



GRADE 3 LOUISIANA SOCIAL STUDIES

A Growing Nation

Sitting Bull



Reader

Transcontinental railroad



Oregon Trail



American settlers



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A Growing Nation

Reader



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A Growing Nation

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Chapter 1

The Louisiana Purchase and the Corps of Discovery

Moving West When the first European settlers came to America, they thought the whole country was unsettled land—a frontier. Of course, Native Americans lived on this land and had done so for thousands of years! Later, settlers built towns and cities along the East Coast. After settling much of the East Coast, they began to move west to find more land to live on and settle.

The Framing Question

How did the Louisiana Purchase and the Lewis and Clark Expedition contribute to the growth of the United States?





Settlers moved west to find new places to live.

Moving to a new place in 1800 was different from how it is today. Today, you look online at listings of houses for sale or apartments for rent. You visit some places and choose one. If you are lucky, it is affordable and exactly what you hoped for.

When the United States was a new country, there were no houses or apartments to move to. If you wanted to move west, you had to build a house yourself. You might need to clear the land of trees first. It might be difficult to pull wagons along a rough road. Your nearest neighbor might be miles away.

Settlers moved west in different ways. Some walked along trails made by people who had gone before them. Others traveled on horses or in wagons pulled by oxen or mules. Still others followed rivers using wooden **flatboats**. They were square and flat and sometimes had a house built right on top.

Vocabulary

flatboat, n. a boat with a flat bottom and square corners that can be used to carry loads and can also be used as a house

The Louisiana Purchase

Despite the challenges, people kept moving west. By 1800, the United States extended from the East Coast to the Mississippi River. Spain, Britain, and France claimed other parts of North America, and Indigenous peoples still occupied much of the continent. Spain claimed Florida in the 1500s CE and gained the land between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains from France in 1762. This large area of land was called Louisiana.

Louisiana included the city of New Orleans. This city is very important because it sits at the mouth of the Mississippi River.

Boats passed down the river and through the city every day. Warehouses lined its streets. Whoever controlled New Orleans controlled which boats could pass from the river to the Gulf of America. They controlled who used the warehouses and who could trade in the port.

The United States and Spain had good relations, but in 1800, Spain turned over control of Louisiana to France. President Thomas Jefferson feared that France would block the United States from using the port at New Orleans. In 1803, France agreed to sell the entire Louisiana **Territory** to the United States. It cost \$15 million. This event is known as the Louisiana Purchase.

Vocabulary

territory, n. an area of land belonging to a government

Land Claims in North America in 1800



The cost of the land purchased from France by the United States was roughly four cents per acre.



The Jefferson Memorial stands in Washington, D.C., as a monument to President Jefferson, his vision, and his accomplishments.

Beyond the port of New Orleans, President Jefferson did not know what he was buying. Strange as it may seem, the United States government bought the Louisiana Territory with little knowledge of what the land was like. Was it good for farming? What kinds of plants grew there? What kinds of animals lived there? What about the Native Americans who lived there? Would they welcome settlers? Would they want to trade with the United States? How high were the Rocky Mountains? Was there a way to cross them? Better yet, might the land possibly contain a way to reach the Pacific Ocean entirely by water—the long-dreamed-of Northwest Passage?

The Expedition

President Thomas Jefferson was very interested in discovery. He decided to send an **expedition** to find the answers

Vocabulary

expedition, n. a journey taken by a group that has a clear purpose or goal

to these and many other questions. Jefferson chose his private secretary, Meriwether Lewis, to lead the expedition. Lewis had also served as a captain in the United States Army. He was an experienced explorer. Lewis asked a friend from his army days, William Clark, to lead the expedition with him. Both men were filled with the spirit of adventure. It was a good thing, too, for there was plenty of adventure—and danger—ahead of them.

The two expedition leaders prepared for the long journey. A group of strong men accompanied them on the trip. They brought large amounts of clothing, tools, and medical supplies. They also brought guns. Even though the explorers were bringing several tons of food, they would have to hunt for most of what they would eat. They would also have to protect themselves from any dangers.

On their journey, Lewis and Clark would take notes on the landforms, lakes and rivers, plants, animals, and people and villages they encountered. They would collect samples of useful plants, and they would make maps.

Lewis and Clark knew they would be meeting and dealing with many groups of Native Americans. They brought along many things to trade and to give as gifts, including 2,800 fishhooks and 4,600 needles, as well as colored beads, silk ribbons, and mirrors.

Finally, the group was ready to leave. On a clear morning in May 1804, the **Corps** of Discovery climbed into their boats on the Missouri River near the town of St. Louis. Besides Lewis and Clark, the Corps of Discovery included soldiers and experienced explorers. There were also

Vocabulary

corps, n. a group of people who work as a unit

interpreters who spoke various Native American languages. One other key person who was part of the expedition was an enslaved man named York. York would become the first African American to cross the continent. The men began their journey and paddled their boats upstream.

Vocabulary

interpreter, n. a person who translates from one language to another

The group journeyed along the Missouri River, but the trip wasn't easy. They were going upriver on rafts, boats, and canoes. They could not just let the river carry their boats. They had to row and push the boats the entire way. Each day they traveled between ten and twenty miles.



Lewis and Clark set off on their expedition in May 1804.

After several months, the Corps of Discovery reached what is now North Dakota. They stopped at a village of the Mandan people, a Native American tribe. The Mandan were used to housing the fur traders who came through the area. While the Mandan people welcomed the expedition, not all Native American groups did so. Many were suspicious of their motives.

The Corps of Discovery spent the winter in the village. They repaired their equipment and built six new canoes. They also learned all they could from the Mandan people about the land and the other Native American tribes they might meet along the way.

