

The American West 1820-1850 [Manifest Destiny Clip](#)

BrainPop Video on Westward Expansion!

Manifest Destiny!
You Can't Fight it,
and neither can I!!!

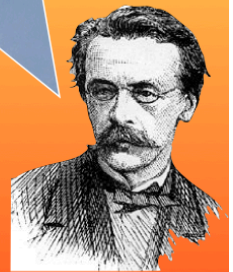


More than 150 years ago the phrase *Manifest Destiny* was a new term introduced in a newspaper by John L. O'Sullivan. This new term (whether intended or not) inspired great hopes and dreams among many Americans. Most of these inspired Americans were white, lower to middle class immigrants from Europe or they were direct descendants of immigrants who wanted a **better** life out west. In literature, going west means "opportunity" or "seeking a new/fresh start" because the west is generally the "frontier or undiscovered" lands.

When O'Sullivan wrote in his newspaper article about Manifest Destiny he said that it **meant it was the nation's destiny to overspread and eventually conquer the North American continent**. He, and many other journalists and politicians at the time, believed the west needed to be conquered, tamed, and settled. People believed the North American continent was destined, by God, that it should be controlled by white settlers and leaders in the nation.

O'Sullivan and many Americans believed that the vast continent explored by Lewis & Clark was to be occupied, settled, and *used* for Americans.

...And that claim is by the right of our *manifest destiny* to overspread and to possess the *whole of the continent* which *Providence* has given us for the development of the great experiment of liberty and federated self-government entrusted to us..



1845
John L. O'Sullivan



Going west is *not* something new in history. Actually, it is not new in *any* history! Seeking new opportunities and new lives, Europeans went “west” to North & South America in the 1600s-1700s. The colonists slowly moved west to escape British control and to test the frontier in the 1750s-1770s. Americans dreamed of settling west of the Appalachian Mountains in the early 1800s and this trend would continue on and on until the entire west was settled. Even today, many people look at the western states as a new frontier and a wild and natural place where one can “reconnect” to the earth.

All this westward expansion came with obvious and unintended **consequences (negative effects)**. As white Americans slowly moved west, Native American tribes were affected. Native tribes were killed, relocated, and their cultures crushed. As white settlers moved west, people wondered what slavery’s impact would be on these new lands. Would slavery expand into the new territories? How many new states would be added to the nation?

Would slavery *continue* to expand westward or would slavery eventually die out? Would there be a fight or even a war between the United States and Mexico over the land. Would the two nations be able to settle borders? Would migrants *settle* the land in between Missouri and Oregon, or would travelers simply move on to the west coast leaving middle America an “empty territory?” These were all excellent questions the nation did not yet have the answers...These questions would be answered between 1820-1850ish.

In the 1820s, **Spanish Mexico** grew upset as more American settlers slowly crept into present-day Texas. Settlers in southern Canada near present-day Washington and Oregon grew fearful that the United States might even try to conquer Canada!

Westward expansion *certainly* had its pros and cons...

Look at just how much land was controlled by Spain in 1810 on the map to the right! Dang!

Remember! Land is owned/purchased, but it is not *always* “settled” ...



The West stretches from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean, from the northern plains to the Rio Grande River -- **more than two million square miles** of the most extraordinary landscape on earth. It is a land of broad rivers and vast deserts, deep canyons and massive mountains, boundless prairies and endless forests. The West is a place where towering mountains of rock and boiling waters rise naturally from the earth. The West means opportunity...Opportunity to the new frontier...

If you look at the map below, you'll see that George Washington's nation ended in 1789 (Yellow, orange, & green). Thomas Jefferson's nation extended to the Rocky Mountains by claim, but not by settlement (Now add the pink) In 1821, no one knew who would control the West's infinite spaces, or what language would be dominant, or whose god would be worshiped, or what the West's destiny would be.

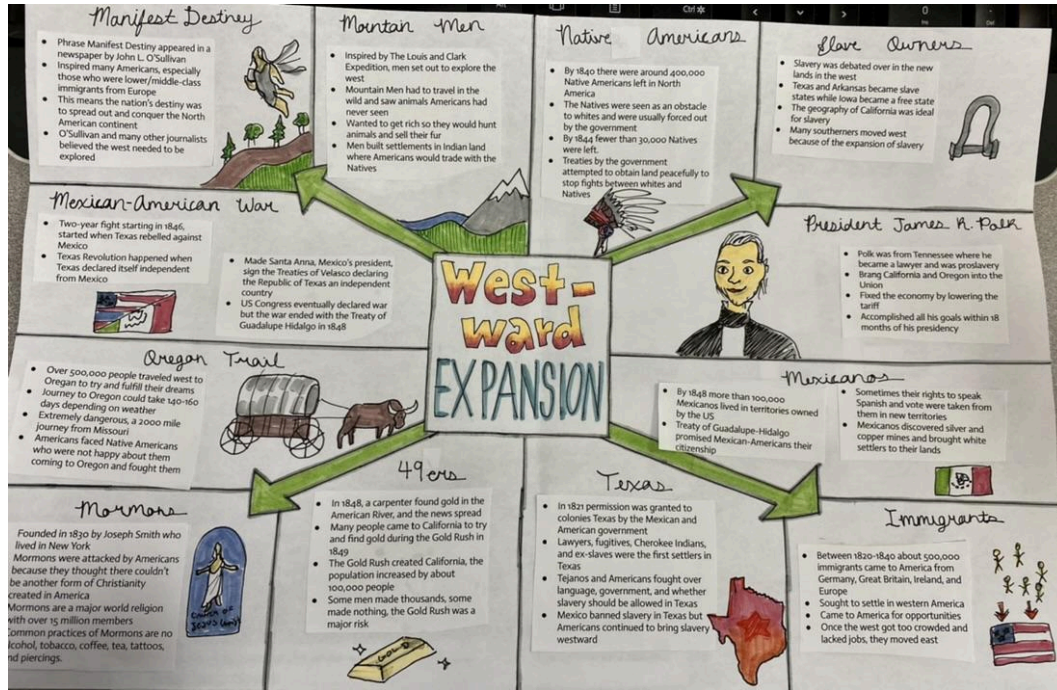
James Monroe, John Quincy Adams, Andrew Jackson, Martin Van Buren, William Henry Harrison, John Tyler, and James K. Polk's presidencies the United States would literally fill out the entire map below



The West was *completely* unknown. When Americans went to the moon in the 1960s, we had at least seen pictures of the moon from space, but when people trekked westward in the 1800s, they had *no* idea what each day would bring.

