

Manifest Destiny

Name: _____

Awesome Nation Seeks Growth Opportunity

Imagine you've just created a brand new nation. It's a nation based on freedom and equality, where citizens control the government and are free to make the best of life. It's obviously the greatest nation on earth, even though it's young. And small. But just think: If this great nation grew, more people would get to live this way. It could be a giant land of freedom and equality! No doubt about it... This nation was meant to get a *lot* bigger.



The U.S. Constitution created a new kind of government—one governed by "we the people"!

Welcome to the concept of **manifest destiny**—the idea that America was meant to grow so democracy and freedom could spread.

We're All About Those Rights



An 1834 book about slavery in the U.S. shows African American children serving food to a white family.

When the American colonists declared independence from Great Britain, they were determined to be free from abusive British rule. They demanded liberty and equality, which they saw as naturally belonging to all citizens. For them, *equality* meant every citizen had the same rights, instead of a few "noble" families having special privileges that "common" people did not. *Liberty* meant citizens had the freedom to govern themselves and to do what they wanted with their lives. The United States was the first nation ever built around these principles. More than that, Americans didn't just think they offered a better way of life—they believed they were creating a nation that fulfilled a divine purpose.

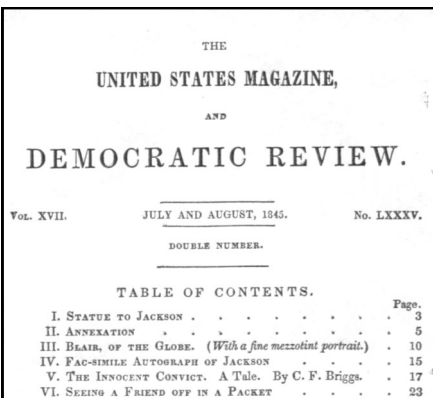
Destined to Grow?

From its very first days, America began to expand. At the end of the Revolutionary War in 1783, the British gave America control of enough extra land that America doubled in size right away. There was never any question that Americans would settle this land. It wasn't long before the United States stumbled on a chance to buy some extra territory from France. For an amazing low price, in 1803 America doubled its size again! Now the U.S. spread half way across the continent. For a few decades after this, growth basically stopped. But by the 1840s, more and more American settlers were moving west, and many United States leaders were itching to get their hands on more territory.



In 1803, Napoleon Bonaparte sold the U.S. the tract of land known as the Louisiana Purchase.

Manifest Destiny



O'Sullivan's article "Annexation" included the first use of "manifest destiny."

It was during this time that newspaperman John O'Sullivan first used the phrase "manifest destiny." O'Sullivan was fed up with a long debate about Texas becoming part of the United States. While Congress dragged its feet, other countries were trying to make deals with Texas. O'Sullivan said these other nations had the goal of "limiting our greatness and checking the fulfillment of our manifest destiny to overspread the continent allotted by Providence..."

"Manifest" means obvious. "Destiny" means a future that has already been determined by a divine source. O'Sullivan was saying America was being stopped from doing what it was obviously destined to do: take over the continent.

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About That Whole “Taking Over” Thing...

It sounds pretty bad. But O’Sullivan didn’t believe the U.S. should just attack its neighbors, take their land, and be done with it. He believed that taking over would happen naturally as Americans settled new areas. O’Sullivan expected that American settlers would move into places that Mexico owned—say, for example, California—and build new communities based on American principles. The settlers would want to keep what they built, so they would demand independence from Mexico. Because Mexico’s government was too disorganized and distant to resist, O’Sullivan believed the settlers would succeed. But that’s not quite how it happened.



American settlers began moving west even before the United States owned the land.



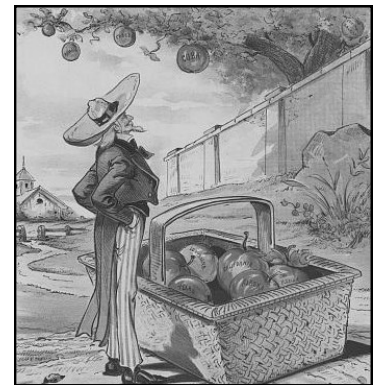
1846 map showing Texas.

Expanding Expectations

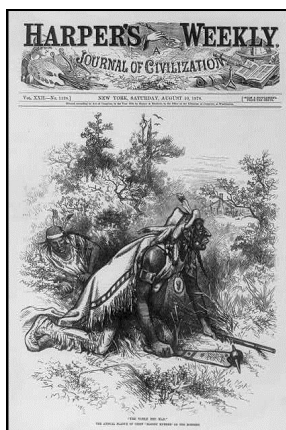
Up to this point, the U.S. had only added new territory by negotiating with European countries that controlled land nearby. One exception was Texas: There, American settlers had won independence from Mexico in 1836 and asked to become part of the United States. (This was probably what O’Sullivan imagined would happen elsewhere, too.) Texas became a state in 1845. By then, the American hunger for more territory had grown pretty intense. So had tensions between the U.S. and Mexico, who owned most of the land between the U.S. and the Pacific Ocean. President James Polk had his eye on this land when he took office in 1844, and he was determined to get it for America.

