

Westward Expansion Project

Defining the American Character

Introduction;

After the American Revolution, a new experiment called America began to envision the next steps to ensure that this new country would be a beacon of liberty, freedom and ambition for future generations. To the east, a war-torn Europe and ravaged Africa were avenues that the new Nation wanted to avoid at all costs. The new country decides their fate will take them westward, a journey that will lead them into the heart of the American wilderness. Facing treacherous terrain and tremendous hardship Americans embark on an expedition that will test their determination to its limits. Only unwavering perseverance and innovative resourcefulness will overwhelm the struggles of the American Dream. As brave new trailblazers clear a path and pioneers begin to settle the unforgiving lands, a new American character is formed. Their battles, won and lost will become the new American Nation.

In class we viewed, *America The Story of Us; Westward Expansion*, as an introduction to the newly formed American Nation's expansion westward. Through class discussions and written class activities, we have described many events while analyzing the over arching concepts of Westward Expansion. Your assignment now is to investigate a major event during Westward Expansion and evaluate its overall importance on American's in the 21st century. This assignment will be a multi-part project with specific due dates of completion. This assignment will count as a large percent of the second marking periods final grade.

Below you will find an itemized list of people, events, policies and ideologies that connect to a specific occurrence during America's Westward Expansion. Your task is to investigate the connection and describe it while keeping in mind the overarching importance for 21st century American's to understand. Your task will be to write a 5-7-page paper on your finding and create a multimedia presentation to be presented to your peers.

1. Students have been provided with
 - One Video-Based source
 - One Web-Based source
2. Students will research for
 - Additional 20 minutes minimum of video-based sourcing
 - 3 additional Web-Based sources (Article, Journal, Archive)

Westward Expansion Project

Itemized List

1. Items - Louisiana Purchase, Thomas Jefferson, Lewis and Clark Expedition, Sacagawea
Documentary: National Geographic – Lewis and Clark; Great Journey West
Source: http://www.history.army.mil/LC/The%20Mission/LC_Pamphlet/index.htm

2. Pioneers Life, George and Jacob Donner, James Frasier Reed, Entrapment and Rescue.
Documentary: The Donner Party (2009)
Source: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/primary-resources/donner-diary-patrick-breen/>

3. Stephen F. Austin, Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, Texas Revolution, Davy Crockett & the Alamo.
Documentary: The Alamo (2004)
Source: <http://thealamo.org/history/chronology/texas-revolution.html>

4. Manifest Destiny, Andrew Jackson, Indian Removal Act of 1830, Trail of Tears
Documentary: 500 Nations VI Removal of War and Exile in the East
Source: <http://www.history.com/topics/trail-of-tears>

5. James Marshall, California Gold Rush, Life in mining camps, Effects on California as a State
Documentary: California Gold Rush 1848 mp4 (5 parts)
Source: <http://www.history.com/topics/gold-rush-of-1849>

6. James K. Polk, Zachary Taylor, Mexican American War, The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo
Documentary: The Mexican and American War (History Channel)
Source: <http://www.history.com/topics/mexican-american-war>

7. American-Indian Wars, Sitting Bull, Crazy Horse, Sioux Wars, Wounded Knee Massacre
Documentary: The Real West Sitting Bull and The Great Sioux Nation
Source: <http://loneolf.com/lakota/society9.htm>

Assignments

1. Video & Internet Sources; Homework grade

Due Date: A-day- 12/2/13 / B-day- 12/3/13

2. Vocabulary lists; Homework grade for each list

- Web-based list- Definition with one authentic sentence (12-15 words)
- Video-based list- Definition with one authentic sentence (12-15 words)

Due Date: A-day- 12/5/13 / B-day- 12/6/13

3. Cornell Notes Study Guide (2 pgs.); Home work grade for each study guide

- Web-based study guide
- Video-based study guide

Due Date: A-day- 12/12/13 / B-day- 12/11/13

4. First Draft; Quiz Grade x2

Due Date: A-Day- 12/20/13 / B-Day- 12/19/13

5. Presentations Begin the week of 1/6/14; Test grade

6. Final Draft; Test Grade x2

Due Date: A-Day 1/13/14 / B-Day- 1/14/14

* Format for Cornell notes, essay and presentation will all be electronically sent to students, which will be organized in a project folder. Furthermore, all information will be accessible through school-wires on the district website, following Thanksgiving break. Finally, assessment rubrics will be distributed electronically for all assignments and will be kept in the project folder. If there are any questions about anything during the course of the project please email or set-up an appointment during school. Email; jali@keansburg.k12.nj.us

Parent- Print Name: _____ **Item #:** _____

Parental Signature: _____

Student Name: _____

Parental Contact: Email _____ **Phone** _____