In the mid 1800s, two young countries -- the **United States** and the newly established **Republic of Mexico** -- claimed most of the land in the west. England still had trade forts in the Pacific Northwest in the Oregon Territory, while a host of Indian nations not only inhabited the land, but challenged each other for more.

The Westward Expansion Web!



Using the content from the Westward Expansion doc, create a “westward web” as seen above...No, you can't use the above project. That was someone else's work. It was a good project. I think it was a 100. Anyways, you are tasked with the following for your “westward web”

- Five** facts/details about the subject – Details are like M&M's...More! Yes, you can bullet point them or write in complete sentences in paragraph format.
- One image for each subject – hand drawn!...take your time – Words “Westward Web” must be in the middle of the project. Label your image...Yes, label it.

Subjects you *must* include in your “westward web”

Mountain Men

49ers

Mormons

Texas

Slaveowners

James K. Polk & his goals

Native Americans

Immigrants

Oregon Trail

Mexican-American War

Manifest Destiny

Each subject is worth 10 points – drawings included

We've already examined the **Louisiana Purchase**, the Lewis & Clark Expedition, Jackson invading and taking Florida and why people moved west in early American history. Now, it is time to dig a bit deeper into the content. As y'all might have remembered, not everyone agreed with Jefferson's purchase. Some even thought his actions were unconstitutional, but what Jefferson's purchase really did was start the true westward movement.

THE MOUNTAIN MAN



In 1806, the Lewis & Clark Expedition returned to St. Louis, and the news spread like wildfire about what “the west” looked like. Some men heard about this new land and decided to explore it on their own and thus the mountain man era was born! These men were unlike anyone before them. They sought adventure and a challenge. They had to travel into wilderness that was hardly explored, live in lands that were filled with animals many Americans had never seen, and they were there to survive. From 1806-1840 the **Mountain Man** went west to earn their keep. In 1807, a Spanish trader led 42 men up the Mizzouri River to lay traps for animals. The next year, he led 350 fur trappers, and the mountain man era was born.

Below is an account log by Osborne Russel, who spent several years trapping for the Columbia River Trapping Company, one of a dozen fur trapping companies established in the early 1800s. The list below is an actual compilation of purchases by some Osborne Russell who was hired by with the Columbia River Fishing and Trading Company rendezvous and forts from 1834-1837:

April 15	2 flannel shirts	\$4.00	
April 15	1 wool hat	\$1.25	
April 15	1 blanket coat	\$11.00	
Aug. 6	1 pint sugar	\$1.50	Purchased at Fort Hall (Idaho)

Diary Entry: “...6th of August. Having done as much as the requirement of safety to the fort, drank a bale of liquor and acquired horses and cows”

Aug. 23	1/pint rum	\$1.50
Oct. 2	1 pint liquor	\$.35
Oct. 3	1 pint liquor	\$1.50
Oct. 3	1 knife	\$1.25
Nov. 9	1 pint sugar	\$3.00



Most other items listed in the diary of Osborne Russel included the following: Sheep, soap, alcohol, sugar, coffee, rum, rice, moccasins, red pepper, flints for gun, thread/needles, ammunition, black pepper & flour.

From 1834-1837 Russel documented and wrote about over one dozen animals not ever seen by people back east and Native American tribes he traded with. He earned \$250 over the 18 month period he was a mountain man. He moved to the Oregon territory and served in the Oregon territory government until he moved to California in 1849 when he had heard of the discovery of gold. Many mountain men followed his path to California.



Hudson Bay Company traders by Henry Alexander Ogden.

American Fur Company

Bent, St. Vrain & Company

Columbia Fur Company

Hudson's Bay Company

Missouri Fur Company

North West Company

Pacific Fur Company

Rocky Mountain Fur Company

← The different fur companies of North America

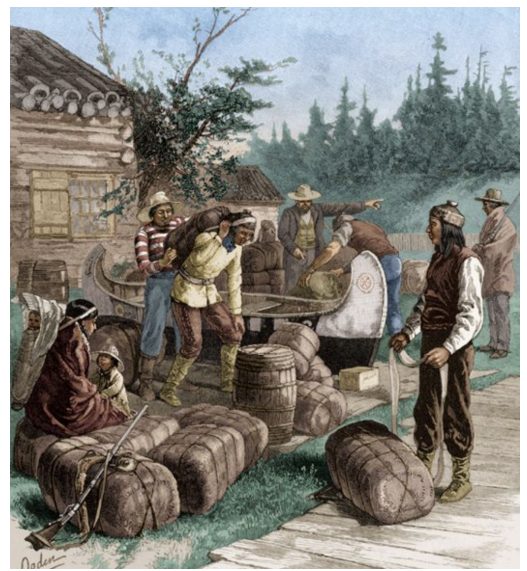
The American Fur Company was founded by John Jacob Astor in 1808 and would become one of the largest businesses in the country at the start of the 19th century. Astor began this ambitious venture to compete with the two great fur-trading companies in Canada – the Hudson's Bay Company and the North West Company.



← The Rocky Mountain Fur Company Trade Post 1820s

The western wilderness the mountain men entered was an excursion into the great unknown. It was a land where man fought the weather and a land where wild animals controlled the land these men wished to tame.

Mountain Men sought to quickly get rich, but in a different way than those back east. These men went west to hunt animals and collect their fur/pelts. These men would then take as many pelts as they could, return back east and trade them for goods. Because of the rarity of these furs, merchants back east made a killing by shipping these furs off to Europe. These were animals not native to Europe, so they were “exotic” furs.





