

Sectionalism & Manifest Destiny

COMPLETE UNIT GUIDE PACKET

OVERVIEW

Manifest Destiny was the widely-held belief in America during the 19th century that its settlers were destined to expand across the continent from the Atlantic to Pacific. By 1820, the United States had more than doubled in area to become one of the largest nations in the world. Newspaper editor Horace Greeley famously wrote, “Go West, young man, go West and grow up with the country.”

The desire for more land brought aspiring homesteaders to the western frontier. At the heart of Manifest Destiny was the pervasive belief in white supremacy and American cultural superiority. Native Americans had long been perceived as inferior and many of the first settlers were missionaries seeking to Christianize tribes.

Fur traders and trappers developed the first trails to the west, the most prominent being the Oregon Trail. Other routes included the California Trail, Mormon Trail, and Bozeman Trail. These were eventually used by about 400,000 settlers, farmers, miners, ranchers, and business owners and their families before the first transcontinental railroad was completed in 1869.

Empresarios from the southern US spread slavery into Texas when it was part of Mexico. When Mexico refused to legalize slavery, the settlers decided to secede from Mexico. This initiating the famous Battle of the Alamo and the Republic of Texas declared independence in 1836. It was then annexed and admitted to the Union as the 28th state in 1845. Following the annexation, relations with Mexico deteriorated over border disputes and the Mexican–American War began. The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ended the war in 1848.

Gold was discovered in California the same year, resulting in the famous Gold Rush that saw “forty-niners” migrate over land and sea routes in hopes of striking it rich. After California’s rapid population increase, it joined the Union with the Compromise of 1850.

As America expanded, divisions grew between the different regions and their interests. This issue of sectionalism was primarily between the agricultural, slave-holding South and the industrial North. A series of compromises beginning with the Missouri Compromise in 1820 was needed to maintain a balance. The Kansas–Nebraska Act of 1854, however, increased national tensions over slavery that would eventually lead to the Civil War.



ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- How was the concept of Manifest Destiny used to justify westward expansion?
- How did Manifest Destiny affect different groups within the United States?
- What push-pull factors impacted westward expansion?
- What conflicts arose from westward expansion?
- Which events during the 19th century pulled the nation apart and which helped keep it together?
- How did geographic and economic differences within each region of the United States influence political and social divisions?

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VOCABULARY

Directions: Write the definition for each word in the middle column and draw a picture to represent each in the 3rd column.

Missouri Compromise		
Compromise of 1850		
Kansas-Nebraska Act		
The Alamo		
Transcendentalism		
Gold Rush		
49ers		
Homestead Act		
Manifest Destiny		

GEOGRAPHY OF SECTIONALISM & MANIFEST DESTINY

Directions: Complete the map of the America after the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854. Label the states and territories, add the and color it based on the key.



PEOPLE TO KNOW

Directions: Use the bank of names below to identify the appropriate category for each person. For each person, identify the significant contributions that person made to American History.

Eli Whitney

James K. Polk

Forty-niner

Elizabeth Cady Stanton

Stephen Austin

Brigham Young

Texians

Sam Houston

Border Ruffian

Groups	Name: _____ Contributions:	Name: _____ Contributions:	Name: _____ Contributions:
	Name: _____ Contributions:	Name: _____ Contributions:	Name: _____ Contributions:
Individuals	Name: _____ Contributions:	Name: _____ Contributions:	Name: _____ Contributions:
	Name: _____ Contributions:	Name: _____ Contributions:	Name: _____ Contributions:

TIMELINE OF SECTIONALISM & MANIFEST DESTINY

Directions: Place the following events on the timeline. Include the date and draw in images or symbols for at least 4 of them.

