

Essential Question: Was it a good idea for the United States and its citizens to expand west?

Documents	
1 - Indian Removal P. 295, 2 - Manifest Destiny p. 317, 3 – Mexican-American War p. 321, – Gold Fever p. 327, 5 – America's Growth p. 332 – 333,	*4*

1. **Create a chart** like the one below to show information that you already know

	Group/People	Reason for Going West
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		

2. **Write an analysis** of the first document which includes:
    a. How reliable is this source? Should it be trusted? Why?
    b. What you think are the 3 most important ideas, details or facts in the document?
    c. What is one idea, detail or fact that you think other groups might not notice
    d. Write a brief explanation of what side of the Essential Question it supports.

3. Repeat step 2 for the remaining documents.

4. Based on the documents and information you already know write your group's answer the essential question in an ARE paragraph. Cite at least three pieces of evidence from your document analysis in your response.

Assertion:
Reason:
Evidence 1 (with citation):
Evidence 2 (with citation):
Evidence 3 (with citation):

Docs:

Trail of Tears



American Progress



John Gast, American Progress, 1872.
Chromolithograph published by George A, Crofutt.
Source: Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress.

Doc 3: Mexican American war



Doc 4: Gold Fever

"Gold Fever"

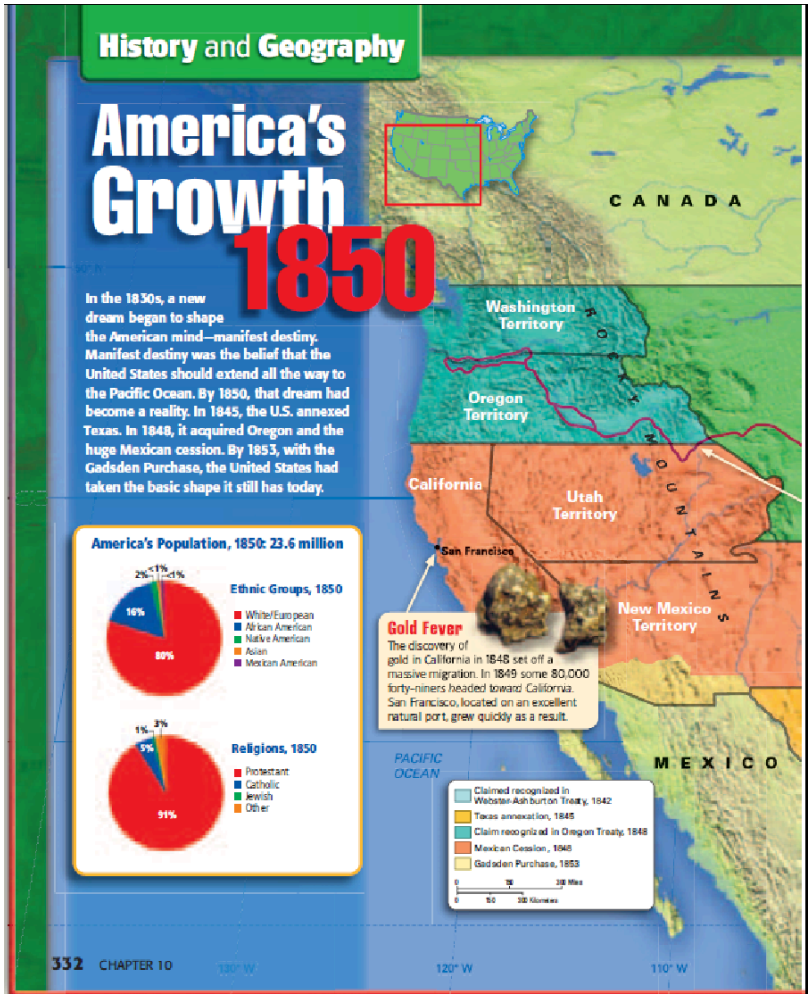
"Gold fever" brought 80,000 people, like this miner, to California in 1849 alone. One California newspaper captured the excitement: "The whole country, from San Francisco to Los Angeles, and from the sea shore to the base of the Sierra Nevadas, resounds with the cry of 'gold, GOLD, GOLD!' while the field is left half planted, the house half built, and everything neglected but the manufacture of shovels and pickaxes." Below is a piece of jewelry made from nuggets found in California.