Fur Trader

Hats...Yes, hats was the name of the game. Men and women wore them alike and this was especially the case in Europe where the demand was exceptionally high. The fancier, the furrier, and the more luxurious the hat looked and felt meant one was looked higher in society. In the early 1800s, hats were becoming the big fashion statement of American and European aristocrats (wealthy people). Hats were the thing that set the standard of fashion and the furs to make these hats were in high demand so people could show off their wealth both in the US and in Europe.



Young men seeking adventure and true independence were the ones who went. Many of them were European immigrants and even some Native Americans from the east traveled west in search of wealth. Fur was considered a sign of wealth, and the animal population was a dying breed for them. The most exotic furs for hats, clothing, blankets, etc, the more demand there was for animal trappers to search for them.

In the early 1800s, the animal of choice that was new to both Americans and Europe were beaver hats. Trappers laid their traps in the icy streams during the winter, and then by summer met with other trappers at forts for the annual rendezvous to exchange goods. The life of a mountain man was dangerous. Thieves, Natives, accidents while hunting/fishing/trapping, building their own shelters, disease and animal attacks were all common dangers.

What the mountain men did was pave the paths for future migrants. They blazed the trails used for future generations of travelers. Mountain men built settlements & forts in “Indian” lands where Americans would trade with Natives for future generations. They literally tamed the west and made the maps of the west that were shipped back east. They recorded the interactions with Native tribes and kept accounts of which tribes were friendly and which tribes were dangerous. If not for the mountain men, the nation would look much different from both a geographic and economic standpoint.

Hiram Martin Chittenden, in his book, *The American Fur Trade of the far West*, once said:

“The far West became a field of romantic adventure and developed a class of men who loved the wandering career of the native inhabitant rather than the toilsome lot of the industrious colonist.”

The Places of The West: Texa\$

[CLICK HERE & Watch BrainPop Video on Texas](#)

For nearly 300 years, Spanish-speaking people had called much of the west their home. They raised herds of horses and cattle in present-day **California, New Mexico, Arizona, & Texas**. They built homes along the Rio Grande River, and they spread Catholicism throughout the territories attempting to convert the Natives. Wherever they lived, the Spanish felt distant from their capital, Mexico City, because they were often more than 1000 miles away. Many of these Spanish settlers lived in small rural communities and they had *no* connection with any type of government. They simply lived on their own. People of the frontier in Spanish-speaking Mexico felt more “independent” than anything else. They did not feel “Mexican” or “American,” they felt “Texan.”



In 1821, American **Moses Austin** received permission from the Mexican & American government officials to set up an American colony in the easternmost part of present-day Texas. Moses Austin would die before the first settlers arrived but he passed the torch to his son **Stephen F. Austin** to finish the job. In the early 1830s Stephen F. Austin brought **297 American families** to Mexico/Texas and settled. These colonists brought American values, American culture, and some even brought slavery. Dirt-poor debtors, fugitives, lawyers, Cherokee Indians, land speculators, and ex-slaves were of the first settlers to go to Texas.

By 1835, there were over 35,000 American-born immigrants living in Texas, compared to the only 4000 Mexican Tejanos (native Spanish speaking Mexicans). The Tejanos and the Texan-Americans constantly fought. They fought over what language they should speak in the land and who had the power to govern the territory.

The largest problem was not necessarily who *owned* the land, **but whether the Americans should be able to bring slavery into Texas**. Something had to give, and in 1829 Mexico banned slavery in all of its territory sending a message to American immigrants into Texas.

In 1833, **Austin** traveled to Mexico City to meet with **Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna** (above pic). Santa Anna was more of a **dictator** than a General, and Santa Anna even stated “*If I were God, I would wish to be more.*” Yikes. This guy clearly wants a lot of power. It is evident that he wanted to have as much land as possible! The talks resulted in Austin going home to East Texas and the threat of rebellion brewing near the disputed border between the United States and Mexico... **See all that light yellowish land on the map? That was the land in dispute between Texas/America**



In late February 1836, Santa Anna launched an army to march towards San Antonio, TX. He and his Mexican forces wanted to take back San Antonio from the Texan-Americans and prevent further American expansion into present-day Texas. About 180 Texans were there defending the town against a possible Mexican military invasion.

As the Mexicans marched into Texas, the Texans headed toward a Catholic Mission building, **The Alamo (seen below)**. Here, the 180 Texans faced off with 4000 Mexican troops on March 6, 1836 when Mexican General Santa Anna ordered a siege of cannonball fire onto the building. For 90 minutes, the 4000 Mexicans pounded the Alamo with cannonfire. By the end of the day, all 180 Texan forces were either killed in the battle or rounded up and executed. “Remember the Alamo” then became the famous battle cry for those who fell that March day...It would also be the place where Pee-Wee Herman thought villains had stored his precious bike.



The Battle of the Alamo sparked the beginning of a revolution where Texas fought and gained its independence from Mexico. Sam Houston and others met, wrote a Constitution, and declared themselves an independent country, the **Lone Star Republic**. The next issue was whether Texas should remain an independent nation or to join the United States. People in the US were weary because Texans wanted to keep slavery. The US thought, should the nation add another slave state to the Union? Didn't we already see this problem in 1820 with the addition of Missouri? Will adding a state split the nation rather than unite it? President Andrew Jackson, John Tyler, and James K. Polk *all* wanted to add Texas to the United States, and on **December 29, 1845, Texas was officially admitted to the Union as the 28th state during the Polk presidency.**

Though Texas joined, this did not mean the end of more fighting in the west...Americans would fight an 18 month war with Mexico from 1846-1848 which resulted in the addition of Arizona, Wyoming, New Mexico, Colorado, Nevada, Utah, and California...**The map below shows the territories given up by Mexico in the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo, 1848.**

The treaty also proclaimed that the United States give Mexico \$15 million and draw the official border between the United States & Mexico at the Rio Grande River. The US got Nevada, Utah, New Mexico, Arizona, Texas, and Wyoming The big question remained...Will there be more slave territories/states?

