

# Sherman School

## Unit Overview

**Subject: Social Studies**  
**Unit: National Growth and Westward Expansion**

**Grade: 8th**  
**Pacing: 3 weeks**

### Essential Question(s):

- What were the major national issues and events faced by the first presidents?
- What were the economic, political, and social factors that lead to Westward Expansion?
- In what ways did Westward Expansion create opportunities or limits for American settlers, indigenous peoples, slaves, Chinese immigrants, industrialists, politicians, and others?
- How did American ways of thinking about state vs. federal power change as a result of Westward Expansion?
- How justifiable was U.S. expansion in the 1800's?
- What were the motives, hardships, and legacies of the groups that moved west in the 1800's.
- How did the physical geography of the United States influence patterns of economic development and migration of people during Westward Expansion?
- How did industry affect the lives of Americans?

### Big Idea:

National growth and Westward Expansion defined the American identity of the United States as a land of opportunity.

Priority Standards
<b>GEO 8.1</b> Construct maps to represent and explain the spatial patterns of cultural and environmental characteristics.
<b>HIST 8.9</b> Explain multiple causes and effects of events and developments in the past.
<b>HIST 8.10</b> Organize applicable evidence into a coherent argument about the past.

[Inquiry Standards](#)

[History Standards](#)

Skills (What Students Need to Be Able To Do)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Explain how the United States made five key territorial acquisitions from 1803-1853.</li><li>● Explain the concept of Manifest Destiny and how it was used to justify U.S. expansion during this time period.</li><li>● Debate what the United States should have done in each case of territorial acquisition, using historical facts and personal values.</li><li>● Identify the reasons explorers, Californios, mountain men, missionaries, women, Mormons, forty-niners, and Chinese left to the West.</li><li>● Construct a map of the United States based on the timeline of the acquisition of new territory.</li><li>● Analyze the theory of Manifest Destiny and its impact on American policy.</li><li>● Evaluate the impact of Westward Expansion on indigenous peoples and on settlers.</li><li>● Describe the challenges that Washington, Adams and Jefferson faced during their Presidencies.</li><li>● Describe the causes and effects of the War of 1812.</li><li>● Explain the development of the Factory System, technological advancements and transportation improvements that facilitated the development of the Industrial Revolution.</li></ul>

- Analyze the effect of Jacksonian Democracy on American politics.
- Analyze and evaluate the impact of industrialization Evaluate the impact of westward expansion and Manifest Destiny on different groups in society.

### **Research Based Effective Teaching Strategies:**

- Summarizing and note taking
- Reinforcing effort and providing recognition
- Homework and practice
- Nonlinguistic representations
- Cooperative learning
- Setting objectives and providing feedback
- Cues, questions, and advance organizers

### **Assessments:**

- Exit Tickets
- Guided Reading Organizers
- Reading Response Rubric
- Research Activities
- DBQ Activities
- Map Activities
- Visual/Multimedia Presentations
- Socratic Seminar
- Tests/Quizzes

### **Instructional Resources:**

- TCI History Alive! The United States Through Modern Time
- Primary Sources
- Maps
- Timelines
- PBS: The West <http://www.pbs.org/weta/thewest/resources/>
- PBS: Lewis and Clark <http://www.pbs.org/lewisandclark/>
- ABC-CLIO Columbia University- <http://databases.abc-clio.com/>
- Library of Congress- [www.loc.gov/maps/collections/?st=gallery&sb=title\\_s](http://www.loc.gov/maps/collections/?st=gallery&sb=title_s)