

America's Westward Journey

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Subject(s): Westward Expansion, Louisiana Purchase, Manifest Destiny, Mexican Cession, Oregon Territory, Gold Rush

Key Words: territory, state, manifest destiny,

Time Allotted: 45 minutes

Lesson Overview	This lesson will use GIS technology and a story map format to demonstrate the rapid westward on the young United States westward to the Pacific Ocean.
Compelling Question	How did the rapid expansion of the United States in the 1800s shape the United States today? Where and why did the United States expand during the 1800s?
Supporting Questions	How was the idea of Manifest Destiny used to justify the rapid expansion of United States westward? How did the conflict between slave and free states affect the acquisition of new territories?
Learning Objectives	Student will be able to: Visually identify the large territorial acquisitions of the continental United States. Demonstrate knowledge of how each territorial acquisition occurred. Students will be able to complete an assignment using the story map and guiding questions to demonstrate understanding of the westward expansion of the United States during the 1800s.
C3 Standards & Practices	• Geo.5.9-12 Evaluate how political and economic decisions throughout time have influenced cultural and environmental characteristics of various places and regions. • Geo.12.6-12 Explain how global changes in population distribution patterns affect changes in land use in particular places. • His.2.6-8 Classify series of historical events and developments as examples of change and/or continuity. • His.1.9-12. Evaluate how historical events and developments were shaped by unique circumstances of time and place as well as broader historical contexts. • His.5.9-12 Analyze how historical contexts shaped and continue to shape people's perspectives. • His.11.9-12 Critique the usefulness of historical sources for a specific historical inquiry based on their maker, date, place of origin, intended audience, and purpose. • His.14. 9-12. Analyze multiple and complex causes and effects of events in the past.

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Materials/ Resources	• Story Map link: America's Journey Westward https://arcg.is/aKW9X • Student Guide • Student Guide Key Teacher preparation instructions listed below
Modifications/ Extensions	This lesson would lead very well into an extension activity on the displacement of Native Americans as settlers moved west. Another modification/extension would be to add information on the Homestead Act of 1862.

Teacher Preparation Instructions: The accompanying story map is intended as a presentation tool for the introduction of content material on westward expansion in the 1800's or as a review/enrichment activity for material already presented. Teachers should use the provided graphic organizer as a jumping off point to guide them through the Story Map Journal: America's Journey Westward. The guiding and supporting questions may be presented orally during the presentation and used as a catalyst for classroom discussion or provided to the class to answer independently after the initial story map presentation.

Closure: The final slide of the story map entitled Check it out! is intended to be an interactive closure activity in which the students use the tools provided in the map app and draw conclusions about the role westward expansion has played on the development of our modern United States.