

Brunswick School Department
Social Studies
Grade 7 The Expanding Nation 1815-1850

Unit Overview

The period between 1815 and 1850 saw a large expansion of territory in the United States, along with many other significant changes.

Essential Understandings

- The geography of the expanding United States had a major effect on the relationship between the people and their country.
- Increasing the size of the nation greatly increased opportunity and freedom for citizens and had a major impact on Native Americans.

Priority Standards and Performance Indicators

(as based on the Maine Learning Results)

P.S. SS -1 Conduct and present original research that utilizes primary and secondary sources in order to analyze, interpret and explain historical (and/or) contemporary social studies topics.

- a. Locate relevant information that includes multiple perspectives from varied sources.
- b. Demonstrate facility with notetaking, organizing information, and creating bibliographies.
- c. Distinguish between primary and secondary sources.
- d. Use information ethically and legally.

P.S. SS-4 Utilize concepts and processes from geography to understand issues involving people, places, and environments in the United States and the world.

- d. Describe the dynamic relationship between geographic features and various cultures, including the cultures of Maine Native Americans, various historical groups in the United States, and other cultures in the world.

P.S.SS-5 Draw on concepts and processes from history to develop historical perspective and understand issues of continuity and change in the community, Maine, the United States, and world.

- a. Explain that history is the study of the written record of the past, based on available evidence from a variety of sources.
- b. Trace and explain the history of democratic ideals and constitutional principles and their importance in the history of the United States and the world.
- c. Identify and analyze major historical eras, major enduring themes, turning points, events, consequences, and people in the history of Maine, the United States and various regions of the world.

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Examples of Formative / Summative Assessments

- Oregon Trail, California Gold Rush, and Technology Projects (journals, maps, essays, photo essays, iMovies)
- Create and present an expansion (an opinion supported by evidence, some research, a primary source, a picture) related to the Expanding Nation
- Take two column notes on the Indian Removal, the Industrial Revolution, and westward expansion
- Analyze primary source material from Lowell Mill girl Lucy Larcom

Sample Texts and Materials/Resources

- Davidson, James West. America: History of Our Nation. New Jersey, published in 2007 by Pearson Prentice Hall.
- Sheinkin, Steve. Which Way to the Wild West? Macmillan, 2009. The Nebraska Project. <[Native Journey: Chief Standing Bear](#)>
- PBS - The West. <<http://www.pbs.org/weta/thewest/>> Westward Expansion.
<<http://www.smithsoniansource.org/display/topic/viewdetailshis.aspx?TopicId=1000>>