

Unit 07: Manifest Destiny

Content Area: **Social Studies**
Course(s): **Social Studies 8**
Time Period: **Quarter 3**
Length: **15 Days**
Status: **Published**

Standards

6.1 U.S. History: America in the World by the End of 8th Grade

6.1.8.HistoryCC.4.c: Analyze how the concept of Manifest Destiny influenced the acquisition of land through annexation, diplomacy, and war

6.1.8.GeoSV.4.a: Map territorial expansion and settlement, highlighting the locations of conflicts with and resettlement of Native Americans.

6.1.8.HistoryCC.4.d: Analyze the push-pull factors that led to increase in immigration and explain why ethnic and cultural conflicts resulted.

6.3 Active Citizenship in the 21st Century by the End of 8th Grade

Unit Summary

In this unit students will learn about the idea of Manifest Destiny, a widely held belief in the United States in the first half of the 1800s. They will study the various groups headed west and their unique experiences and hardships. Texas independence and the Battle of the Alamo are explored. Students will examine the conflict between the United States and Mexico that led to the expansion of U.S. territory all the way to the Pacific Ocean. Other topics include the California Gold Rush and Mormon migration.

Student Learning Objectives

- Students will learn the ideas and the concepts of Manifest Destiny.
- Students will learn how Florida, Texas, California, and Utah became states.
- Students will learn the causes and results of the war with Mexico.
- Students will learn how the Gold Rush affected California.
- Students will learn why the Mormons settled in Utah.
- Students will learn the challenges pioneers faced travelling West.
- Students will learn the legacies that each group left after travelling West.

Essential Questions

- What is Manifest Destiny?
- What were the motivations and experiences of various groups headed West?

- How did the culture of California develop?
- Why did war break out between the United States and Mexico?

Enduring Understandings

- Students will understand that the concept of Manifest Destiny guided American policy during this time.
- The addition of new U.S. states was heavily influenced by the continued debate over slavery.
- The War with Mexico ultimately resulted in the achievement of Manifest Destiny for the United States.
- Groups headed West during this time had unique motivations and experiences.

Application

Students will be able to independently use their learning to...

- Create their own historically accurate advertisement for the California Gold Rush.
- Analyze the poem *Pioneers, Oh Pioneers!* by Walt Whitman
- Research and submit a trails project featuring one of the trails West studied in class.

Skills

Students will be skilled at:

- Analyzing why Americans wanted the land in the Oregon Country.
- Evaluating the concept of and justifications for Manifest Destiny.
- Identifying the steps in the process of statehood for Florida.
- Identifying points of view in the War for Independence in Texas.
- Analyzing the importance and the impact of the Santa Fe Trail.
- Identifying points of view in the development of California's culture.
- Identifying the reasons behind the conflict between the U.S. and Mexico.
- Understanding cause and effect relationships that followed the discovery of gold in California.
- Explaining why the Mormons settled in Utah.
- Exploring the groups that went West and understand the reasons they moved, the challenges they faced, and the legacies they left.