Sacagawea

Lewis and Clark realized they would need more people who understood Native American languages. They invited two new people to their company. One was a French Canadian trapper named Charbonneau (/shar*bah*noh/). He had lived among Native Americans for many years. The other was Charbonneau's sixteen-year-old wife Sacagawea (/sak*uh*juh*wee*uh/). She was expecting a child. Sacagawea, a Shoshone (/sho*sho*nee/) woman, had been kidnapped as a young girl by a group of Hidatsa people. Now she lived with her husband and the Mandan. Sacagawea would serve as an interpreter for the Corps of Discovery.

By the time the group set out again in the spring, Sacagawea had given birth to a baby boy. She, her husband, and her baby joined the explorers on their journey. They paddled up the Missouri River in their new canoes.



Sacagawea brought her baby boy on the expedition.

By the summer of 1805, the explorers had made it to what is now Montana. They reached the **source** of the Missouri River, or the point where it starts. They were near the land of the Shoshones—Sacagawea’s original people.

Vocabulary

source, n. the starting point or beginning of a moving body of water

One day, Lewis and several of his men met a group of sixty Shoshones. They were friendly with each other. Several days later, Sacagawea met with the Shoshone leader. She could hardly believe her eyes. The chief of the group was her very own brother! The brother and sister were happy to be together again. Later, with Sacagawea’s help translating, Lewis traded with the Shoshones. He gave them goods in exchange for horses that would help the explorers cross the Rocky Mountains.

Reaching the West

In mid-August, Lewis and Clark had an exciting moment. The Corps of Discovery made it to the Continental Divide. This is an imaginary line high in the Rockies. All the rivers on one side of this line flow to the east and the Atlantic Ocean. All the rivers on the other side flow to the west and the Pacific Ocean. Now the expedition faced a dangerous descent on rocky trails down to the west.

In October, the group reached the Snake River. They had abandoned their canoes to cross the Rockies on foot and horseback. They built new canoes and paddled them down the Snake River into the Columbia River. Then, in November 1805, they came to the Pacific Ocean.



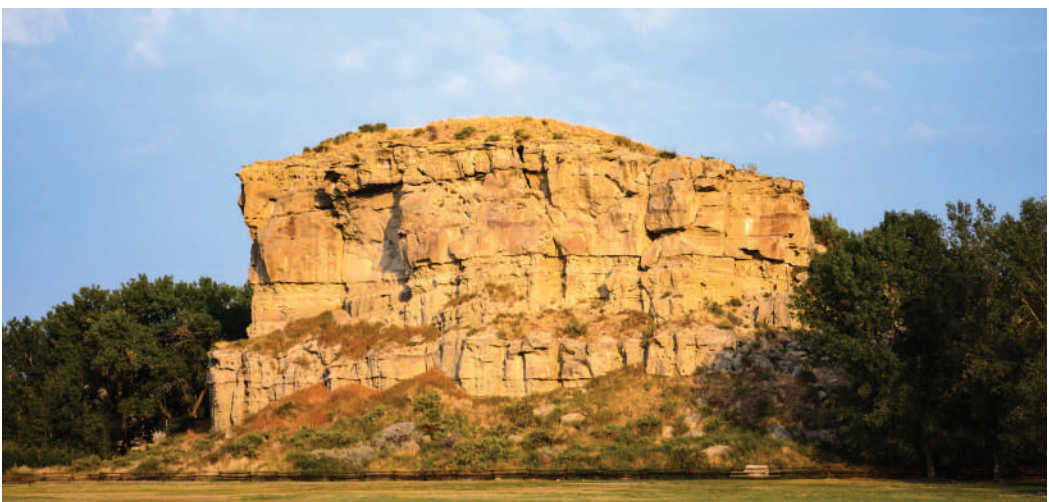
After months of travel, the Lewis and Clark Expedition finally reached the Pacific Ocean.

Imagine the thrill this group of explorers felt at the moment they first saw the ocean! William Clark wrote in his journal, "Ocean in view! O! the joy."

The Return Trip

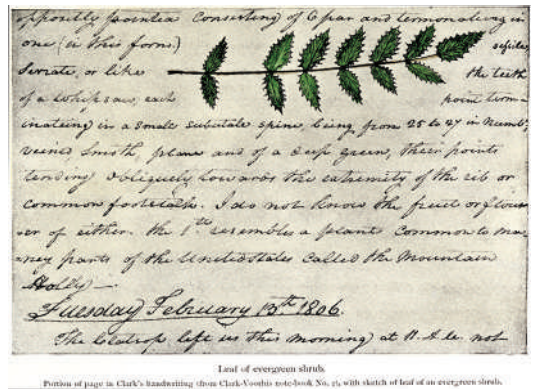
After a mild winter on the Pacific coast, it was time to head home. The group traveled together for a while, then split up in July. Lewis led a group who explored the northernmost area of the Louisiana Territory. Then they headed back along the Missouri River. Clark, Sacagawea and her family, and others traveled south along the Yellowstone River. Clark named a large rock formation Pompey's Tower. "Pomp" or "Little Pomp" was the nickname of Sacagawea's son. The landmark was later renamed Pompey's Pillar and is today a national monument.

The explorers met up again where the Yellowstone and Missouri Rivers meet. Sacagawea and her family left the group when it reached the Mandan village where they had started. The rest of the explorers returned to St. Louis in September 1806.