Okay, Maybe We Do Mean Taking Over

When the U.S. annexed Texas, Mexico was furious. The Mexican government felt that the U.S. had violated Mexico’s borders and taken its land. Even so, President Polk tried to buy additional land from Mexico, but Mexico wouldn’t sell. So Polk took advantage of the tension and started a war. The United States won. Mexico gave up what is now the southwestern United States—and many Mexicans living in that area lost their land to American settlers. At about the same time, America worked out a deal with Great Britain to get Oregon Territory, now the northwestern United States. By the end of the 1840s, the United States stretched from coast to coast. American settlers began pouring into the new western frontier.



1897 drawing shows Uncle Sam waiting for Cuba, Hawaii, Canada, and central America to fall. Florida, Louisiana, Texas, California, and Alaska are already in the basket.



1878 magazine cover shows Indians near a settler’s cabin, planning to commit “bloody murder.”

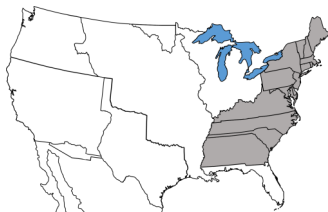
A Not-So-Civilized Attitude

Americans rolled into the west believing they were bringing civilization to an untamed land. But thousands of Native Americans already lived on that land in civilizations that had existed for centuries. Most Americans of the 1800s couldn’t appreciate that. They saw Native Americans as “uncivilized”—little better than wild animals. To make room for “civilization,” the U.S. kept moving native tribes out of the way to smaller and smaller areas. Native Americans either lost access to their traditional lands or saw those lands destroyed by mining, logging, and over-hunting. As America’s “manifest destiny” played out, the Native American way of life quickly disappeared.

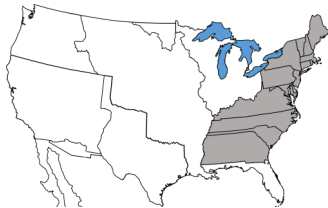
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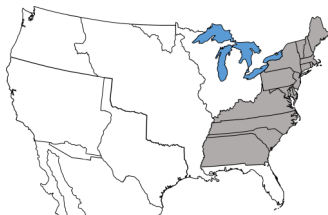
A. Expand That Land! Follow the directions below each map to see how the United States grew across the continent. On each map, shade both the new area AND all the areas you shaded before.



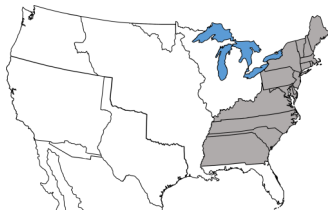
1783: When the Revolutionary War ended, Britain gave up territory to the U.S. **Shade** the area south of the Great Lakes and east of the Mississippi.



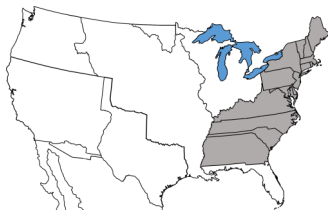
1803: The U.S. bought a huge area of land from France. **Shade** the large area that goes all the way from north to south. Don't shade that extra notch at the top!



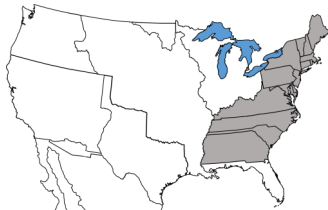
1818: Okay, now you can shade that extra little area at the top. The U.S. traded with Britain to get that land.



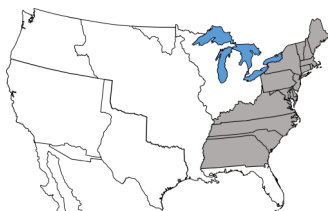
1819: The U.S. made a deal with Spain to get Florida. **Shade** Florida. (You might notice that today, some of that land is not in Florida.)



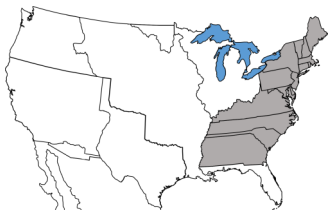
1845: Yee-haw! The U.S. annexed Texas. Back then, Texas claimed a bigger area than it has today. **Shade** the big blob that looks like Texas with a chimney.