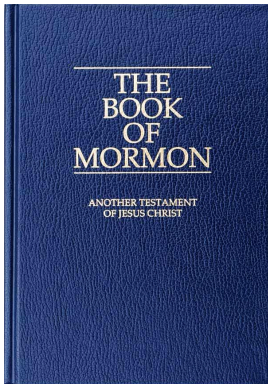


[CLICK ME! BrainPop Video on Mexican War!](#)



DESERET..UTAH

The picture to the left is The Tabernacle in Salt Lake City, Utah. It is home to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, also known as the Mormons. The Mormons are one of the most interesting, yet controversial, people in American history. They are also one of the wealthiest groups of people in America as a whole.



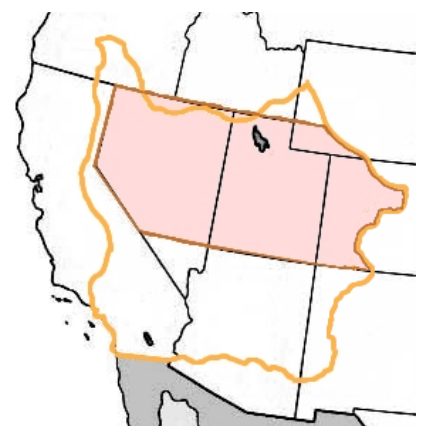
Within one month of Joseph Smith's founding of Mormonism, it had more than 40 converts. In the early years, Mormons were hated, ridiculed, and persecuted. They were also feared. Founded in 1830, Joseph Smith, who lived in the backcountry woods of New York, claimed to have been visited by the Angel Moroni. He was led to tablets of gold and he believed they were the word of God. After deciphering these tablets into what is now the Book of Mormon, Smith began preaching his beliefs to those in New England. Within weeks, he began to attract followers and converts...

What makes Mormonism so interesting, too, is that it is an American-born religion as a different sect of Christianity. Most religious groups in the early 17th & 18th centuries in America have been reforms from Christianity, Lutheranism, and Catholicism, while the Mormons are completely different. These followers received a lot of criticism for how they were founded and for some of their practices, but mostly because people thought that it was not possible for *another* form of Christianity to be "created" in America. The Mormons were attacked both physically and verbally by Americans in New York and wherever they moved to. They moved to Ohio, Illinois, and Missouri. In 1844, Joseph Smith was jailed for treason and murdered by a mob in Illinois. The prophet of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints was now dead...



After Smith died, the church divided. Many Mormons followed a new leader of the Church, Brigham Young. In 1847, Young and the Mormons eventually had a mass migration westward where they eventually settled in the Salt Lake basin, Utah. By the mid 1850s, 16,000 Mormons had moved to the Utah territory.

The Mormons are a major world religion with over 16 million members today who belong to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Today, we know the cultural center for the Mormons is in Salt Lake City, Utah. Mormons have always had a very strong sense of community.



State of Deseret (proposed)

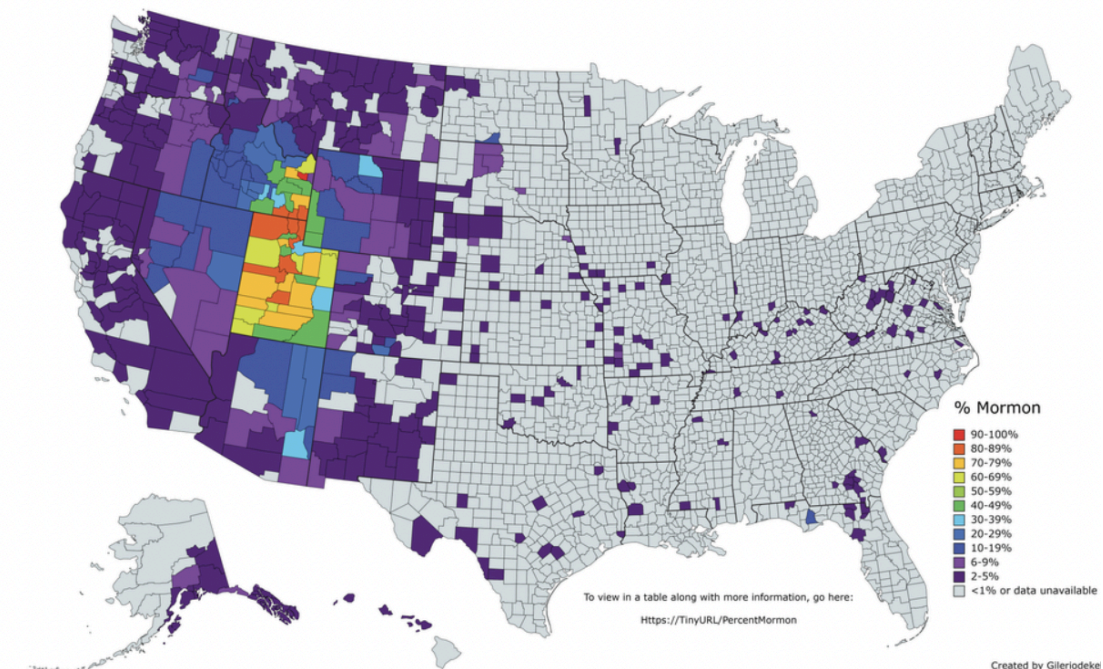
Utah Territory 1851

Book of Mormon: This text, which reads something like the Old Testament, tells the story of an ancient Hebrew patriarch and prophet named Lehi, who, in roughly 600 B.C., was called by God to lead a group of Jews from Jerusalem to the New World. The group established themselves somewhere in North America and, according to this history, at least some Native Americans descended from these immigrants.