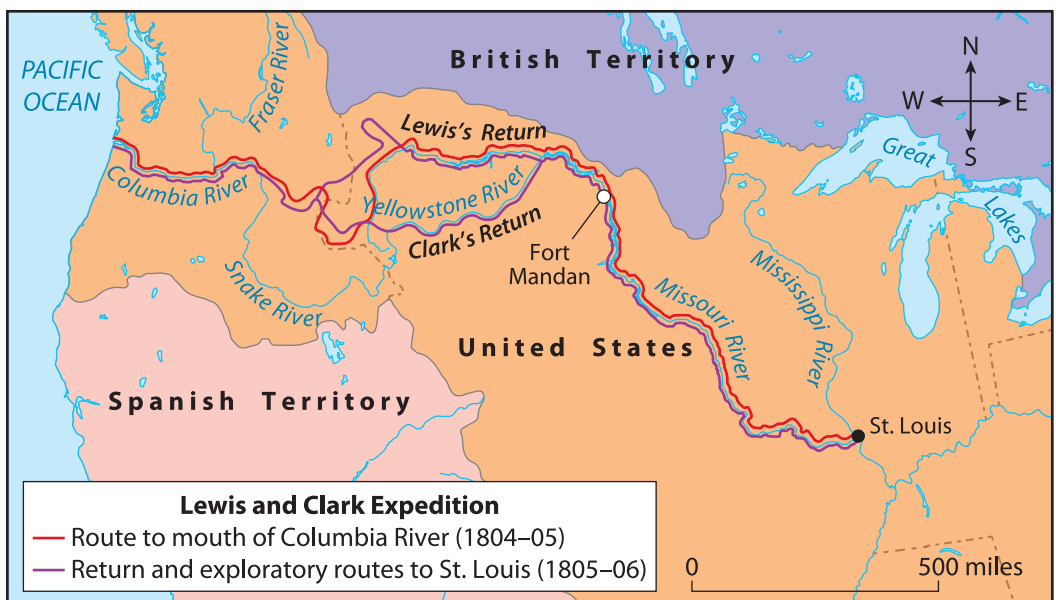
Pompey's Pillar National Monument is in Montana.

From there, Meriwether Lewis continued on to Washington, D.C. He reported the group's discoveries to President Jefferson. Both Lewis and Clark had kept detailed journals of the expedition and their findings. This information greatly helped the United States government.



In this page from Clark's diary, you can see his sketch of an evergreen branch.

The Lewis and Clark Expedition traveled nearly eight thousand miles in just under two and a half years. Today, the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail runs along the route taken by the explorers. This trail was established in 1978 and is maintained by the National Park Service. Hikers can walk in the footsteps of the explorers and learn about their journey. In addition, the Gateway Arch in St. Louis



The Lewis and Clark Expedition traveled nearly eight thousand miles.



The knowledge gained by Lewis and Clark greatly helped the United States.

stands as a symbol of the city’s role in the journey west. It is a monument in part to President Thomas Jefferson, Sacagawea, and the Lewis and Clark Expedition.



The Gateway Arch in St. Louis, Missouri, marks the place where the Corps of Discovery began its historic expedition.

PRIMARY SOURCE: EXCERPTS FROM THE JOURNALS OF LEWIS AND CLARK

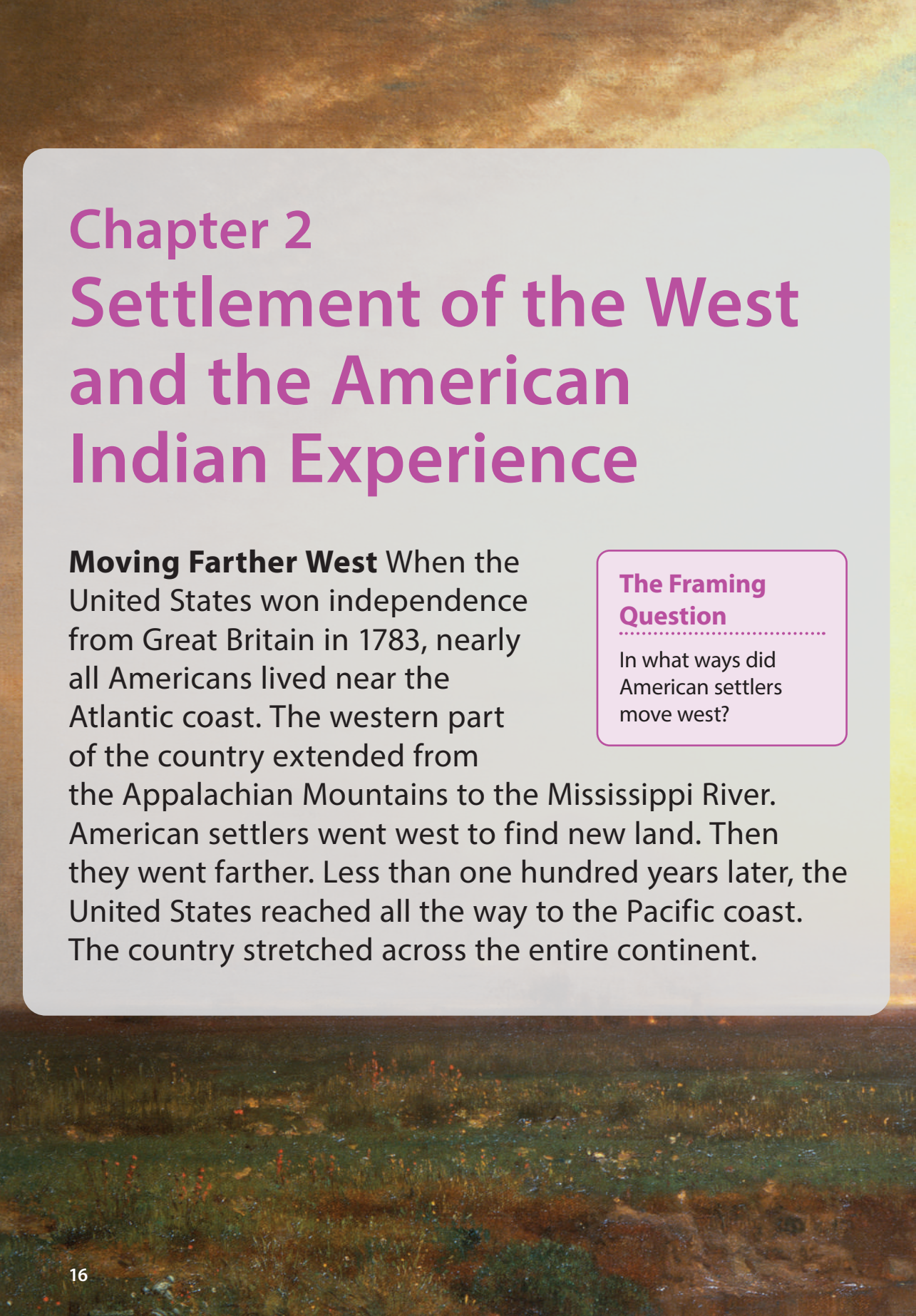
Meriwether Lewis (May 1805)

