

Westward Expansion Study Guide

Louisiana Purchase

In 1803 **Thomas Jefferson** sent ambassadors to **France** to buy **New Orleans** so that the United States could have the ability to **trade their goods on the Mississippi River.**

The leader of France, **Napoleon Bonaparte**, wanted to sell the entire **Louisiana Territory** to the United States for only 15 million. Adding the Louisiana Territory **doubled** the size of the United States.

The people of the United States were excited about the purchase because it gave them **(elbow room) space to spread out and farm the land.**

Thomas Jefferson sent **Lewis and Clark** to explore the new Louisiana Territory.

Along the way, **Sacagawea** became their guide and translator to some of the Native American tribes they met.

Lewis and Clark **bartered (traded) with the Native Americans** beads and trinkets in exchange for supplies and food they would need on their exploration.

They traveled over the **Rocky Mountains and to the Pacific Ocean.**

As a result of the Louisiana Purchase

- there were more opportunities for agriculture (farming increased)
- new settlements began west of the Mississippi River
- there were new ways to trade goods

Pioneers and Manifest Destiny

A **pioneer** is a person who is among the first to explore or settle a new country or area. Many pioneers began to move west across the Mississippi River first in **covered wagons and later by railroad.**

Many Americans believed in an idea called **Manifest Destiny**. Manifest Destiny is a term for the attitude of many Americans during the 19th century that the United States not only could, but was destined to, stretch from coast to coast. This attitude helped fuel western settlement and Native American removal.

In 1830 the **Indian Removal Act** was passed which forced many Native American tribes off their homeland.

The **Cherokee** fought this act but were eventually forced by the United States military off their land and forced to walk hundreds of miles to Indian land in **Oklahoma** without the proper clothing or food supplies. Many died on the walk. This event became known as the **Trail of Tears**.

The **Oregon Trail** was a wagon road stretching 2,170 miles from Missouri to Oregon that many pioneers used to travel west. The pioneers on the trail faced many dangers including **diseases and Indian attacks**. They traveled in **wagon trains** (many wagons traveling together) to help keep them safe.

Gold Rush

The **Gold Rush** began in 1848, when **gold** was found by James W. Marshall at Sutter's Mill **California**. The next year in 1849 many settlers began moving California in hopes to find gold. Most did not. The settlers were called **Forty-niners**.

Transcontinental Railroad

The **Transcontinental Railroad** was built to **link the western side and eastern side** of the country. This made it **easier and faster to transport goods and people** across the country.