

Manifest Destiny

Time Needed: 1-2 Class Periods

Materials Needed:

Student worksheets

Copy Instructions:

Reading (2 pages; class set)

Activity (4 pages; class set)

Learning Objectives. Students will be able to:

- Define Manifest Destiny and explain the ideals behind its ideology
- Analyze primary sources that illustrate Manifest Destiny and related American values
- Illustrate America's territorial expansion across the continent
- Describe the effect of U.S. expansion on Native Americans
- Explain how white Americans in the early 19th century viewed Native Americans

STEP BY STEP

- PREPARE** by copying and cutting the ballots for the closing activity.
- ANTICIPATE** by asking students whether, ideally, the United States would take over the world. Take a quick yes/no poll, then ask students to explain their answers. If answers are one-sided, ask students if they can think of any reasons to support the other answer. What would it mean for other cultures if the U.S. took over? Are other cultures missing out on anything by not being American? (This is intended to be provocative.)
- DISTRIBUTE** the reading to the class.
- READ** the reading pages with the class, pausing to discuss as appropriate.
- CHECK** for understanding by doing both informal assessments with the class: "Manifest Destiny, Modern Times, or Both?" and "True/False."
- DISTRIBUTE** the worksheet activity pages to the class. (You may wish to start with the first two activity pages and do the image analysis pages separately.)
- READ** the directions with the students. Note that most activities expand on concepts from the reading rather than reviewing.
- ASSIGN** students to complete the activities. (You may wish to complete these activities together as a class.)
- REVIEW** the activity answers with the class if you don't complete the activities together.
- CLOSE** by giving each student a "Modern Manifest Destiny?" ballot. Option 1: Have students fill out the ballots, fold them in half, and drop them in a container. Tally the vote, reading students' reasons as you go. Option 2: Make a "yes" and "no" column on the board. Have students write their reasons in the appropriate column. Review the vote as a class.

Manifest Destiny

Name: _____

Awesome Nation Seeks Growth Opportunity

Imagine you've just created a brand new nation. It's a nation based on freedom and equality, where citizens control the government and are free to make the best of life. It's obviously the greatest nation on earth, even though it's young. And small. But just think: If this great nation grew, more people would get to live this way. It could be a giant land of freedom and equality! No doubt about it... This nation was meant to get a *lot* bigger.

Welcome to the concept of **manifest destiny**—the idea that America was meant to grow so democracy and freedom could spread.



The U.S. Constitution created a new kind of government—one governed by "we the people"!



An 1834 book about slavery in the U.S. shows African American children serving food to a white family.

We're All About Those Rights

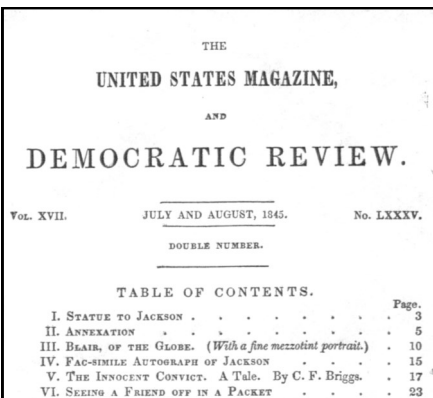
When the American colonists declared independence from Great Britain, they were determined to be free from abusive British rule. They demanded liberty and equality, which they saw as naturally belonging to all citizens. For them, *equality* meant every citizen had the same rights, instead of a few "noble" families having special privileges that "common" people did not. *Liberty* meant citizens had the freedom to govern themselves and to do what they wanted with their lives. The United States was the first nation ever built around these principles. More than that, Americans didn't just think they offered a better way of life—they believed they were creating a nation that fulfilled a divine purpose.

Destined to Grow?

From its very first days, America began to expand. At the end of the Revolutionary War in 1783, the British gave America control of enough extra land that America doubled in size right away. There was never any question that Americans would settle this land. It wasn't long before the United States stumbled on a chance to buy some extra territory from France. For an amazing low price, in 1803 America doubled its size again! Now the U.S. spread half way across the continent. For a few decades after this, growth basically stopped. But by the 1840s, more and more American settlers were moving west, and many United States leaders were itching to get their hands on more territory.



In 1803, Napoleon Bonaparte sold the U.S. the tract of land known as the Louisiana Purchase.



O'Sullivan's article "Annexation" included the first use of "manifest destiny."