By the evening, our supplies had dried and were put back on the boat. The things that we lost were not as bad as thought. The Indian woman saved most of the things that were washed overboard. She has courage and strength equal to anyone on the boat.

William Clark (October 1805)

We landed in front of five lodges and saw no people. I went into the lodges with peace objects in my hand. I found men, women, and children. Many of them looked afraid. I made signs of my friendly purposes. I gave them small gifts and asked the men to meet with us outside. The chiefs and others came out. Soon they saw the Indian wife of our interpreter. They pointed at her and went to tell those who had not come out. They soon came out and looked more at ease. The sight of this Indian woman showed them our friendly purpose. No Indian woman in this region would ever travel with a group planning to make war.

Source: Adapted from *Original Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, 1804–1806*, edited by Reuben Gold Thwaites, vols. 2–3. New York: Antiquarian Press, 1959.



Chapter 2

Settlement of the West and the American Indian Experience

Moving Farther West When the United States won independence from Great Britain in 1783, nearly all Americans lived near the Atlantic coast. The western part of the country extended from the Appalachian Mountains to the Mississippi River. American settlers went west to find new land. Then they went farther. Less than one hundred years later, the United States reached all the way to the Pacific coast. The country stretched across the entire continent.

The Framing Question

In what ways did American settlers move west?



American settlers moved steadily west across the continent.

People moved west a little bit at a time. In 1775, Daniel Boone and others made a trail to help settlers cross the Appalachian Mountains. The trail was called the Wilderness Road. Many settlers used the Wilderness Road to move west into Kentucky and other areas where Native Americans already lived.

As a result of the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, more and more settlers were encouraged to move west and expand into this territory. However, the Southwest and California remained under the control of Spain and then Mexico until 1848. As a result, it was not common for Americans to move into these regions until then.

Life in the West

All the people who moved west had to adjust to their new life. In the East, some had lived in cities. They would have shopped at markets and stores and gone to social events, much like you might do today.

Life in the West was different. Not only were there no cities, but across the Appalachian Mountains, the geography was very different from the eastern forests. The area between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains was a **prairie**, or grassland, we call the Great Plains. It was flat, dry, and treeless.

Without trees, families on the Great Plains built houses of **sod**. Sod is the top layer of grassy soil, complete with its tangled roots. Dirt fell from the walls and ceiling. Insects, snakes, and small animals came

Vocabulary

prairie, n. a flat grassland

sod, n. the top layer of grassy soil, sometimes used to build houses



This house was made from sod bricks with a sod roof. There were very few trees or stones available for building houses on the Great Plains.

through the walls. Rain meant leaky roofs and wet walls. But overtime these homes were greatly improved. And, many people were surprised by the coziness of dugouts and sod houses. They were cool in the summer, warm in the winter and good shelter from the wild prairie weather.

To get water, families might drill a well forty to sixty feet deep. Some might walk a mile or more to a stream. But perhaps the hardest thing about life on the Great Plains was the loneliness. Farms were far apart. There might not even be a small village nearby. Farm families might go many days without seeing another person.

The West was not empty though. Dozens of Native American groups lived on these lands. Sometimes settlers and their Native American neighbors were friendly and helped one another. Other times, contact led to conflict.

To Oregon

Not many Americans settled on the prairie at first. The land there was too difficult to farm. And some people were unsure of what might happen if they settled on land that had belonged to Native Americans.

Then, in the 1830s, Christian missionaries went to Oregon. They wanted to convert Native Americans to Christianity. They reported about the beauty, mild climate, and rich farmland of Oregon. Their stories of Oregon encouraged large numbers of easterners to **emigrate** there. In 1846, the United States and Great Britain divided the Oregon Territory along the current Canadian border. As a result, wagon trains, sometimes stretching a mile or longer, headed to Oregon across the prairie. Yet the wagons

Vocabulary

emigrate, v. to leave one place to settle permanently in another



The Oregon Trail crossed challenging terrain. Nevertheless, thousands of emigrants made their way west along it.

were mainly for hauling household belongings and food supplies. Most people walked the entire way from Missouri. It took settlers almost six months of traveling every day to reach the Pacific coast. The trail they traveled on earned the name the Oregon Trail.

Manifest Destiny

People moved west for many reasons. Some wanted their own land. Others wanted to make money. Some just wanted to get away from the crowds in the East, and others moved for religious reasons.

