

Unit: Western Expansion
Lesson #11 Manifest destiny or Manifest conquest?

Essential Questions:

- What goals did America have in taking over the last of the Southwest territories?
- How much of the invasion included environmental ideals?

Sourcing--

Have a student on the overhead display the following:

- **Circle who** wrote the ordinance...
- **Underline twice when** the document was written
- **Put a box** around the area that gives a general purpose for **why** the document was written

Contextualization--

Go to the website

<http://pbskids.org/wayback/goldrush/peopletoknow.html>

and go through each person and talk about their involvement in the gold rush—

Note the many differences between the people, ex- gender, minorities, etc

Comprehension--

-As a class, discuss the questions listed below the reading.

-Students should then (in pairs or independently) write a letter to a relative living in a rural community--telling them the message of this sermon. Use the essential questions as a guide to explain the point the pastor was making.

Corroboration--

The Official Protest of Governor Pico to Consul Larkin/June 29, 1846

Narrative of a Journey Round the World, Sir George Simpson/1847

Hasting to Be Rich; A Sermon, Occasioned by the Present Excitement Respecting The Gold of California; Rev. E. L. Cleaveland, 1849

. . . Among the many great and memorable events of the year 1848, the acquisition of these territories [Mexican cession], and the discovery of the mines they contain, are by no means the least remarkable. In the hands of their late owners, they were of but little account either to themselves or to the world—but in our hands they are destined to exert a prodigious influence, both upon our own and every other nation. No other people on earth have such facilities for developing the resources of those broad lands. They will vastly augment our political, commercial, and moral power among the nations. The accession of these rich and extensive regions, will give us a commanding position on the Pacific, and turn the commerce of Asia, and the wealth of those Western seas into our own ports. While the rail-way, which must soon connect us with that distant part of the Republic, will draw the travel and trade of Europe across our country in their intercourse with Eastern Asia. Thus we shall occupy a certain position between Europe and Asia, with the riches of both pouring on our shores. Holding the finest portion of this continent, if not of the world; blest with the freest and firmest government on earth; increasing in numbers with unparalleled rapidity;—with area enough for more millions than now constitute the entire population of the globe—speaking the most influential language in the world; and as yet, substantially Protestant in religion,—this great Republic seems raised up in the providence of God, to accomplish a mighty work in elevating the human race. . . .

Discussion Questions for Reading:

1. According to Rev. Cleaveland, what are the unique features of Americans?
2. How does this sermon reflect a belief in Manifest Destiny?
3. What specifically does the Reverend outline as areas that will enhance America?
4. What role did the environment play in Cleveland's ideas for taking over?

Hasting to Be Rich; a Sermon, Occasioned by the Present Excitement Respecting the Gold of California; Rev. E. L. Cleaveland, 1849

. . . Among the many great and memorable events of the year 1848, the possession of these territories [Mexican cession], and the discovery of the mines they contain, are by no means the least remarkable. In the hands of their late owners, they were of but little account either to themselves or to the world—but in our hands they are destined to put forth an extraordinary influence, both upon our own and every other nation. No other people on earth have such facilities for developing the resources of those broad lands. They will greatly add to our political, commercial, and moral power among the nations. The taking over of these rich and widespread regions, will give us a commanding position on the Pacific, and turn trade with Asia and the wealth of those Western seas into our own ports. The rail-way, which will soon connect us with that distant part of the Republic, will draw the travel and trade of Europe across our country in their interaction with Eastern Asia. Thus we shall occupy a certain position between Europe and Asia, with the riches of both pouring on our shores. Holding the finest portion of this continent, if not of the world; blest with the freest and firmest government on earth; increasing in numbers with incomparable speed;—with area enough for more millions than now constitute the entire population of the globe—speaking the most influential language in the world; and as yet, considerably Protestant in religion,—this great Republic seems raised up in the providence of God, to accomplish a mighty work in elevating the human race. . . .

Discussion Questions for Reading:

1. Instead of the gold that was found, what does the Reverend say is the most important addition that California has to offer for America?
2. According to Rev. Cleaveland, how can Americans use this addition to their benefit? (In other words, what will having this land do for America?)
3. How does this sermon reflect a belief in Manifest Destiny?

Dear _____,

I wanted to tell you about this _____ (describing word) sermon I heard today in the city, by the Reverend EL Cleaveland.

His words were intriguing because he talked about the real reason that people should travel west to these lands, he said:

.

He believes that only America knows what do with this type of land because _____

.

I myself am thinking of going west because _____

.

Sincerely yours,