Manifest Destiny

It was during this time that newspaperman John O'Sullivan first used the phrase "manifest destiny." O'Sullivan was fed up with a long debate about Texas becoming part of the United States. While Congress dragged its feet, other countries were trying to make deals with Texas. O'Sullivan said these other nations had the goal of "limiting our greatness and checking the fulfillment of our manifest destiny to overspread the continent allotted by Providence..."

"Manifest" means obvious. "Destiny" means a future that has already been determined by a divine source. O'Sullivan was saying America was being stopped from doing what it was obviously destined to do: take over the continent.

Manifest Destiny

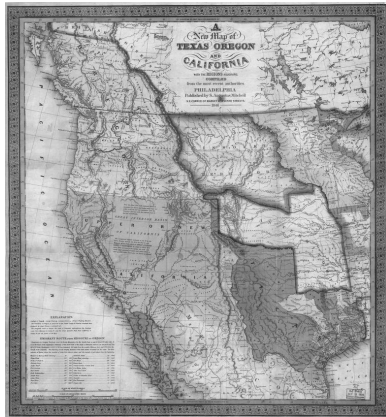
Name: _____

About That Whole “Taking Over” Thing...

It sounds pretty bad. But O’Sullivan didn’t believe the U.S. should just attack its neighbors, take their land, and be done with it. He believed that taking over would happen naturally as Americans settled new areas. O’Sullivan expected that American settlers would move into places that Mexico owned—say, for example, California—and build new communities based on American principles. The settlers would want to keep what they built, so they would demand independence from Mexico. Because Mexico’s government was too disorganized and distant to resist, O’Sullivan believed the settlers would succeed. But that’s not quite how it happened.



American settlers began moving west even before the United States owned the land.



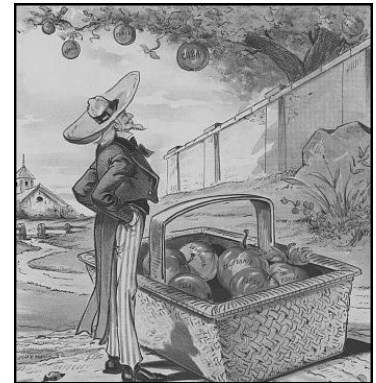
1846 map showing Texas.

Expanding Expectations

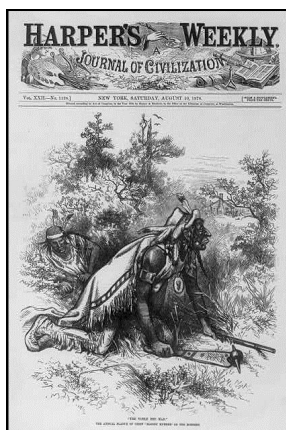
Up to this point, the U.S. had only added new territory by negotiating with European countries that controlled land nearby. One exception was Texas: There, American settlers had won independence from Mexico in 1836 and asked to become part of the United States. (This was probably what O’Sullivan imagined would happen elsewhere, too.) Texas became a state in 1845. By then, the American hunger for more territory had grown pretty intense. So had tensions between the U.S. and Mexico, who owned most of the land between the U.S. and the Pacific Ocean. President James Polk had his eye on this land when he took office in 1844, and he was determined to get it for America.

Okay, Maybe We Do Mean Taking Over

When the U.S. annexed Texas, Mexico was furious. The Mexican government felt that the U.S. had violated Mexico’s borders and taken its land. Even so, President Polk tried to buy additional land from Mexico, but Mexico wouldn’t sell. So Polk took advantage of the tension and started a war. The United States won. Mexico gave up what is now the southwestern United States—and many Mexicans living in that area lost their land to American settlers. At about the same time, America worked out a deal with Great Britain to get Oregon Territory, now the northwestern United States. By the end of the 1840s, the United States stretched from coast to coast. American settlers began pouring into the new western frontier.



1897 drawing shows Uncle Sam waiting for Cuba, Hawaii, Canada, and central America to fall. Florida, Louisiana, Texas, California, and Alaska are already in the basket.



1878 magazine cover shows Indians near a settler’s cabin, planning to commit “bloody murder.”