Missouri Compromise Passed

Samuel Morse Patents the Telegraph

Gold Discovered at Sutter's Mill

The Erie Canal is Opened

Texas Admitted into the Union

California Admitted to the Union

The Indian Removal Act Passed

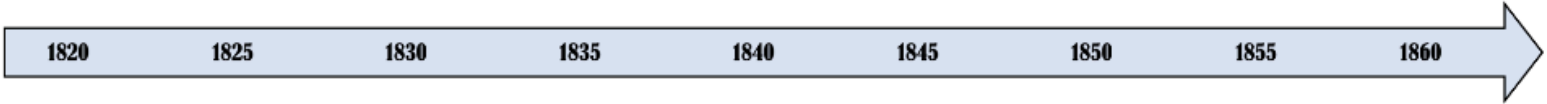
Oregon Treaty with the UK Settles Border Dispute

Kansas-Nebraska Act Passed

Battle of the Alamo

Brigham Young leads 5,000 Mormons to Utah

Supreme Court Issues Dred Scott Decision

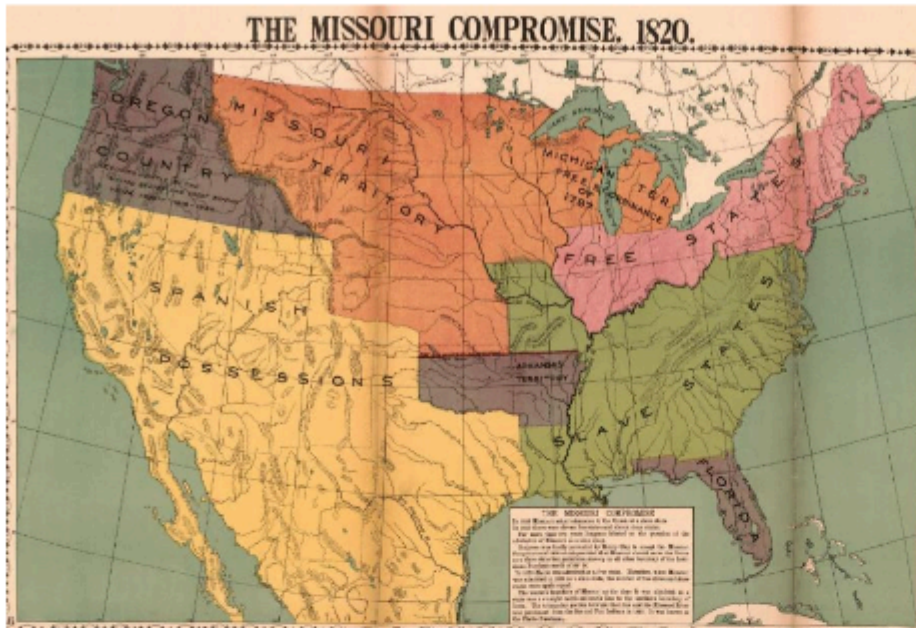


Which event from this era had the biggest impact on United States history and why?

Could the compromise process for balancing free and slave states have been sustainable for a longer period? Why or why not?

VISUAL LITERACY

Directions: Use the included images and captions to answer each of the questions.



The Missouri Compromise provided for the admission of Maine as a free state along with Missouri as a slave state in 1820.

Why was this compromise needed to admit these states?



Although not recognized as such by Mexico, Texas declared itself an independent nation, the Republic of Texas in 1836. In 1845, it was annexed by the United States. This map shows the present-day outlines of the states superimposed on the boundaries of 1836–1845.

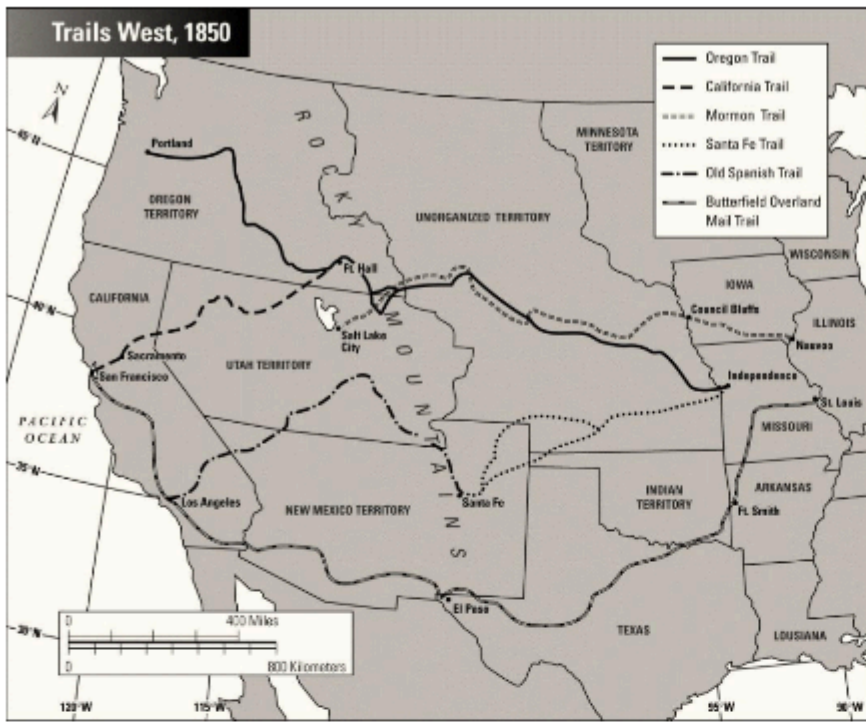
What were some of the border disputes between the US, Mexico, and Texas?

