



# United States History

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# UNIT 2

## Development of the Nation I



## LESSON 5: Westward Expansion



**GOAL:** To identify the causes, events, and results of the westward expansion of the United States

### WORDS TO KNOW

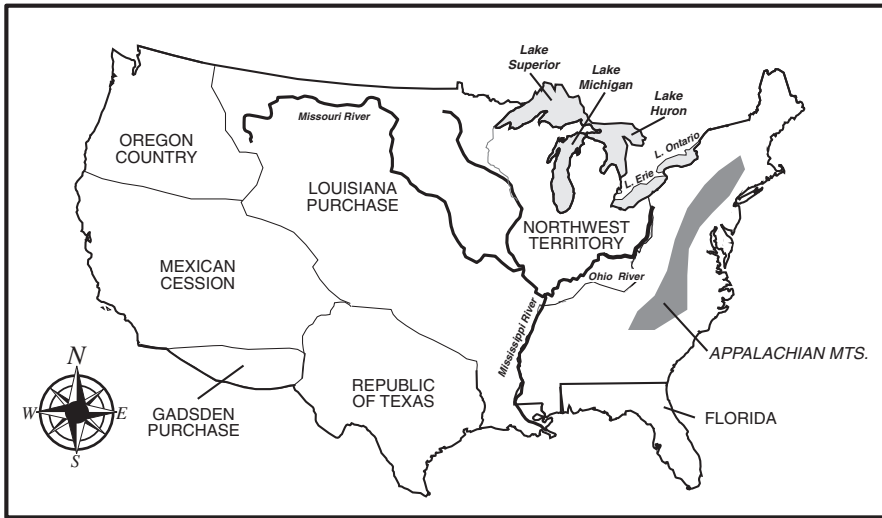
Alamo	Lone Star Republic	nomadic
annex	Louisiana Purchase	Northwest Territory
California Gold Rush	Manifest Destiny	Oregon Country
Canal Era	merchant vessels	prospector
Forty-niners	Mexican Cession	reservation
free state	migration	Seward's Folly
frontier	Missouri Compromise	territory
Gadsden Purchase	Monroe Doctrine	Treaty of Ghent
Homestead Act	nationalism	War of 1812
homesteader	neutral	westward expansion

### Westward Expansion

In 1800, the population of the United States was a little over 5 million. These people lived in .9 million square miles along the Atlantic coast. However, it did not take long for America to start growing. Throughout the 1800s, the American frontier moved west. A **frontier** is a boundary between land that is settled and land that is unsettled. As settlers moved farther west, the frontier kept moving with them.

By 1900, the United States controlled much more **territory**, or land. The country's land area had grown from .9 million to 3 million square miles. The population had also greatly increased. By 1900, there were 75 million people living in America. Less than half of these people lived in the original 13 states. New lands were settled as the nation spread across the continent.

Look at the map below. This map shows all of the new territories gained by the United States in the 1800s. You can refer to this map throughout this lesson.



This lesson explains the **westward expansion**, or growth toward the west, of the United States. It also examines the nation's development into a world power.

## The Northwest Territory

Expansion of the New World started soon after the colonies gained independence from England. Settlers began to head west. They rushed to the frontier, looking for good farmland and a chance to make it on their own. Between 1791 and 1796, the United States added three more states to its union: Vermont in 1791, Kentucky in 1792, and Tennessee in 1796.

Then, the nation began expanding into the **Northwest Territory**. This was the land northwest of the original 13 states. It was given to America as part of the Treaty of Paris in 1783. Today, this area is known as the Midwest. Once this area was settled, new states were established. Ohio was admitted as a state in 1803. Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin became states in the years that followed.

### THINK ABOUT IT



Most people think of western settlers as traveling in covered wagons. However, many families traveled down the Ohio River on flatboats. A flatboat was a huge raft made of heavy planks. All of the family's possessions were loaded onto the flatboat. This included their farm animals, which were tied to the rear of the boat. What do you think were some advantages of traveling in flatboats? Write your answer on a separate sheet of paper.

## PRACTICE 20: The Northwest Territory

Circle the letter of the correct answer to each of the following questions.

1. What is a frontier?
  - a. a place where a battle is fought
  - b. a boundary between settled and unsettled lands
  - c. a growing population
  - d. a border between two states
2. Which of the following states was NOT part of the Northwest Territory?
  - a. Vermont
  - b. Ohio
  - c. Michigan
  - d. Illinois

## Threats of War

Soon after the American Revolution ended, the people of France began their own revolution. The new French government declared war on England and other nations in Europe. The United States had promised to help France in case of war. But the country was too small and too weak to do so at the time. The United States could not afford another war. So, it decided to stay **neutral**. This meant that it did not side with either England or France.

The Americans continued trading with both of the warring nations. This was risky. It meant that American **merchant vessels**, or trade ships,

shared the seas with warships from England and France. Both English and French warships tried to stop American ships from reaching their enemy's ports. England did not want Americans to sell France supplies that might help France win the war. France felt the same way about American ships reaching English ports. Therefore, both countries began attacking American ships.

This made the Americans very angry. It looked as though war could break out with both countries. However, the United States signed a treaty with England in 1794. England agreed to remove its warships from the northeast coast of the United States. The United States also signed a treaty with France.

More and more, the United States realized it would have to be strong to get along in the world.

## **PRACTICE 21: Threats of War**

Decide if each statement below is true (T) or false (F). Write the correct letter on the line before each statement.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. If a country remains neutral in a war, it joins forces with the weaker country.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Americans continued to trade with both England and France while the two countries were at war with each other.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. America had to pay a fine to England if it wanted to trade with France.

## **The Louisiana Purchase**

The next problem for the United States involved the Mississippi River. Settlers in the Northwest Territory used the Ohio and Mississippi rivers to get their farm goods to markets in the East. These rivers were the only way for farmers to move their crops. There were very few roads. And the roads that did exist were useless for heavy loads.

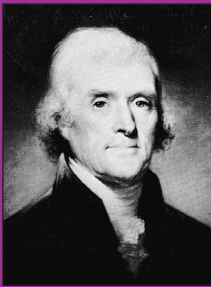
The Mississippi River was also very important because it emptied into the Gulf of Mexico. The river met the Gulf at the port of New Orleans.

In New Orleans, goods that had traveled down the river could be loaded onto ocean ships. These ships could then travel to the Atlantic Ocean and to important ports in Europe. In 1802, Americans were told by France that they could no longer use the port of New Orleans. France owned this area and the millions of acres of land west of the Mississippi known as Louisiana.

Thomas Jefferson was the U.S. president at this time. He decided to try to buy New Orleans from France. The French leader, Napoleon, agreed to sell the land. He needed the money to pay for France's war with England.

America bought New Orleans and the entire Louisiana Territory in 1803. This was a total of 500 million acres. This price was 15 million dollars. At 3 cents per acre, this was a great deal! Known as the **Louisiana Purchase**, it nearly doubled the size of the United States.

#### PRESIDENTIAL PORTRAIT



#### **Thomas Jefferson (1743–1826)**

Third president of the United States

Vice president: James Madison

Term: 1801–1809

Party: Democratic-Republican

Home state: Virginia

Jefferson is probably best remembered for something he did years before he became president. This was writing the Declaration of Independence. Once he was president, one of Jefferson's most important acts was the Louisiana Purchase. Jefferson also sent Meriwether Lewis and William Clark on America's first overland expedition. Lewis and Clark traveled all the way to the Pacific Ocean in 1801. Jefferson was a well-educated man. He is remembered not only as a statesman but also as a scientist, an educator, and a philosopher.