A Not-So-Civilized Attitude

Americans rolled into the west believing they were bringing civilization to an untamed land. But thousands of Native Americans already lived on that land in civilizations that had existed for centuries. Most Americans of the 1800s couldn’t appreciate that. They saw Native Americans as “uncivilized”—little better than wild animals. To make room for “civilization,” the U.S. kept moving native tribes out of the way to smaller and smaller areas. Native Americans either lost access to their traditional lands or saw those lands destroyed by mining, logging, and over-hunting. As America’s “manifest destiny” played out, the Native American way of life quickly disappeared.

Informal Assessment: Manifest Destiny, Modern Times, or Both?

Directions: After working through the reading pages with the class, write “Manifest Destiny,” “Modern Times,” and “Both” on the board. Tell the class you are going to read a series of beliefs. Students should decide whether each belief is more associated with Manifest Destiny, modern times, or both. (Point out, of course, that there are and were always exceptions.) Have the class respond as a group by responding out loud as a chorus. Watch or listen for wrong or mixed answers. Use each statement as a springboard for quick review/discussion before moving on.

1. America is a great nation. (B)
2. Liberty means everyone has the right to live free and not as a slave. (Modern)
3. Liberty and equality are important values. (B)
4. The more land the United States controls, the better. (MD)
5. Americans should be free to settle any area where the people are not civilized. (MD)
6. Equality means everyone should be treated equally regardless of race or color. (Modern)
7. It’s okay to take land from neighboring countries and make it part of the U.S. (MD)
8. America needs to be a strong nation so it can stand up to other nations. (B)
9. Native American cultures are valuable and should be preserved. (Modern)
10. Land that is left in its natural state is wasted land. (MD or B)

Informal Assessment: True or False?

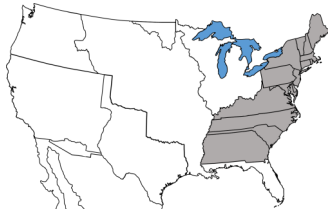
Directions: After working through the reading pages with the class, read each true/false statement out loud. Have the class respond as a group by showing thumbs-up for true or thumbs-down for false or by saying “true” or “false” as a chorus. Watch or listen for wrong or mixed answers.

1. The “manifest destiny” mindset existed before the phrase “manifest destiny” was ever used. (*T*)
2. The U.S. acquired all its territory peacefully from countries that wanted to sell land. (*F—some came from winning the Revolutionary War; some came after the Mexican-American war*)
3. “Manifest Destiny” is a phrase that comes from the U.S. Constitution. (*F—came from John O’Sullivan, who used it in an 1845 article about Texas annexation*)
4. “Manifest” means “many festivals.” (*F—“manifest” means obvious*)
5. The Louisiana Purchase doubled the size of the U.S. in 1803. (*T*)
6. People who supported manifest destiny generally believed the American way of life was superior to all others. (*T*)
7. In the 1840s, most Americans thought it would be greedy to expand across the whole continent. (*F—most Americans wanted the U.S. to spread over the continent*)
8. Mexico gave up a large part of its territory to the U.S. (*T*)
9. The issue of manifest destiny disappeared after the 1840s. (*F—see Uncle Sam cartoon from 1897*)
10. Most American settlers saw Native Americans as similar to wild animals. (*T*)

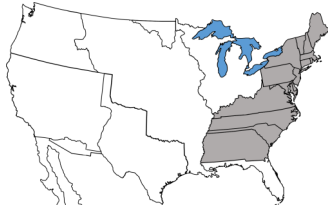
Manifest Destiny

Name: _____

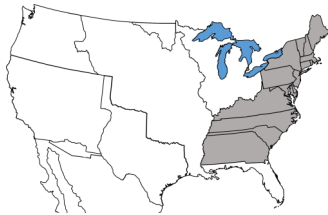
A. Expand That Land! Follow the directions below each map to see how the United States grew across the continent. On each map, shade both the new area AND all the areas you shaded before.



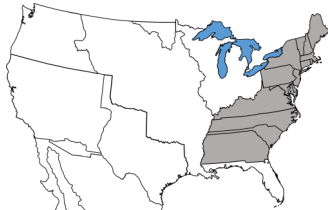
1783: When the Revolutionary War ended, Britain gave up territory to the U.S. **Shade** the area south of the Great Lakes and east of the Mississippi.



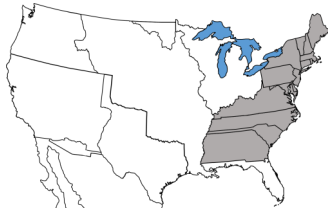
1803: The U.S. bought a huge area of land from France. **Shade** the large area that goes all the way from north to south. Don't shade that extra notch at the top!



