

TEKS Cluster: Westward Expansion

8.6 History. The student understands westward expansion and its effects on the political, economic, and social development of the nation.

Connected Knowledge and Skills 8.7, 8.11, 8.20, 8.27

Roots/Causes of Manifest Destiny

- ❖ 8.6(B) analyze the westward growth of the nation, including the Louisiana Purchase and Manifest Destiny
Readiness Spiral Standards: 8.1(A), 8.10(C)
- 8.27(C) analyze how technological innovations brought about economic growth such as the development of the factory system and the construction of the Transcontinental Railroad
Supporting Spiral Standards: 8.10(A), 8.11(B), 8.23(C), 8.28(A)

Factors Contributing to Settlement

- ❖ 8.11(A) analyze how physical characteristics of the environment influenced population distribution, settlement patterns, and economic activities in the United States during the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries *Spiral Standard*
Readiness Spiral Standards: 8.10(B), 8.10(C), 8.12(C)
- 8.27(C) analyze how technological innovations brought about economic growth such as the development of the factory system and the construction of the Transcontinental Railroad
Supporting Spiral Standards: 8.1(B), 8.10(A), 8.11(B), 8.12(A), 8.23(D), 8.23(E), 8.26(A), 8.28(A)

Conflicts Arising from Westward Expansion

- ❖ 8.6(C) explain the causes and effects of the U.S.-Mexican War and their impact on the United States
- 8.7(D) analyze the impact of slavery on different sections of the United States
- 8.20(B) analyze reasons for and the impact of selected examples of civil disobedience in U.S. history such as ... Henry David Thoreau's refusal to pay a tax
Supporting Spiral Standards: 8.23(C), 8.23(D)

Student Expectations

- ❖ 8.6(B) analyze the westward growth of the nation, including the Louisiana Purchase and Manifest Destiny (R)
- 8.27(C) analyze how technological innovations brought about economic growth such as the development of the factory system and the construction of the Transcontinental Railroad (S)

Connected Spiral Standards

- Major eras: westward expansion ... and describe their causes and effects 8.1(A)
- Locate places and regions directly related to major eras and turning points 8.10(A)
- Effects of physical and human geographic factors on historical events 8.10(C)
- Describe the positive and negative consequences of human modification of the physical environment 8.11(B)
- Identify ways conflicts between various groups of people were addressed 8.23(C)
- Effects of scientific discoveries and technological innovations 8.28(A)

Academic Vocabulary

Vocabulary		Terms
advocates*	foreign trade*	James K. Polk*
economic depression*	inexpensive land*	Manifest Destiny*
emergence*	land ownership*	North America*
expanding*	occupying*	Pacific Ocean*
federal policy*	population growth*	Territory of Oregon*
financial panic*		

Stimulus

Speech/Journal/ Diary	Letter/ Newspaper Article	Government Document	Secondary Source Text*
Photograph/ Painting	Political Cartoon/ Advert./Other	Map	Chart/Table
Graph	Graphic Organizer*	Bulleted List of Facts*	Timeline

Item Types

Short Constructed Response (2 pts)		Multiselect (2 pts)	Multipart (2 pts)	Match Table Grid (2 pts)
Drag and Drop (1-2 pts)	Hot Spot (1-2 pts)	Inline Choice (1-2 pts)	Hot Text (1-2 pts)	Multiple Choice* (1 pt)

Content Builder

- The U.S. government and its citizens believed that the nation’s destiny or fate was to expand westward from sea to sea.
- Advocates for Manifest Destiny shared goals of:
 - occupying all of North America
 - expanding westward to the Pacific Ocean
 - gaining the Territory of Oregon
- Social roots of Manifest Destiny include how increases in population between 1800 and 1850 led to the need/desire for more land. Rapid population growth in cities made inexpensive land appealing.
- Political roots of Manifest Destiny include the mission to extend democracy to others.
- Economic motives for Manifest Destiny included the potential for new markets, an increase in foreign trade opportunities, an abundance of inexpensive farmland and, the discovery of gold. The abundance of inexpensive land meant wealth and independence.
- Another economic motive was the result of the economic panics and depressions (in 1819 and 1837).
- James K. Polk was elected president in 1844. One of the reasons he was elected was that he was committed to fulfilling the goals of Manifest Destiny.
- The Transcontinental Railroad connected the eastern coast with the western coast (California) and opened the country to new markets, which led to economic expansion and new settlement.