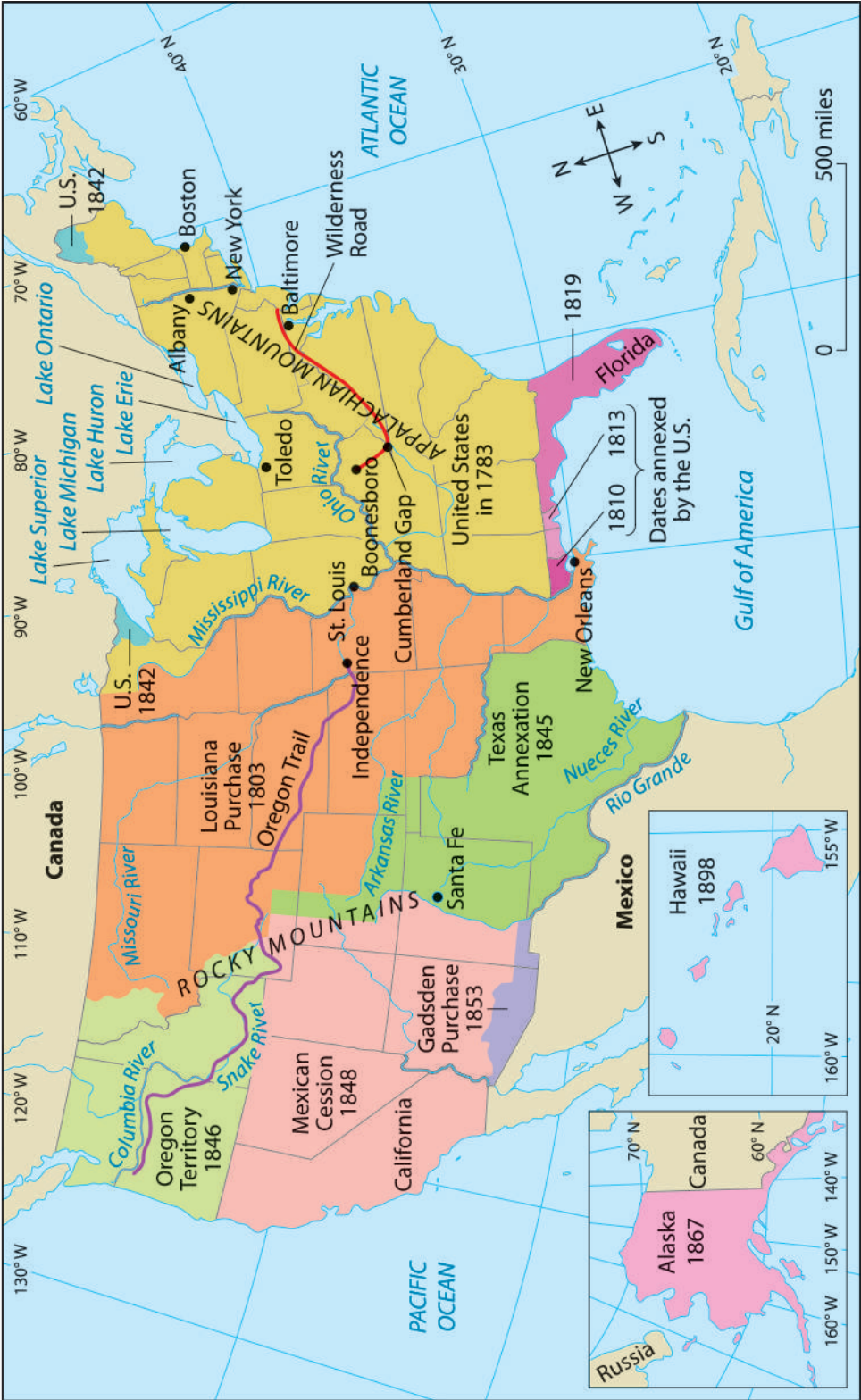
Some Americans believed it was their duty to push the nation's borders westward. These people believed that they lived in a special nation unlike any other. They believed that it was America's *manifest destiny* to spread American liberty across the continent. *Destiny* means fated to happen. By *manifest*, they meant that America's future was obvious to all. Sadly, at this point in history, this vision of freedom did not take into account Native Americans or African Americans.

To reach the Pacific Ocean, the United States would have to challenge other nations that wanted the land. The United States acquired some of the land by buying it. Other land, such as Texas, was acquired through war. During this period of expansion, Native Americans often tried to resist having their land purchased or otherwise acquired. However, one way or another, the United States claimed land until the country reached to the Pacific Ocean.

New Technologies

Settlers moved west in different ways. If there was a large trail such as the Wilderness Road, people could travel with wagons

Westward Expansion by 1898



In less than one hundred years, the United States acquired land reaching to the Pacific Ocean.

pulled by oxen or mules. Or they might use **pack animals**, such as horses or mules, to carry their belongings. Some travelers had horses to ride. But often, people walked.