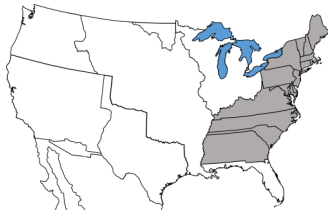
1818: Okay, now you can shade that extra little area at the top. The U.S. traded with Britain to get that land.



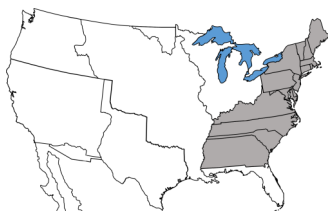
1819: The U.S. made a deal with Spain to get Florida. **Shade** Florida. (You might notice that today, some of that land is not in Florida.)



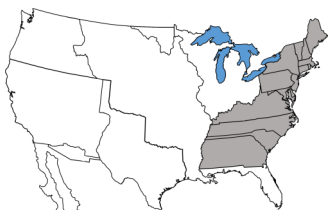
1845: Yee-haw! The U.S. annexed Texas. Back then, Texas claimed a bigger area than it has today. **Shade** the big blob that looks like Texas with a chimney.



1846: The U.S. settled a dispute with Britain and got the Oregon Territory. **Shade** the area in the northwest corner.

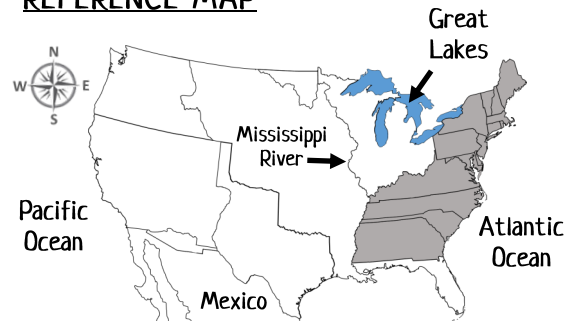


1848: After the Mexican-American war, Mexico gave up a million acres to the U.S. **Shade** the big area below the Oregon Territory. Do not shade that little slice on the Mexico border!



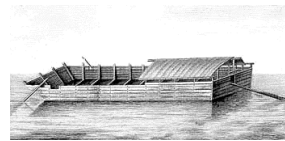
1853: Now you can shade that little slice on the Mexico border. The U.S. bought that area from Mexico. The sale was called the Gadsden Purchase.

REFERENCE MAP

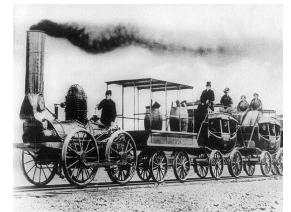
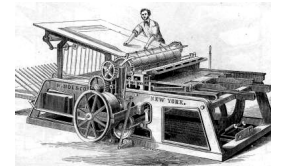


B. Technology, Ho! Why did the U.S. expand so quickly? One huge factor was technology! The first half of the 1800s saw huge advances in transportation and communication. Can you spot the changes? Draw lines to match the earlier and later images.

Before 1800...



By the 1850s...



Manifest Destiny

Name: _____

C. That 'Manifest Destiny' Attitude. Even before there was a name for it, people who believed in Manifest Destiny had a distinct way of thinking. Read the following excerpts and answer the questions.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America ... that for the purpose of providing against the further decline and final extinction of the Indian tribes ... and for introducing among them the habits and arts of civilization, the President of the United States ... is hereby authorized ... to employ capable persons of good moral character, to instruct them in the mode of agriculture suited to their situation; and for teaching their children in reading, writing, and arithmetic...

— from "An Act Making Provision for the Civilization of the Indian Tribes Adjoining the Frontier Settlements" (March 3, 1819)

What good man would prefer a country covered with forests and ranged by a few thousand savages to our extensive Republic, studded with cities, towns, and prosperous farms embellished with all the improvements which art can devise or industry execute, occupied by more than 12,000,000 happy people, and filled with all the blessings of liberty, civilization and religion?

— from President Andrew Jackson's Message to Congress 'On Indian Removal' (1830)

[T]he continent is ours... [A]ll the lines from the beginning have been converging toward this nation... [W]hen the choice seed was planted on these shores, it was in reality the great stride of the human race onward... [I]t is simply the plain sober fact that the forward thought of the world in civilization, in government, in liberty, in education and in religion is on this continent.