1846: The U.S. settled a dispute with Britain and got the Oregon Territory. **Shade** the area in the northwest corner.

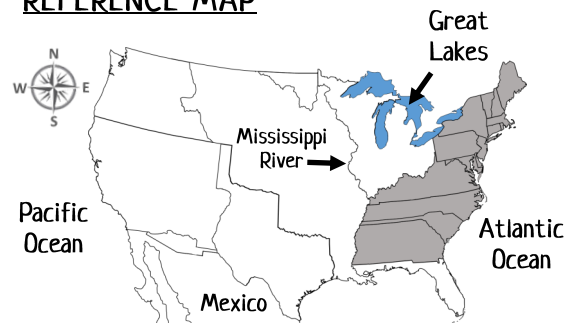


1848: After the Mexican-American war, Mexico gave up a million acres to the U.S. **Shade** the big area below the Oregon Territory. Do not shade that little slice on the Mexico border!



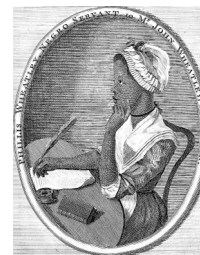
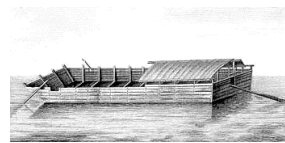
1853: Now you can shade that little slice on the Mexico border. The U.S. bought that area from Mexico. The sale was called the Gadsden Purchase.

REFERENCE MAP

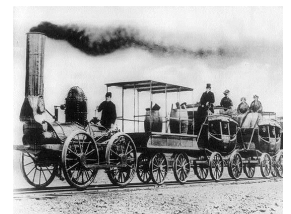
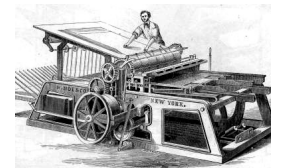


B. Technology, Ho! Why did the U.S. expand so quickly? One huge factor was technology! The first half of the 1800s saw huge advances in transportation and communication. Can you spot the changes? Draw lines to match the earlier and later images.

Before 1800...



By the 1850s...



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C. That 'Manifest Destiny' Attitude. Even before there was a name for it, people who believed in Manifest Destiny had a distinct way of thinking. Read the following excerpts and answer the questions.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America ... that for the purpose of providing against the further decline and final extinction of the Indian tribes ... and for introducing among them the habits and arts of civilization, the President of the United States ... is hereby authorized ... to employ capable persons of good moral character, to instruct them in the mode of agriculture suited to their situation; and for teaching their children in reading, writing, and arithmetic...

— from "An Act Making Provision for the Civilization of the Indian Tribes Adjoining the Frontier Settlements" (March 3, 1819)

What good man would prefer a country covered with forests and ranged by a few thousand savages to our extensive Republic, studded with cities, towns, and prosperous farms embellished with all the improvements which art can devise or industry execute, occupied by more than 12,000,000 happy people, and filled with all the blessings of liberty, civilization and religion?

— from President Andrew Jackson's Message to Congress 'On Indian Removal' (1830)

[T]he continent is ours... [A]ll the lines from the beginning have been converging toward this nation... [W]hen the choice seed was planted on these shores, it was in reality the great stride of the human race onward... [I]t is simply the plain sober fact that the forward thought of the world in civilization, in government, in liberty, in education and in religion is on this continent.

— from *The Home Missionary* (1867)

- One word appears in all three excerpts. **Circle** it in each excerpt and write it on this line:

- There are 12 words in the puzzle that describe things people valued. Use all three excerpts to help you find them!

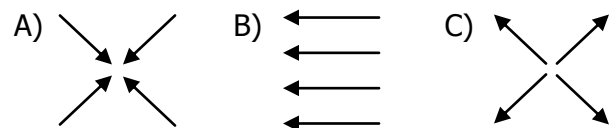
S	L	R	P	S	F	G	C	T	Q	M	C
L	T	Q	E	Z	M	I	P	R	I	I	T
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T	V	J	I	I	Z	V	A	O	T	I	R
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U	V	I	O	D	Q	O	N	X	P	L	O
K	O	A	E	S	N	W	O	T	I	M	G
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- Based on what President Jackson *did* value, what do you think was his problem with "a country covered with forests"?

- Does it sound like President Jackson had respect for Native Americans? Yes No

Box the evidence for your answer.

- Which diagram shows lines "converging"?



- Manifest Destiny was seen as progress. Underline two phrases in the *Home Missionary* excerpt that mean *progress*.