Some Mormon Beliefs

- Mormons consider themselves Christians, but many Christians don't recognize Mormons as an official religion
- Like many conservative Christians, the Latter-day Saints believe that Jesus will return to earth to establish Zion, the paradisiacal Promised Land, but the Mormons believe Jesus will establish his new kingdom on the American continent.
- Mormons believe that God sent more prophets after Jesus's death. One of these prophets was Joseph Smith
- Mormons follow a strict healthy lifestyle that doesn't allow them to consume alcohol, tobacco, coffee or tea.
- Mormons practice clothing rituals that include wearing special undergarments that have religious significance. Known as the "temple garment," the attire is worn by adult members who make sacred promises to God.
- Not all Mormon churches accept the label "Mormon," because the term has at times been used in a derogatory manner, and it does not allow for the variety of beliefs that exist among churches that follow the Book of Mormon and the teachings of Joseph Smith.
- Mormons also have a general distaste for piercings and tattoos. Mormons also have a very strict law of chastity -- requiring abstention from sexual relations until marriage, and in some cases, **polygamy** is still a part of the culture.

15.8k 2020 is the 200th anniversary of Mormonism. Here is a map of where Mormons live in the United States. Credit: Gileriodekel.





Oregon! Go Ducks! (Click Me!)

The very word “Oregon” evoked visions of paradise. Luscious, thick forests with an infinite amount of timber, beaver pelts, fish and animals were said to have been *unlimited* in the west in the 1840s. Between 1840--1869, over 500,000 pioneers traveled west to fulfill their dreams and a nation's destiny. This 2000 mile trek on foot by the pioneers left the town of Independence, Mizzou and ended in present-day Portland, Oregon. This journey was often deadly. It could take between 140-160 days depending on the weather, trail conditions, and the time of year one left the east.



In the early 1800s, the first white settlers set out west into the unknown looking for opportunity and an escape from eastern lifestyle. What these “mountain men” found were beaver pelts, bison-filled plains, countless forests, raging rivers, and wildlife like they had never imagined. These stories eventually made their way back to settlers in the east in the 1830s-1840s. As the beaver trade slowed in the late 1830s, the next movement west was publicized by politicians and journalists who wanted the nation to be *fully* inhabited and settled from sea to shining sea. The government wanted a continental nation.

The diary account of a woman on the Oregon Trail →

Pioneer Women

Mrs. Cecilia McMillen Adams, who kept the diary of her family's journey from Illinois to Oregon in 1852, traced the wagon train's journey as follows:

Passed 7 new-made graves. One had 4 bodies in it . . . cholera. A man died this morning with the cholera in the company ahead of us. . . . Another man died. . . .
June 25: Passed 7 graves . . . made 14 miles...
June 30: Passed 10 graves . . . made 22 miles;
July 1: Passed 8 graves . . . made 21 miles;
July 2: One man of [our] company died. Passed 8 graves made 16 miles;
July 4: Passed 2 graves. .. made 16 miles;
July 27: Passed 3 graves . . . made 14 miles...
July 29: Passed 8 graves .. made 16 miles;
July 30: I have kept an account of the dead cattle we passed & the number today is 35;
Aug. 7: We passed 8 graves with a week . . . made 16 miles;
Sept. 7: We passed 14 graves this week . . . made 17 miles;
Sept. 9: We passed 10 graves this week . . . made 16 miles;
Oct. 1 : Have seen 35 graves since leaving Fort Boise
Oct. 17: Here are 12 graves all together.

Oregon was a “pioneer’s paradise” according to a newspaper journalist back east and trees were said to be as thick as the hair on a dog’s back (same journalist). This inspired one thousand pioneers in 1843 to pursue the journey west on the red line on the map below. They left with hopes of getting rich in the logging industry. They left with hopes of starting a new life in a new land. They left to escape the “busy” east coast”. These migrants’ journey was a big gamble.

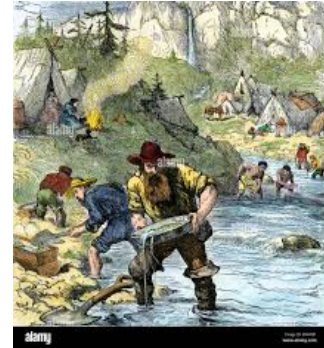


Most wagons were about six feet wide and twelve feet long. They were usually made of seasoned hardwood and covered with a large, oiled canvas stretched over wood frames. In addition to food supplies, the wagons were laden with water barrels, tar buckets and extra wheels and axles. The sturdy prairie schooners could carry up to 2,500 pounds. Most of the space was taken up by 1,800 pounds of food.

Many American pioneers faced the same troubles that the generations before them faced back east; Native American resistance to white settlement. The Nez Perce, Tillamook, the Paiute, the Ute, the Yakima, and dozens of other tribes lived in present-day Nebraska, Oregon, Montana, Idaho, and Washington. These tribes would *not* welcome the whites without a fight and in many cases these natives helped the migrants on their journey hoping that they would not settle *their* land.



The 49ers!



Watch Me! - California Gold Rush!

No other event prior to the Civil War had a larger impact on the nation than the **California Gold Rush**. California, a Spanish-Mexican territory until 1849, had a population of barely 12,000 before the Gold Rush of 1849. California was the smallest trade post city on the west coast at the time, and it served mostly Mexico, Canada, and parts of Asia. Prior to 1848, California felt more like an unclaimed territory than an American owned area. World history would change on **January 24, 1848** at Sutter's Mill just outside of the town of Sacramento when James Marshall, a carpenter, found flakes and tiny nuggets of gold in the American River while building a sawmill. Marshall rushed into town to show these flakes and nuggets to a jeweler who informed Marshall that he had struck gold!

When the news spread east about the discovery of gold, President James K. Polk used that strike to boast even more westward expansion. The idea that gold could be discovered by average Americans helped promote Polk's agenda of moving the nation westward and settling all the land in between the two great oceans. This gold discovery was unlike anything before; the gold was available for the taking. Those who flocked to California included Irish-American immigrants, farmers, bankers, carpenters, and so forth from places like China, Panama, and parts of Western Europe.