How were these disputes resolved?



This cartoon mocks "forty-niners" showing a dock crowded with men with picks and shovels; men jumping to reach a departing ship; a crowded airship and a man on a rocket fly overhead.

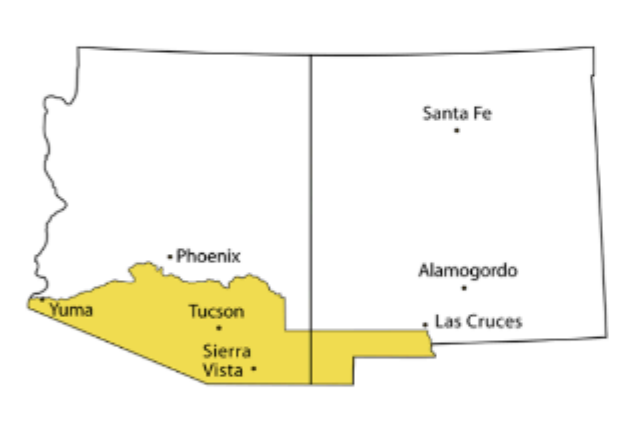
Why were so many people anxious to go to California?



The 2,170-mile-long Oregon Trail was just one of several wagon routes west.

What physical feature was likely the most difficult portion of the trails and why?

Where did most trails west end up? Why?



The US acquired the Gadsden Purchase from Mexico in 1854. The region of present-day southern Arizona and southwestern New included lands south of the Gila River and west of the Rio Grande where the US wanted to build a transcontinental railroad along a deep southern route, which the Southern Pacific Railroad later completed in 1883.

Why did the US make the Gadsden Purchase?



Partisan violence spilled into Congress in May 1856 when Free Soil Senator Charles Sumner was assaulted with a walking cane by Democratic Rep. Preston Brooks in the Senate chamber.

What does this event tell you about sectionalism and Congress?

KEY CONCEPTS

Directions: For each section, either takes notes on the required topics or answer the questions in complete sentences.

<p><i>William B. Travis was a lieutenant colonel in the Texas Army and commander of the Texian forces at the Battle of the Alamo.</i></p> <p>How does Travis describe his current situation at the Alamo?</p> <p>What impact did he hope this letter to have?</p>	<p>“To the People of Texas & All Americans in the World: Fellow citizens & compatriots—I am besieged, by a thousand or more of the Mexicans under Santa Anna—I have sustained a continual Bombardment & cannonade for 24 hours & have not lost a man. The enemy has demanded a surrender at discretion, otherwise, the garrison are to be put to the sword, if the fort is taken—I have answered the demand with a cannon shot, & our flag still waves proudly from the walls. I shall never surrender or retreat. ... Victory or Death!”</p> <p>- William B. Travis, February 23, 1836</p>
<p>“I have not wrote to you half the trouble we have had but I have wrote enough to let you know that you don't know what trouble is. But thank God we have all got through and the only family that did not eat human flesh. We have left everything but I don't care for that. We have got through with our lives but Don't let this letter dishearten anybody. Never take no cutoffs and hurry along as fast as you can.”</p> <p>- Virginia Reed to cousin Mary Keyes, May 16, 1847</p>	<p><i>The Donner Party was a group of pioneers who migrated to California in a wagon train from Missouri. Delayed by a series of mishaps, they spent the winter of 1846–47 snowbound in the Sierra Nevada. Some of the migrants resorted to cannibalism to survive.</i></p> <p>What difficulties did the Donner Party face on their route west?</p> <p>What advice does Virginia Reed give others heading west?</p>
<p><i>Ralph Waldo Emerson's 1836 essay "Nature" put forth the foundation of transcendentalism, a belief system that promotes an appreciation of nature.</i></p> <p>What benefits does nature provide, according to Emerson?</p> <p>How does Emerson's view conflict with traditional American religious practices of the time?</p>	<p>“In the woods, we return to reason and faith. There I feel that nothing can befall me in life, — no disgrace, no calamity, (leaving me my eyes,) which nature cannot repair. Standing on the bare ground, — my head bathed by the blithe air, and uplifted into infinite space, — all mean egotism vanishes. I become a transparent eye-ball; I am nothing; I see all; the currents of the Universal Being circulate through me; I am part or particle of God.”</p> <p>- Ralph Waldo Emerson, 1836</p>