Why was everything neglected except for "the manufacture of shovels and pickaxes"?

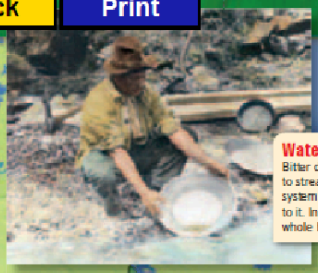




Doc 5: America's Growth

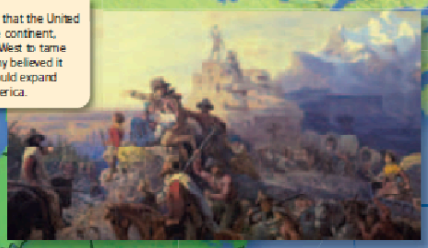

History and Geography
America's Growth
1850
In the 1830s, a new dream began to shape the American mind—manifest destiny. Manifest destiny was the belief that the United States should extend all the way to the Pacific Ocean. By 1850, that dream had become a reality. In 1845, the U.S. annexed Texas. In 1848, it acquired Oregon and the huge Mexican cession. By 1853, with the Gadsden Purchase, the United States had taken the basic shape it still has today.
America's Population, 1850: 23.6 million
Ethnic Groups, 1850
White/European
African American
Native American
Asian
Mexican American
80%
16%
2%
<1%
<1%
Religions, 1850
Protestant
Catholic
Jewish
Other
91%
5%
1%
3%
CANADA
Washington Territory
Oregon Territory
California
Utah Territory
New Mexico Territory
San Francisco
ROCKY MOUNTAINS
Gold Fever
The discovery of gold in California in 1848 set off a massive migration. In 1849 some 80,000 forty-niners headed toward California. San Francisco, located on an excellent natural port, grew quickly as a result.
PACIFIC OCEAN
MEXICO
Claimed recognized in Webster-Ashburton Treaty, 1842
Texas annexation, 1845
Claim recognized in Oregon Treaty, 1848
Mexican Cession, 1848
Gadsden Purchase, 1853
120° W
110° W

Back Print



Water Rights Water was critical in the dry West. Bitter disputes arose over who had the water rights to streams. Gold Rush miners developed a simple system: whoever used the water first owned the rights to it. In other parts of the West, the community as a whole had a right to use the water source.

Manifest Destiny With the belief that the United States was destined to spread across the continent, called manifest destiny, settlers headed West to tame new lands. Supporters of manifest destiny believed it was God's will that the United States should expand and spread democracy across North America.



GREAT PLAINS

Oregon Trail

Missouri River

Mississippi River

Unorganized Territory

Indian Territory

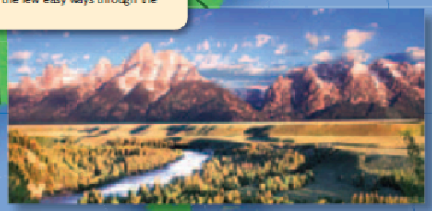
Claimed by Texas

Texas

Gulf of Mexico

ATLANTIC OCEAN

The Rocky Mountains The Rocky Mountains were a gigantic obstacle to settlers on their way West. Pathfinders like Lt. John C. Frémont traveled widely in the region, making maps and noting possible trails. The South Pass, through which the Oregon Trail ran, was one of the few easy ways through the great chain of mountains.



30°

70° W

Tropic of Cancer

90° W

GEOGRAPHY SKILLS INTERPRETING MAPS

1. **Movement** Why did San Francisco grow so rapidly?
2. **Human-Environment Interaction** Why was water so important in the West?