



Western Expansion ✧ Topics Overview

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Leading Essential Questions:

How and why did America expand?

How did the environment influence settlement patterns in the west?

Topics, Sources and Questions...

1) Foreign Foundations in the West

Coronado's Report to the King of Spain/ Letter of French Soldier

- A) What intriguing social and economic ideas led other countries to the Western part of America in the early 16th and 17th centuries?
- B) What role did the environment play in their interest of western lands?

2) United States 1st Taste of Expansion

The Northwest Ordinance of 1787

- A) How did the United States attempt expansion after the Revolutionary War?
- B) In what part of the country did they embark on this endeavor and why?

3) Indigenous Perspective: The Being & Fate of the Indigenous

Letters and Notes on the Manners, Customs and Conditions of N. American Indians

- A) What ultimate effect will westward expansion have on the native people?
- B) How did the land that the natives live on lead to their eventual downfall?

4) Ideas of the West (Louisiana Purchase)

T. Jefferson to M. Lewis, June 20, 1803, Instructions

- A) What ideas and questions led Jefferson to seek out information of the land further west?
- B) What did Americans think the country looked like in 1800; both in the east and the west?

5) New Discoveries (Lewis and Clark Expedition)

Lewis and Clark Journals

- A) What did Lewis and Clark find that would spark continental conquest from those in the east?
- B) Environmentally, what did Lewis & Clark actually find?



6) Indigenous Perspectives: New Relationships (Lewis and Clark Expedition)

Indian Presents Receipt--Meriwether Lewis

- A) How did Lewis & Clark deal with the Natives as they traveled the trail?
- B) How do the gifts reflect on the nature of the natives land and what promises it could hold for the US?

Indigenous Perspectives ✧ Mini-Unit ⇨ INDIAN REMOVAL

Document 1: *The 5 States of Society and Civilization Map of the Inhabited World--W. C. Woodbridge*

- A) What strong opinions did some Americans have of the natives that lived “west”?
- B) What role did environmental knowledge and customs play in their stereotyping?

Document 2: *President Andrew Jackson; 1st Annual Message to Congress; December 8, 1829*

- A) What reasoning did Jackson give for removal of the natives in America?
- B) What environmental aspect helped make their decision for removal?

Document 3: A collection of Quotes: *Cherokee Women Petition, Levi Colbert, Senachwine, and Black Hawk*

- A) How did the Natives feel about the American decision to remove their culture?
- B) How did they feel about the land that would be left behind and the land they would be moved to?

Document 4: *Transcripts from John G. Burnett and A Native from Maine*

- A) What was the removal like for the natives?
- B) What role did the environment play on the forced journey?

Document 5: *Cherokee Trail Statistics; John Ross*

- A) How did the removal affect the natives that were replaced to other areas of the country?
- B) How did their new environment affect their well being?

7) Southwestern Foot Holds (Texas Annexation)

Moses Austin's Application for Colonization; December 26, 1820

- A) What motives did America have for colonizing the Spanish/Mexican land of Texas?
- B) What agricultural/environmental reasons did the author put forward?

8) Further Western Conquests (Mexican-American War- Part 1)

Manifest Destiny, John O'Sullivan; 1846

- A) What was the purpose of the Mexican-American War?



9) Southwest Peace & Boundaries Ensnue (Mexican-American War- Part 2)

Article V, Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo

B) What land did the United States seize in this war and what environmental promises did it hold?

10) Continuing Ventures into the Northwest (Oregon Trail)

Crossing the Great Plains by Ox-Wagons; Harriet Palmer

A) What led Americans to travel and settle in the northwest?

B) What role did the land have in their decision to venture into the northwest?

11) Sealing the Deal on the Southwest (California Gold Rush)

Hasting to Be Rich; A Sermon, Occasioned by the Present Excitement Respecting The Gold of California;

Rev. E. L. Cleaveland, 1849

A) What goals did the U.S. have in taking over the last of the Southwest territories?

B) How much of the invasion included environmental ideals?

12) Indigenous Perspectives: The Reservation System is Established

Treaties of Various Tribes, including: Choctaw, Chickasaw, Cheyenne, Iowa, Miami, Olympia, Arapaho

A) How did the United States government handle conflicts between members of Native tribes and settlers when they collided in the west?

B) What land were the tribes confined to and what type of environment did it provide?