Instructional Implications

When you teach the Roots/Causes of Manifest Destiny, remember to:

- Separate the roots from the causes by reading texts and creating graphic organizers.
- Ensure that students understand the relationship between “Manifest Destiny” and westward expansion.
- Using a T-chart, have students categorize economic motives into “for the country” and “for individuals/families.”

Learning from Mistakes

Students may make the following mistakes:

- Confusing the social, economic, and political roots of Manifest Destiny
- Not understanding the connection between technological advances and westward growth

Interesting Items

- 8.6(B) 2021 #11
- 8.6(B) 2015 #22
- 8.6(B) 2014 #47

Student Expectations

- ❖ 8.11(A) analyze how physical characteristics of the environment influenced population distribution, settlement patterns, and economic activities in the United States during the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries *Spiral Standard (R)*
- 8.27(C) analyze how technological innovations brought about economic growth such as the development of the factory system and the construction of the Transcontinental Railroad (S)

Connected Spiral Standards

- Explain the significance of 1803, Louisiana Purchase 8.1(B)
- Locate places and regions directly related to major eras and turning points 8.10(A)
- Compare places and regions of the United States in terms of physical and human characteristics 8.10(B)
- Effects of physical and human geographic factors on historical events 8.10(C)
- Describe how different immigrant groups interacted with the environment 8.11(B)
- Identify economic differences among different regions of the United States 8.12(A)
- Causes and effects of economic differences among different regions 8.12(C)
- Contributions of people of various racial, ethnic, and religious groups to our national identity 8.23(D)
- Political, social, and economic contributions of women to American society 8.23(E)
- Examples of American art, music, and literature that reflect society 8.26(A)
- Effects of scientific discoveries and technological innovations 8.28(A)

Academic Vocabulary

Vocabulary	Terms	
agriculture*	American Indians*	Mexico*
annexed*	California*	Missouri River*
ceded*	Florida*	Mormon*
cotton*	France*	Oregon Territory*
cultivation*	Gadsden Purchase*	Spanish colonies*/heritage
fertile (soil)*	Gold Rush*	Texas Revolution*
gold*	Mexican Territory*	Texas*
mining*		
sediment*		
territory*		

Content Builder

- During Westward Expansion, many had the goal of occupying all of North America. To do so, many land acquisitions had to take place.
- The very beginning of westward expansion began in 1803 during Thomas Jefferson’s presidency. The purchase of Louisiana (the Louisiana Purchase) from France in 1803 gave the U.S. the land west of the Mississippi River and doubled the size of the nation.
- Jefferson wanted to know what the land he purchased was like, so he sent Lewis and Clark on an expedition to map the land and collect specimens of plants and animals. They used the Missouri River as the starting place for their exploration.
- Areas that were acquired to expand the United States include:
 - Louisiana Territory, 1803
 - Florida, 1819
 - Texas, 1845
 - Oregon Territory, 1846
 - Mexican Cession (New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Colorado, part of Wyoming, and California), 1848
 - Gadsden Purchase, 1853 (goal was to support settlement of U.S. territory gained through the U.S. Mexican War)
- California and Florida were former Spanish colonies. California and Texas were former Mexican territories.
- Human and physical geographic factors impacted movement to and settlement of the west.
 - Gold in California – a rush of settlers moved to California, pushing many American Indians off their lands. The population of California quickly rises to the amount required for statehood. California’s proximity to Pacific Ocean led to an increase of immigration from Asian nations.
 - The Rocky Mountains’ location between the eastern and western parts of the United States limited the amount of goods that could be transported. With the Gadsden Purchase, the railroad could now be built and used to transport goods from East to West.
- The economies of the new western states ranged from mining to agriculture.
- Music such as “Ho! For California!” promoted westward movement and was first sung at the send-off for a band of fortune hunters from Massachusetts.
- John James Audubon drew American wildlife, including accurate drawings of American birds which contributed significantly to ornithology and natural history.
- Transcendentalists, such as Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau, were against the concept of Manifest Destiny because they believed it supported the expansion of slavery.
- The Transcontinental Railroad connected the eastern coast with the western coast (California) and opened the country to new markets, which led to economic expansion and new settlement.