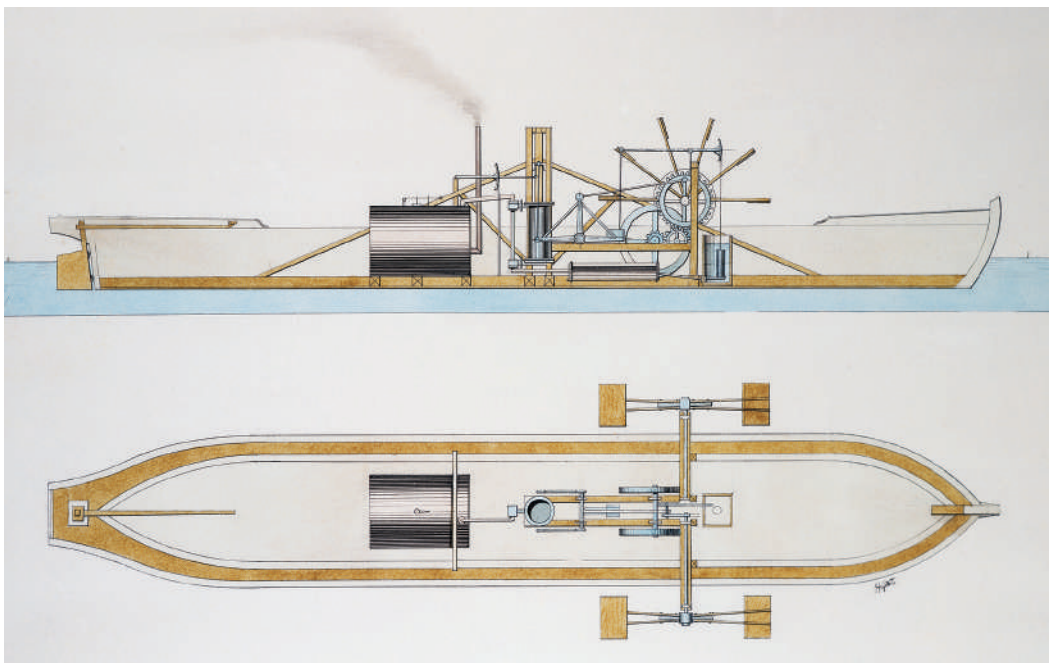
Some people floated down rivers on flatboats. Some flatboats had cabins. Families would put everything they owned—clothes, furniture, even animals—on board.

However, flatboats could go in only one direction—downstream, the way the water was flowing. Some people used boats called **keelboats**, that could be powered by sails if there was enough wind. Even so, these boats did not work well for going upriver either. However the use of steam power would soon change how people

Vocabulary

pack animal, n. an animal, such as a horse or a mule, that is used to carry heavy loads

keelboat, n. a boat with a long ridge on the bottom, used to navigate rivers



The steam engine on a steamboat drove the paddle wheels on the sides.

traveled. Improvements in the **steam engine** made traveling upriver possible. The steam engine burned wood or coal to heat water. The heated water became steam. American inventor Robert Fulton used a steam engine to build a passenger **steamboat**.

Vocabulary

steam engine, n. a motor that uses steam to work

steamboat, n. a boat powered by a steam engine

In 1807, Fulton finished his steamboat and named it *Clermont*. Fulton used the *Clermont* to travel up the Hudson River from New York City to Albany. It took sailing ships four days to make this 150-mile journey. The *Clermont* completed the trip in only a day and a half! Soon, steamboats made their appearance on the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. They carried passengers and goods up and down these water highways.

However, steamboats could only travel where the rivers ran. What about all that space in between?

The steam engine changed land travel just like it changed water travel. The first railroads used horses to pull train cars along tracks. In 1803, the **locomotive** was invented in England. This was a train car

Vocabulary

locomotive, n. a railroad engine

transcontinental, adj. crossing the entire continent

powered by a steam engine. A locomotive could haul many railroad cars behind it. The first locomotive arrived in America in 1829.

The first American railroads in the United States were built in the East to connect big cities. Then, during the 1860s, two

American railroad companies decided to build a **transcontinental** railroad. When this new railroad was finished, people and goods would be able to travel from one coast to the other in about a week.



The transcontinental railroad ran from coast to coast.

The companies needed thousands of workers to build the transcontinental railroad. Many Chinese, Irish, and German immigrants were hired to work on the railroad. Later, the Union Pacific company also hired many Mexican Americans, African Americans, and Native Americans.

The first transcontinental railroad was completed in 1869. By 1900, several transcontinental lines had been laid. They helped open the West to more and more settlement.

Land, Gold, and Religion

In 1848, two men were building a sawmill in California when they discovered gold. Over the next three to four years, thousands of

people moved to California. They hoped to find gold and get rich. Some came from Peru, Chile, and Mexico, and others traveled across the Pacific Ocean from China to search for gold. Americans who traveled to California before the completion of the transcontinental railroad often sailed there from the East Coast around South America or through the Panama Canal.

Reports or rumors of gold or silver drew hundreds of miners to the American West. Over time, many finds of gold and silver were reported. Some reports were false, but some reports were true. Most of the

Vocabulary

ore, n. a rock or mineral from which metal can be obtained

ore, a natural resource, was deep in the ground. It took large mining companies with expensive machinery to extract it. These mining camps sprang up on every nearby hillside. Mining made only a very few people wealthy, but it provided jobs for many thousands. Most mining camps remained a collection of tents, but a big find could turn a mining camp into a booming town in no time at all.

Some people went west for jobs, but many wanted to start farms or ranches, and so they needed land. Getting land was made easier by the U.S. government. Lands belonging to Native Americans were claimed by settlers and by the U.S. government. In addition, the government wanted to encourage the railroads to build more tracks, so it sold land to them cheaply. The railroads, in turn, sold some of that land at low cost or gave it away to farmers. They knew that people who started farms out West would pay the railroad to ship their crops to midwestern and eastern cities.

After 1862, the federal government offered an even better deal. Congress passed the Homestead Act. This law gave 160 acres of

