upon the Trails" ❑ "Speck of the Future" ❑ "Good Words" ❑ "Gunpowder Entertainment"
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Content Questions

1. How were the current boundaries of the United States achieved? How did westward expansion lead to tension with other countries? How were such tensions resolved?
2. What were the driving forces of westward expansion? Why did Americans (individuals, groups & national government) want westward expansion? (PEGS)
3. How did relations between Americans and American Indians evolve over time? What was "the Indian Problem" and how did the United States attempt to address this "problem?"
4. What is the meaning of "the West" in American culture? How has the winning of the west shaped American identity?

Terms, Concepts & People:

1. Washington's Farewell Address
2. Thomas Jefferson
3. Louisiana Purchase
4. Manifest Destiny
5. Tejas/Texas
6. Republic of Texas
7. Annexation
8. Oregon Territory
9. James K Polk
10. Mexican-American War
11. Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo
12. Mexican Cession
13. Gadsden Purchase
14. Corps of Discovery
15. Joe Meek
16. Mountain Men
17. Wagon Train
18. Narcissa Whitman
19. Missionaries
20. Mormons
21. Brigham Young
22. Homesteaders
23. Sager Family
24. "Oregon Fever"
25. California Gold Rush
26. Forty-Niners
27. William Swain
28. "Indian Problem"
29. Annihilation
30. Assimilation
31. Reservation
32. Nez Perce & the Nez Perce War
 - a. Chief Joseph
 - b. Gen. Oliver Howard
 - c. Col. Nelson Miles & 7th Cavalry
 - d. Young Nez Perce Warriors
 - e. The Crow
33. Sitting Bull
34. Oregon Territory
35. Historiography
36. Frontier
37. William Cody
38. Frederick Jackson Turner
39. Commodity/Commodization
40. New Left Revisionism
41. Generalization
42. Whole
43. Part
44. Sample