In March 1848, the non-native population of San Francisco was about 800. By December 31, 1849 the population of California estimated 100,000 including 35,000 people who arrived by sea. The Gold Rush *created* California. Saloons, hotels, general stores, and outfitters popped up creating new jobs and towns on the coast. When the men reached the river banks of the American River just outside of Sacramento and other towns in California they literally grabbed up the land.

Think about it. California was *hardly* a claimed/settled territory, let alone did they have any laws regarding taxes, land ownership, or anything else. Men would even kill other men, steal their goods, and claim spots on the river to get the best possible locations for mining. No one stopped this! It was complete lawlessness!

From the letter of "S. Shufelt" to his brother, describing his life in the gold fields of California in 1850:

"Many, very many, that come here meet with bad success & thousands will leave their bones here. Others will lose their health, contract diseases that they will carry to their graves with them. Some will have to beg their way home, & probably one half that come here will never make enough to carry them back. But this does not alter the fact about the gold being plenty here, but shows what a poor frail being man is, how liable to disappointments, disease & death.

There is a good deal of sin & wickedness going on here, Stealing, lying, Swearing, Drinking, Gambling & murdering. There is a great deal of gambling carried on here. Almost every public House is a place for Gambling, & this appears to be the greatest evil that prevails here. Men make & lose thousands in a night, & frequently small boys will go up & bet \$5 or 10 (*Equivalent to \$115-\$225 today*) & if they lose all, go the next day & dig more. We are trying to get laws here to regulate things but it will be very difficult to get them executed."

Most of the men who flocked to northern California arrived with little more than the clothes on their backs. Once there, they needed to buy food, goods and supplies, which San Francisco's merchants were all too willing to provide—for a cost. Stuck in a remote region, far from home, many prospectors coughed up most of their hard-earned money for the most basic supplies. At the height of the boom in 1849, prospectors could expect prices sure to cause sticker shock: A single egg could cost the equivalent of \$25 in today's money, coffee went for more than \$100 per pound and replacing a pair of worn out boots could set you back more than \$2,500.



A few men in particular found out to truly profit from the Gold Rush. Sam Brannan, a member of the Mormon church, came to California to set up a church for the town of San Francisco. What he ended up doing was pure genius. Brannan opened up a general store in Sacramento where he sold the following items: canvas tents, shovels, axes, barrels, guns, ammunition, gunpowder, canteens, food, and other dry goods. He also charged a fairly high price for these items. In three months, Brannan outfitted so many miners that his store made \$36,000 in those three months alone!



Women, too, moved West to profit from what they could offer these miners. Women opened up shops where they served food, liquor, and brothels for entertaining the men who were far from home. Many men did not have any tools for cooking, laundering clothing, and some just wanted “company”. The overcrowdedness of these towns led to violence, lawlessness, banditry, gambling, prostitution and more!

Another group of people benefitted from the gold rush: immigrants. By 1850, more than 25% of California’s population had been born outside the United States. By 1852, more than 25,000 immigrants from China alone had arrived in America. The idea that they could move to America for a new start and possibly find riches made the Chinese seek better opportunities than back home.

After a few weeks of traveling by boat, most Chinese arrived in San Francisco then headed for the hills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. As the amount of gold began to dwindle, miners increasingly fought for anti-immigrant restrictions and regulations on mining. In 1850, California even created a Foreign Miners tax!!! This tax created a \$20 monthly fee for “non-citizens” living in California.

Some men made thousands in a matter of days. Some spent over a year in California and barely survived. Some men filled their hats to the brim with gold nuggets, while others never saw a single gold nugget in their lives. The Gold Rush was a tremendous risk. More people made money writing for newspapers, cooking for the miners, opening saloons, general stores, running a butchery, manufacturing goods, selling clothing, etc. Few people truly got rich mining for gold...

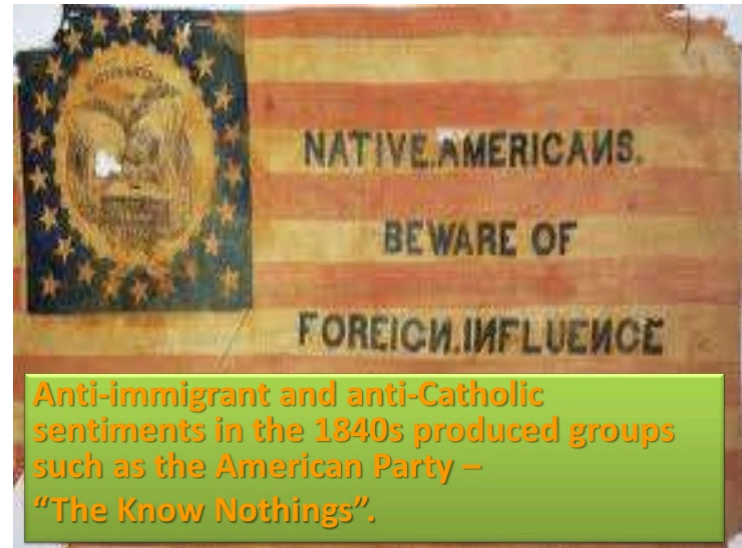


California was unlike any other place in the world...On July 9, 1850 California had a large enough population to apply for statehood, and entered the Union as the 31st state. Its closest neighboring state was Missouri...At the end of it all, some \$81 million was pulled from the ground, worth over \$4 billion today...



So WHO ELSE was affected by Westward Expansion?

Immigrants: Between 1820—1840 nearly 500,000 immigrants came to the United States, most from Germany, Great Britain, Ireland, and Western Europe. These immigrants sought to settle in the western lands of the United States, and they were mainly from Europe. Most of these immigrants who came to America sought new opportunities and settled in the Northeastern cities. Once there they realized the crowdedness and lack of employment opportunities in the east, they decided to move west.