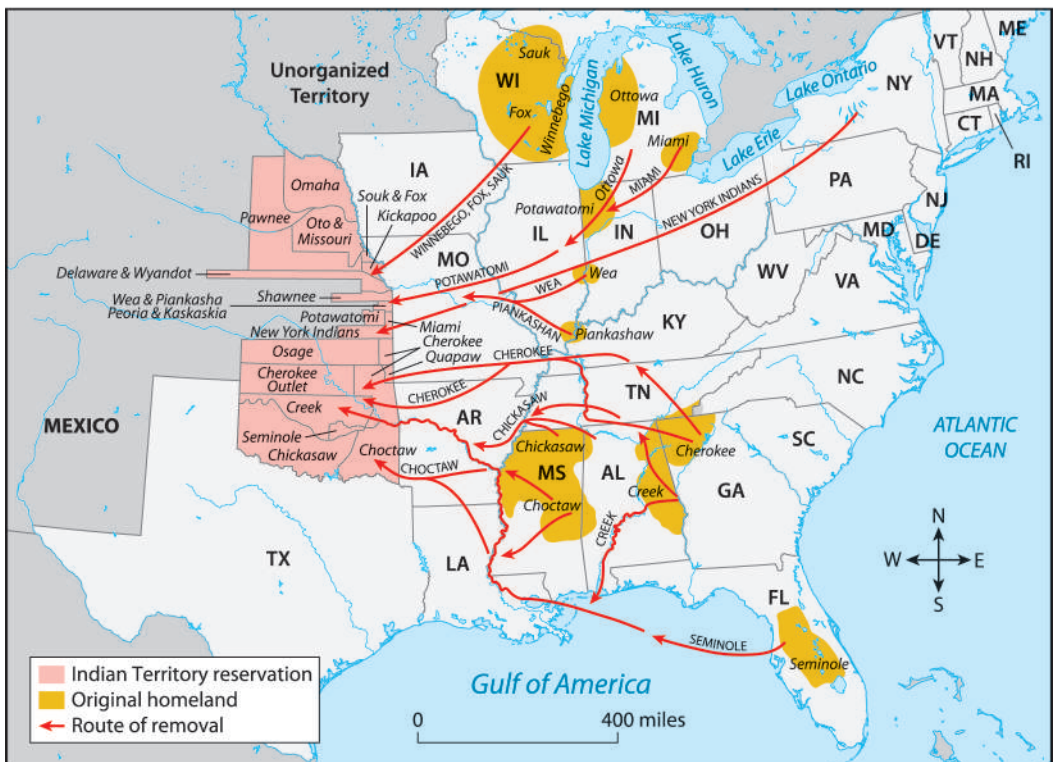
land free to anyone who would settle on it and farm for at least five years. Between 1862 and 1934, the Homestead Act distributed around 270 million acres of land which resulted in about 1.6 million **homesteads**. Many immigrants and some formerly enslaved people took advantage of these homesteads to get their own farms.

Vocabulary

homestead, n. a home and the land surrounding it

Another motivation for moving west was religion, or religious freedom. One group in particular, known as the Mormon pioneers, set off westward in wagons to avoid the hostility they faced in the East. They were led by Brigham Young, who succeeded their original leader, Joseph Smith. Many Mormons settled near the Great Salt Lake in Utah.

Forced Migrations of Native Nations, 1800–50



Many Native American nations were forced to abandon their homelands and move to reservation land.

Native Americans

Some settlers moving west liked to say they were moving to “empty land.” The land, however, was not empty. Native Americans lived there. Many of those nations had been there for hundreds or thousands of years.

During the late 1700s and early 1800s, Native Americans who lived north of the Ohio River lost their lands. By 1830, most, but not all, Native Americans in the East had been forced from their homes. They were relocated to west of the Mississippi. Still, tens of thousands of Native Americans remained in the East, and American settlers wanted their land. In 1830, the United States government passed the Indian Removal Act. It said that the Native Americans who remained in the East must also leave their homes and move west of the Mississippi. They would make their new homes in “Indian Territory.” Indian Territory was in present-day Oklahoma, Kansas, and parts of Nebraska and Iowa.

The Cherokee lived in what are today a number of southern states, including Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Georgia. In a famous decision, the U.S. Supreme Court said that the Cherokee had the right to stay on their land. Still, U.S. soldiers forced the Cherokee people to march to Indian Territory, more than eight hundred miles away.

The journey to Indian Territory took several months. Most of the Cherokee and their enslaved people walked the whole way. They suffered from disease, hunger, and bitter cold. More than fifteen thousand people started out on the long journey. Only eleven thousand arrived in Indian Territory alive. The Cherokee called



Thousands of men, women, and children died on the journey to Indian Territory.

this journey *Nuna-da-ut-sun'y*, which means the Place Where They Cried or the Trail of Tears.

West of the Mississippi, the United States forced Native American groups to sign treaties allowing the purchase of their lands. In return, some land was “reserved” for Native Americans. But as more settlers moved west, they moved onto these lands too. Many Native Americans chose to fight instead of leave their lands. In the southern Great Plains, Geronimo led the Apache. Geronimo and the Apache fought against American settlers and the U.S. Army. Chief Joseph in the Southwest led the Nez Percé in their struggle to keep their land. In the end, both Native American groups were defeated.

The Lakota Sioux had signed a treaty with the United States in 1868. They agreed to live on reservation land in what is now South Dakota. But later, miners arrived to look for gold. Chief Sitting Bull and Chief Crazy Horse were leaders of the Lakota Sioux.

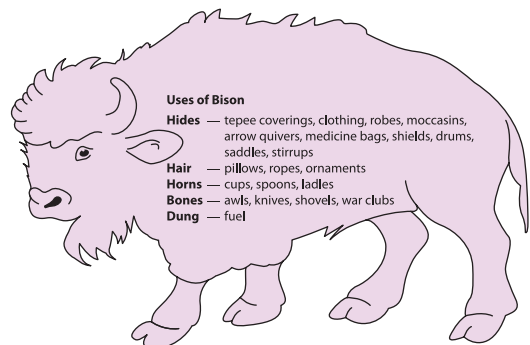
They allied with the Cheyenne. Sitting Bull, Crazy Horse, and their allies tried to drive the miners out, and the United States did not honor the treaty. Instead, it sent in the military to protect the miners.

