

WESTWARD EXPANSION

The original thirteen colonies were nestled along the Atlantic coast in the east. However, by 1800 the country had expanded across the continent. Thirteen colonies were now 44 states. Many Americans believed that it was the country's destiny to spread from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

When the colonies first arrived, they stayed close to the shore. However, the land became crowded and many wanted to spread out. They wanted land so they could hunt and farm. Some people left, but Britain did and England forbade it. They said that they couldn't go.

However, when England didn't rule the United States anymore, Americans started moving out west. Many things led to further and further spread. Many significant events led to the spread west. Some of these events were the Louisiana Purchase, the Gold Rush and the Transcontinental Railroad.

In 1803, only thirty years after the United States became a country, President Thomas Jefferson bought the Louisiana Purchase. This purchase was a large piece of land that stretched from Louisiana in the southeast almost all the way to the northwest coast of the continent. Two explorers, Lewis and Clark, went out to explore the land where they met a young woman named Sacagawea.

Another event was the Gold Rush. Only a few years after the United States won the Mexican War, a man found gold on land in California. People from all around the world came flocking to California in search of gold.

A third event was the Transcontinental Railroad. A railroad was built across the country. It started in the west and the east and met at a middle point in the Monty Summit in Utah. The Transcontinental Railroad allowed for products to be shipped to the west coast to trade with. It also allowed for products to arrive west which made life in the west much easier.

Westward Expansion wasn't all good. It led to the removal of Natives from their land and resentment toward outsiders. It also led to good things, though, such as better agriculture and stronger trade for the U.S.

WORDS TO KNOW

Destiny – belief that expansion was best

Flocking – arriving in large groups

Resentment – anger from poor treatment

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SYMBOLS

Underline the "Words to Know" found in the passage. (see bottom)

? Something you have a question about

! Something that surprised you

✓ My favorite fact

COLOR

YELLOW

What was the Gold Rush?

GREEN

What was the Louisiana Purchase?

What was the Transcontinental Railroad?

LOUISIANA PURCHASE

CHECK THE CORRECT ANSWER

When was the Louisiana Purchase?

 1803 1805 1807

Who was the Emperor of France?

 Napoleon King George III Cleopatra

What river did Lewis and Clark travel down?

 Colorado Mississippi Missouri

TRUE OR FALSE

Meriwether Lewis chose his friend, William Clark to go with him.

TRUE FALSE

Lewis and Clark began their expedition in Boston in May of 1804.

TRUE FALSE

COMPLETE THE BLANK

Sacagawea was able to interpret, maintain peace with other tribes for them and teach them what plants were _____.

Finally, in November of 1805, the group arrived at the _____.

WORD SEARCH

P I U P U R C H A S E S N G E O Q A Q
V A Q N A P O L E O N C M M L R V H P
E I C Z E I H T H C W F L W Z L X C E
H R S I D R Z J E F F E R S O N J P R
N U L T F F Z K Q G W K J F C V X O N
G O M M F I F V D I P N F F L L L
E S A M X B C W S T F C D H R P A I A
M S N L E C M C A T H I R L X Y D R I
N I L P B R T M F R A N C E K L U Z K
K M K R H E N T T S K J H Y G O X Z Q T

PACIFIC
MISSOURI
LEWIS
CLARK
PERSON
NAPOLEON
FRANCE
PURCHASE
EXPLORE

CALIFORNIA GOLD RUSH

One of the largest migrations of people out west to California was caused by the Gold Rush. In January of 1848, gold was found on a mill.

The United States had won much of the Southwest including California during the Mexican American War, which had just ended. There were some Americans who lived in California. One of these men was John Sutter who was building a mill.

On January 24, 1848, one of his workers found gold flakes while they were working. John Sutter didn't want anyone to know. Sutter asked the worker to promise that he wouldn't tell anyone. However, somehow the secret came out and it spread quickly. Newspapers published the story about the gold. The United States President, James Polk, even mentioned it in a speech.

People started flooding into California looking for gold. They came from all over the world – the eastern United States, South America, Europe, Asia, and even Australia. Many people came in boats. Even people in the eastern United States came in boats. It was easier to travel in a boat than it was over land. These people were known as the forty-niners because they arrived in 1849.

In the beginning, there was a lot of gold. However, after a while, most of the gold had been used. The people who were most successful were not the people that panned for gold. They were businessmen who sold supplies to the miners such as pants – now called jeans – or shovels.

When gold was discovered in a new area, miners would quickly move in and set up mining camps. These rapidly growing towns were called boomtowns. When the gold ran out, the miners would abandon the town and leave them as ghost towns.

The California Gold Rush caused the population to grow rapidly. Many people who came to California stayed there and decided to stay. San Francisco had only 200 people in 1846. By 1852, there were 36,000 people in San Francisco.

WORDS TO KNOW

Migrations – movement in large groups
Panned – process to extract gold
Abandon – left empty

SYMBOLS

Underline the "Words to Know" found in the passage. (see bottom)

? Something you have a question about

! Something that surprised you

✓ My favorite fact

COLOR

YELLOW

Where did people who arrived in California come from?

GREEN

Who were the most successful in the gold rush?

BLUE

What were boomtowns?

TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILROAD

CHECK THE CORRECT ANSWER

When was the Pacific Railroad Act signed?

1850

1861

1862

Where did the two railroads meet?

Utah

Nevada

California

Most Union Pacific workers were _____.

Irish

Chinese

French

TRUE OR FALSE

From the east, the railroad was referred to as the Union Atlantic Railroad.

TRUE FALSE

The Union Pacific Railroad had to worry about Native Americans who were understandably upset about their land being taken.

TRUE FALSE

COMPLETE THE BLANK

The Transcontinental Railroad stretched from Iowa in the Midwest all the way to San Francisco, _____.

The spike is referred to the "Gold Spike" _____.

WORD SEARCH

D W V Q J H N K Y P I C G P M W W
C L J Q G G A C T C A L I F R N I A X
F D G K I D B Y B X G Y E N G U F Q J
R A I L R O A D N O U O M Y B N Q J N
I W H B C P M E L X M A S Z I E M Y
O U M R J M H S O I C U E O U I K
V M T G T S P L C J Q I N P A C I F I C
P D F A I M J A N Y W O R K E R S A H
H Y H R H Z X D I X J K G J Y E F Y T
V L I C R W X H L I O D X O T P Y D P J

LINCOLN
RAILROAD
UNION
PACIFIC
H
CALIFORNIA
WORKERS
IRISH