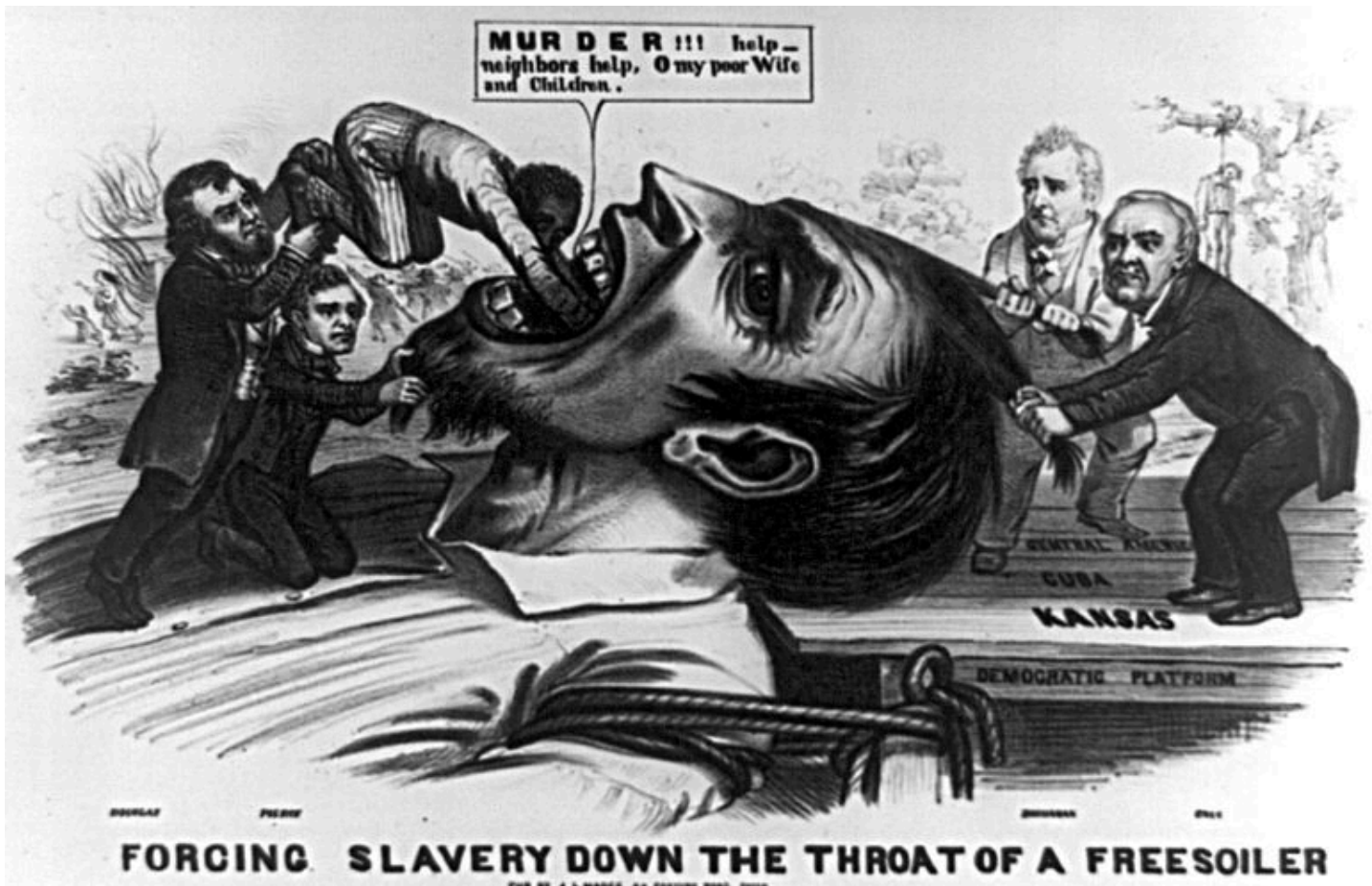


In the early-mid 19th century one of the leading industries that needed labor was the building of railroads and this opportunity was most promising to immigrant workers. Many Irish left the east and then ventured west to help construct the railroads that would eventually stretch across the continent from east to west. In response to the industrial revolution the United States was experiencing with the railroad industry, agriculture was also spreading fast across the southern parts of the United States with the help of new farming tools and techniques

Slaveowners: With new acquisitions of new lands in the west came the question of whether slavery should move with white settlers. Texas, Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, and California were all questionable on the issue. Congressmen debated for decades about whether these new territories would be open for slavery. Texas **immediately** welcomed slavery as a new state 1845. Arkansas (slave) and Iowa (free) would become states in 1837 and 1846 respectively, but California would question the matter until 1850. After much debate, California entered the Union as a free state in 1850 as part of the Compromise of 1850.

The plains, the forests of California, and the southwestern part of the United States territories were ideal for slavery. The climate was good, soil ripe for growing, and the demand for labor in such conditions were always welcome. Many Southerners from Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi and Louisiana wanted to know if westward expansion meant the expansion of slavery. It would open up problems that would last until 1861, when a Civil War would decide the issue.

Check out the image below and think about the caption at the bottom “*Forcing slavery down the throat of a Free-Soiler*”...Many people thought *this* was how slavery was spread west...



Native Americans: By 1840, there were approximately 400,000 Native Americans/Indians left in North America. Nearly all the Eastern communities had been annihilated, subdued, or forcibly removed, west of the Mississippi. The Indian, not needed, was an obstacle to whites who were almost always dealt with sheer force by both the government and the settlers who moved onto Indian land. Indian Removal was the attempt to clear land for whites to settle, farm, search for gold, and expand.

In 1820, 120,000 Indians lived east of the Mississippi River. By 1844, fewer than 30,000 were left. Dozens of treaties had been signed between 1793 and 1840 either protecting or relocating the Indians from Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Florida. Treaties by the US government were attempts to peacefully contain the newly acquired lands and to prevent conflict between whites and Native Americans. By the end of the 1840s, Native Americans knew that white settlers moving west could only mean one thing; they would struggle yet again to preserve their lands and their culture...