In 1876, U.S. soldiers led by Colonel George A. Custer attacked the Sioux and Cheyenne. A force of Sioux and Cheyenne led by Crazy Horse then attacked Custer's army at the Little Bighorn River. The Native Americans were victorious. Custer and his two hundred men were all killed. The Battle of Little Bighorn is sometimes called Custer's Last Stand.



Chief Sitting Bull led Sioux warriors against the U.S. government. There are no known photographs of Crazy Horse.

As Native Americans resisted, a religious movement called the Ghost Dance emerged. The Ghost Dance united several Native American groups, which made American leaders nervous. Also during this time, in 1890, two hundred and seventy Lakota were killed by U.S. soldiers at Wounded Knee Creek in South Dakota.



By the late 1800s, there were fewer bison to hunt. Without the bison, Plains peoples would be unable to live on their land and survive.

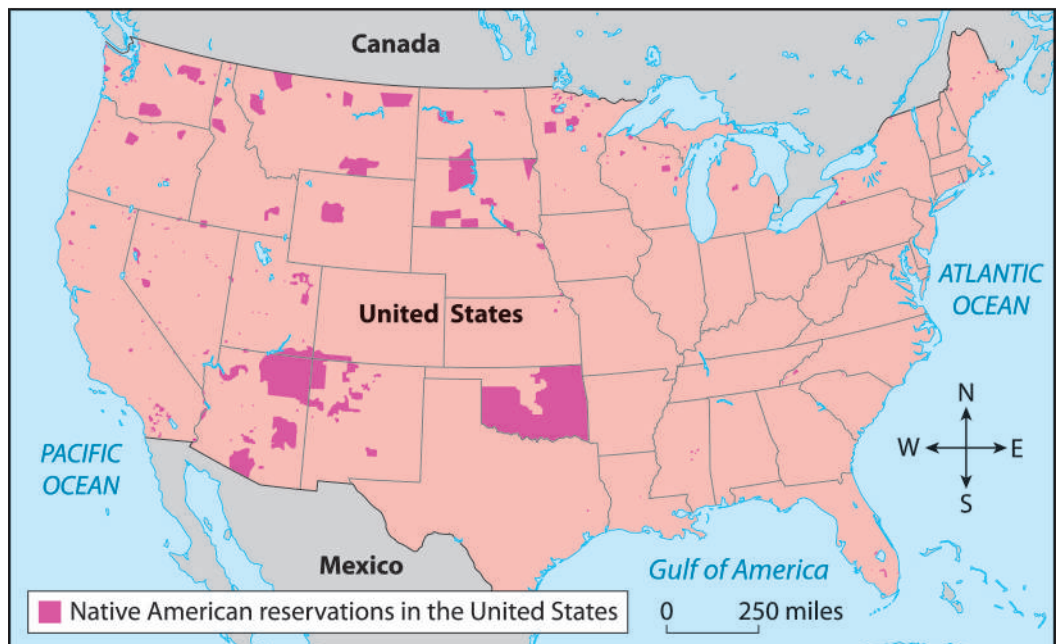
Alongside the conflict and loss of land came changes to the environment. For example, for centuries, hundreds of thousands of bison had roamed the Plains. Plains peoples had relied on the bison for food, clothing, and many other things. By 1875, the number of bison was greatly reduced.

In the end, westward expansion forever changed the American landscape. The wild woods and prairies gave way in large part to farms, ranches, towns, and cities. Yet, Native American nations in the West managed to retain much **sovereignty**, or the right to govern themselves. And their cultural practices are evident in the languages they preserve, the clothing they wear, the food they eat, and the art they created.

Vocabulary

sovereignty, n.
freedom from external control;
supreme power or authority

Native American Reservations, 2023



Today, many Native Americans live on reservations. Despite the events of the past, many Native American groups keep important traditions and culture alive.



Native American children in ceremonial dress

PRIMARY SOURCE: EXCERPT FROM SITTING BULL'S RESPONSE TO U.S. BRIGADIER GENERAL ALFRED HOWE TERRY

After the victory of the Sioux over the U.S. Army at the Battle of the Little Bighorn, General Alfred Howe Terry went to Canada to meet with Chief Sitting Bull. This was Sitting Bull's response:

You came here to tell us lies but we don't want to hear them. This country is mine and I intend to stay here and raise a country full of grown people. The part of the country that you gave me you ran me out of. I don't want to hear two more words. . . . Tell them in Washington if they have a man who speaks the truth to send him to me and I will listen. I don't believe in a government that has made 52 treaties with the Sioux and has kept none of them.

Source: From "Speech of Sitting Bull to American General," in *The Soul of the Red Man*, by Thomas Benton Williams. Oklahoma City, 1937, p. 286.

Glossary

C

corps, n. a group of people who work as a unit (7)

E

emigrate, v. to leave one place to settle permanently in another (20)

expedition, n. a journey taken by a group that has a clear purpose or goal (6)

F

flatboat, n. a boat with a flat bottom and square corners that can be used to carry loads and can also be used as a house (4)

H

homestead, n. a home and the land surrounding it (27)

I

interpreter, n. a person who translates from one language to another (8)

K

keelboat, n. a boat with a long ridge on the bottom, used to navigate rivers (23)

L

locomotive, n. a railroad engine (24)

O

ore, n. a rock or mineral from which metal can be obtained (26)

P

pack animal, n. an animal, such as a horse or a mule, that is used to carry heavy loads (23)

prairie, n. a flat grassland (18)

S

sod, n. the top layer of grassy soil, sometimes used to build houses (18)

source, n. the starting point or beginning of a moving body of water (10)

sovereignty, n. freedom from external control; supreme power or authority (31)

steamboat, n. a boat powered by a steam engine (24)

steam engine, n. a motor that uses steam to work (24)

T

territory, n. an area of land belonging to a government (5)

transcontinental, adj. crossing the entire continent (24)



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