(continued)

Stimulus

Speech/Journal/ Diary	Letter/ Newspaper Article*	Government Document	Secondary Source Text
Photograph/ Painting	Political Cartoon/ Advert./Other	Map*	Chart/Table
Graph	Graphic Organizer*	Bulleted List of Facts	Timeline

Item Types

Short Constructed Response (2 pts)		Multiselect (2 pts)	Multipart (2 pts)	Match Table Grid (2 pts)
Drag and Drop (1-2 pts)	Hot Spot (1-2 pts)	Inline Choice (1-2 pts)	Hot Text (1-2 pts)	Multiple Choice* (1 pt)

Instructional Implications

When you teach Factors Contributing to Settlement, remember to:

- Have students complete maps showing territorial acquisitions and ask students to categorize the ways in which we acquired new land (treaty, purchase, annexation).
- Use documents from Lewis and Clark’s expedition as primary sources to learn about the geography of the West.
- Have students study physical maps of the west and predict possible challenges to settlement.
- Show students visuals of telegraph and railroad lines and have them predict the consequences of these innovations on settlement.

Learning from Mistakes

Students may make the following mistakes:

- Confusing pieces of land that are acquired and how we acquired them
- Not understanding the impact of human and physical geographic features on westward expansion
- Not understanding the impact of the transportation and communication systems on the ability to settle new land

Interesting Items

- 8.6(E) 2017 #23
- 8.10(B) 2018 #41
- 8.12(A) 2023 #36
- 8.11(A) 2019 #40
- 8.11(A) 2014 #6

Student Expectations

- ❖ 8.6(C) explain the causes and effects of the U.S.-Mexican War and their impact on the United States (R)
- 8.7(D) analyze the impact of slavery on different sections of the United States (R)
- 8.20(B) analyze reasons for and the impact of selected examples of civil disobedience in U.S. history such as ... Henry David Thoreau's refusal to pay a tax (S)

Connected Spiral Standards

- Identify ways conflicts between various groups of people were addressed 8.23(C)
- Contributions of people of various racial, ethnic, and religious groups to our national identity 8.23(D)

Academic Vocabulary

Vocabulary		Terms
admitted*	free state*	Compromise of 1850*
annexation*	negotiation*	Mexican Cession*
border dispute*	popular sovereignty*	Mexico*
boundaries*	slave state*	President James K. Polk*
disputed area*	treaty*	Texas*
foreign territory*		Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo*
		U.S.-Mexican War*
		United States*

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			Multiple Choice* (1 pt)

Content Builder

- As settlers moved west and territories became states many conflicts and struggles emerged.
 - Mormons migrated west to set up their independent community to avoid persecution.
 - Conflicts existed between settlers and American Indians. American Indians lost the majority of their land and fought to maintain their land and way of life.
 - Conflicts existed between Chinese and Irish immigrants and whites over economic opportunities.
 - Pioneer women not only cared for the household but also took on roles that were traditionally male dominated, such as building makeshift bridges, gathering dung, and protecting themselves and their families.
 - Some groups, such as fur trappers, trail guides, and merchants, profited from westward expansion, while others, such as Mexican Americans, American Indians, and Chinese immigrants, suffered great hardships.
- U.S.-Mexican War
 - Conflicts existed between Texas and Mexico, which eventually led to war.
 - The annexation of Texas to the U.S. created tensions with Mexico. There was a border dispute concerning the southern boundary of Texas (Rio Grande was claimed by the United States and disputed by Mexico).
 - The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo (1848) ended the U.S.-Mexican War and granted the United States the Mexican Cession for \$15 million, which includes territory found today in the modern states of New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Wyoming, and California.
 - The issue of what to do about allowing slavery in western territories was a major consideration when admitting new states. As new states were being admitted to the Union, there was much discussion about the balance between slave and free states in the western territories.
 - Transcendentalists, such as Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau, were against the concept of Manifest Destiny because they believed it supported the expansion of slavery. In an act of civil disobedience, Thoreau, refused to pay a tax in order to protest the war.

Instructional Implications

When you teach Conflicts Arising from Westward Expansion, remember to:

- Read accounts of different groups of people who moved west and study maps to show their journey.
- Create a timeline or cause and effect graphic organizer illustrating the causes and impacts of the U.S.-Mexican War.

Learning from Mistakes

Students may make the following mistakes:

- Confusing the various groups who moved west
- Not understanding that while people along the eastern part of the United States moved west, people living in Asia moved east to get to the American west
- Not understanding the impact of westward expansion on American Indians

Interesting Items

8.6(D) 2015 #19