The Mexicanos of the Southwest: The Texas War for Independence and the Mexican-American War in the 1840s had a lasting impact on the people of the Southwest. Spanish-speaking people had made their homes in the regions since the days of the conquistadors of the 1500s.

By 1848, more than 100,000 Mexicanos (Mexican citizens) lived in the territories acquired by the United States. The treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo promised Mexican-Americans full citizenship rights and the right to use their language. These promises were *not* kept. At times, Mexicanos' right to vote and to speak Spanish were barred in these new territories and their cultures lost at the hands of white settlers expanding westward.

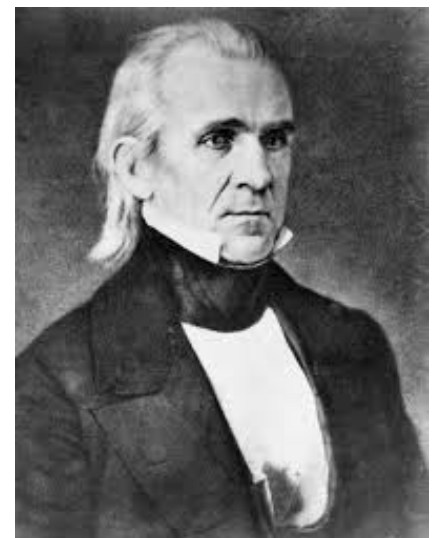
Mexicanos were the first to discover silver and copper mines in the west in the 1850s and this discovery then brought thousands of white miners and settlers to their lands. By 1940, Arizona alone had produced \$3 billion worth of copper since the 1840s.



Presidential Leadership: So who was president while all of this expansion and Manifest Destiny took place? The concept of spreading the nation west was not new, nor did it happen during just one presidency.

Thomas Jefferson (1801-1808) was the first president who promoted westward expansion when he purchased the Louisiana territory. Andrew Jackson (1829-1837) promoted westward expansion when he relocated the Native Americans to present-day Oklahoma in order to get more land for white farmers. **John Tyler** (1841-1845 pictured top left) also wanted the nation to move west and gain more land as Florida became a state the day before he left office on March 3, 1845.

The “true” expansionist president has to be **James K. Polk** -- the dude with the awesome mullet. From 1845-1849, no president had added more territory to the United States more than Thomas Jefferson when he purchased the Louisiana Territory in 1803. It is also said that no president ever worked harder than James K. Polk. He even had gas lighting installed in the White House so he could work at night.



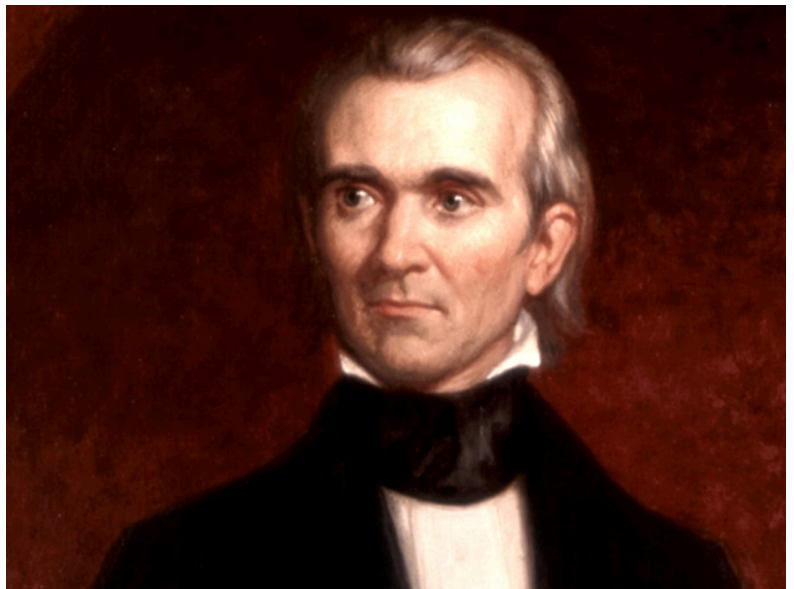
James K. Polk was similar to Andrew Jackson. Born in a log cabin, Polk was from Tennessee, studied in North Carolina, was a lawyer, and was pro slavery. Nicknamed "Young Hickory" Polk had the goal of serving only one term. Mr. Barry has also been to James K. Polk's home in Tennessee, and Polk's gravesite in Nashville, Tennessee. Polk is one of Mr. Barry's favorite presidents. Polk also had four goals:

1. **Bring California into the Union**
2. **Fix the economy by lowering the tariff**
3. **Add Oregon to the Union**
4. **Bring in Texas and New Mexico territories into the Union -- Which led to the Mexican War**

Polk accomplished these goals within the first 18 months in office...

While Polk was president, for only one term by the way, he added present-day California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Utah, New Mexico, Texas, Arizona, and Nevada...

Polk also negotiated with Great Britain and Canada that the United States' northern border would be the 49th parallel in terms of getting Oregon. In fact, Polk's political slogan was "54 40 or fight! Meaning he wanted the United States to fight for all the land below the 54th degree latitude. Polk and Great Britain eventually agreed at the 49th parallel (the current border between the US and Canada)



Polk embraced Manifest Destiny and the acquisition of ALLLLLLL these new territories in the 1840s enraged some while it pleased others.

At 49 years of age, Polk was the youngest president inaugurated up to that time, but the strain of his campaign and of his presidency left him exhausted. True to his campaign pledge to serve only one term, Polk left office and returned to Tennessee in March 1849.

Polk died of cholera three months later, as thousands of Americans rushed west in search of California gold. The new argument over this land would be: **Will slavery expand into these new lands?**

How does this image depict westward expansion in the 1840s?



Emanuel Leutze's *Westward the Course of Empire Takes Its Way* (1861)

Click Me: [Westward The Course of Empire Takes Its Way Zoomed Image](#)







Indian Land Tenure
FOUNDATION.

Reversing Manifest Destiny