<p><i>Satanta was born around 1820 and a member of the Kiowa tribe during the height of the power of the Plains Tribes. He was one of the best known, and last, of the Kiowa War Chiefs, with a reputation as an outstanding warrior.</i></p> <p>What impact did Manifest Destiny have on American Indians of the Plains?</p>	<p>“A long time ago this land belonged to our fathers; but when I go up to the river, I see camps of soldiers here on its bank. These soldiers cut down my timber; they kill my buffalo; and when I see that, my heart feels like bursting; I feel sorry.”</p> <p>- Satanta, Chief of the Kiowas, 1867</p>
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<p>“Many, very many, that come here meet with bad success & thousands will leave their bones here. Others will lose their health, contract diseases that they will carry to their graves with them. Some will have to beg their way home, & probably one half that come here will never make enough to carry them back. But this does not alter the fact about the gold being plenty here, but shows what a poor frail being man is, how liable to disappointments, disease & death. There is a good deal of sin & wickedness going on here, Stealing, lying, Swearing, Drinking, Gambling & murdering.</p> <p>- Sheldon Shufelt, 1849</p>	<p><i>The New York Herald printed news of gold’s discovery in California in August 1848. A census of San Francisco in April 1847 reported the town consisted of 79 buildings including shanties, frames houses and adobes. By December 1849 the population had mushroomed to an estimated 100,000. Sheldon Shufelt was one of those gold-seekers.</i></p> <p>According to Shufelt, did most gold-seekers strike it rich? Why/why not?</p>
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<p><i>The Compromise of 1850 was a package of five separate bills that defused a political confrontation between slave and free states on the status of territories acquired in the Mexican–American War.</i></p> <p>Which aspects of the Compromise were a victory for the North and why?</p> <p>Which aspects of the Compromise were a victory for the South and why?</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <th colspan="2" data-bbox="787 1146 1429 1213">The Compromise of 1850</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2" data-bbox="787 1213 1429 1266">Resolutions</th> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="787 1266 941 1812"></td> <td data-bbox="941 1266 1429 1812"> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> California was to be admitted to the Union as a free state. Texas would relinquish land to New Mexico that both claimed, with the federal government reimbursing Texas \$10 million for its loss. New territories gained as a result of the Mexican War could, once they applied for statehood, decide for themselves whether to be free or slave. The slave trade, although not slavery, would be abolished in the District of Columbia. (Washington, D.C. had been the home of the largest slave market in North America.) A stronger Fugitive Slave Law would make it a crime for anyone to give assistance to someone fleeing enslavement. </td> </tr> </table>	The Compromise of 1850		Resolutions			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> California was to be admitted to the Union as a free state. Texas would relinquish land to New Mexico that both claimed, with the federal government reimbursing Texas \$10 million for its loss. New territories gained as a result of the Mexican War could, once they applied for statehood, decide for themselves whether to be free or slave. The slave trade, although not slavery, would be abolished in the District of Columbia. (Washington, D.C. had been the home of the largest slave market in North America.) A stronger Fugitive Slave Law would make it a crime for anyone to give assistance to someone fleeing enslavement.
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