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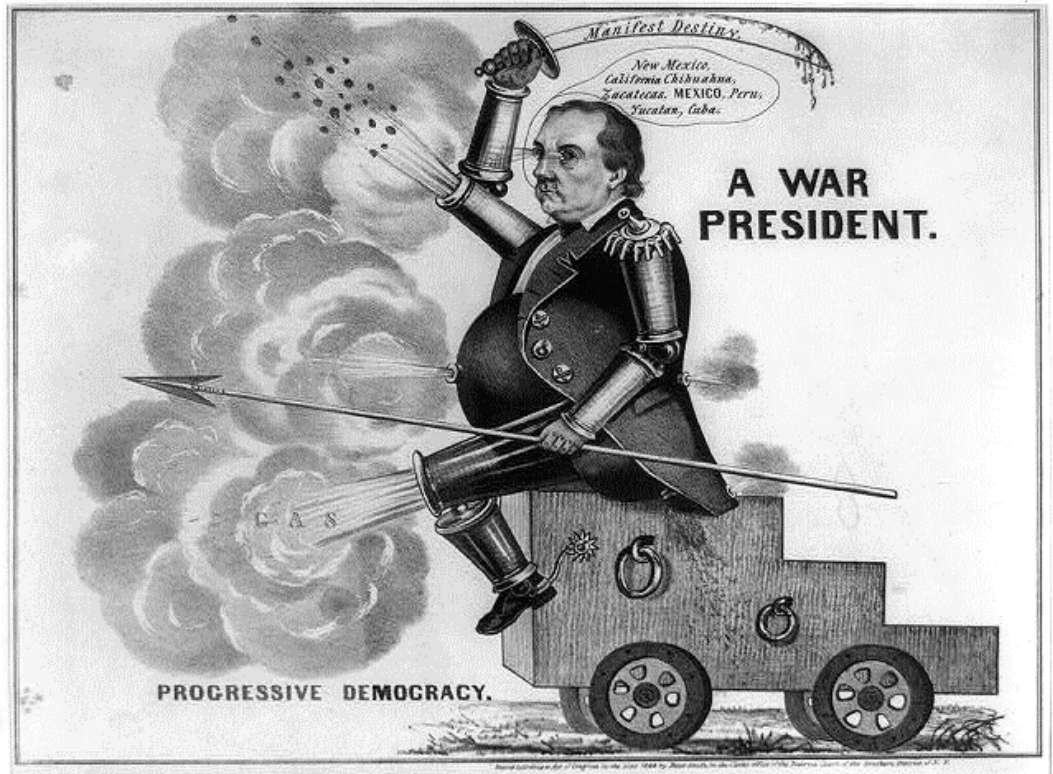
D. Spoils of War. In February 1848, the U.S. got a huge amount of land after winning a war with Mexico. Later in 1848, Americans would elect a new president—and not everyone agreed that war was a good way for the U.S. to grow. Take a look at this cartoon of presidential candidate Lewis Cass:

1. Circle the words Manifest Destiny.

What object is this phrase written on?

What is dripping off that object?

2. Describe what Cass's body is made from:



3. Look at what Cass is saying. List the places he mentions that you have heard of:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

4. Complete this sentence:

The cartoonist wants people to think Cass would _____

_____ if he became president.

Now, find 3 pieces of evidence in the cartoon to back up your answer. Draw an arrow to each part of the cartoon you are using as evidence. Label the arrows #1, #2, and #3.

5. Political cartoons often exaggerate what a candidate believes. Read the list of Cass's views. Write **C** if the view **makes him seem like the person the cartoonist drew**. Write **X** if the view shows Cass wasn't necessarily out to take over the world.

- _____ He thought the U.S. should have all of Oregon Territory even if it meant war with Britain.
- _____ He hoped the U.S. could someday annex Canada, but only if the people living there agreed.
- _____ He believed the war with Mexico should continue until the U.S. conquered all of Mexico.
- _____ He believed the U.S. was at risk if other European nations controlled territory in North America.
- _____ He thought Great Britain's power in the world could too easily threaten the United States.
- _____ He supported taking military control of Yucatan when that country was having problems.

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E. American Progress. This painting by John Gast was done in 1872. It is called "American Progress." Study the image and answer the questions.



1. Circle each kind of transportation you see the settlers using.
2. Put a box around the group of miners.
3. Draw an arrow pointing to the farmers.
4. Find the Native Americans. What does it look like they are doing?

5. Think of two words to describe the Native Americans' emotions. Explain how you can tell:

Emotion	How can you tell?

6. Find any wild animals. What do they have in common with the way the Native Americans are portrayed in this painting?

7. Look at the woman in the sky. What is her role in this scene? Add a speech bubble and have her explain what she is doing.
8. Add one thing to the painting that *modern* Americans would build or do if they were settling today!



Modern Manifest Destiny?

BALLOT

Yes — Manifest Destiny still exists today.
Here's an example:

No — Manifest Destiny does not exist today.
Here's what's different:

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