— from *The Home Missionary* (1867)

1. One word appears in all three excerpts. **Circle** it in each excerpt and write it on this line:

2. There are 12 words in the puzzle that describe things people valued. Use all three excerpts to help you find them!

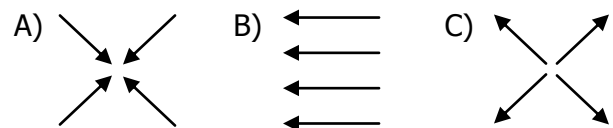
S	L	R	P	S	F	G	C	T	Q	M	C
L	T	Q	E	Z	M	I	P	R	I	I	T
I	B	N	V	L	T	R	U	A	V	P	N
B	U	F	E	I	I	B	A	I	R	O	E
E	G	H	E	M	D	G	L	F	I	D	M
R	C	S	E	L	E	I	I	T	K	U	N
T	V	J	I	I	Z	V	A	O	T	I	R
Y	H	Z	G	A	O	C	O	N	N	S	E
E	R	U	T	L	U	C	I	R	G	A	V
U	V	I	O	D	Q	O	N	X	P	L	O
K	O	A	E	S	N	W	O	T	I	M	G
N	I	N	D	U	S	T	R	Y	T	D	I

3. Based on what President Jackson *did* value, what do you think was his problem with "a country covered with forests"?

4. Does it sound like President Jackson had respect for Native Americans? Yes No

Box the evidence for your answer.

5. Which diagram shows lines "converging"?



6. Manifest Destiny was seen as progress. Underline two phrases in the *Home Missionary* excerpt that mean *progress*.

Manifest Destiny

Name: _____

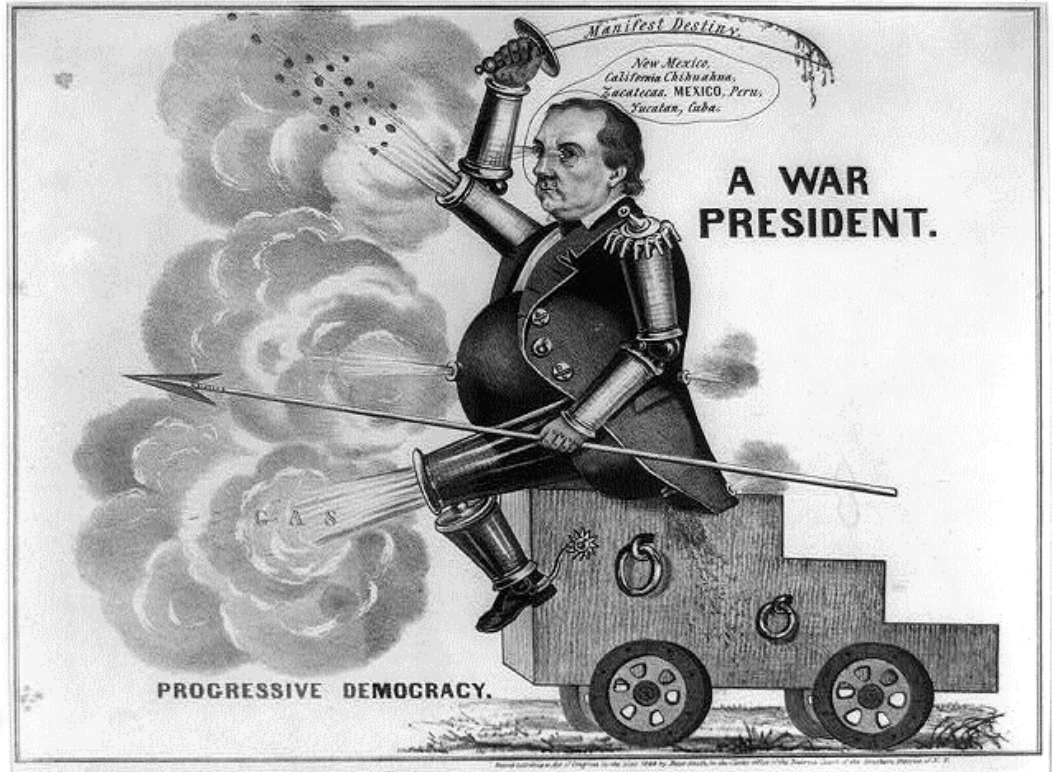
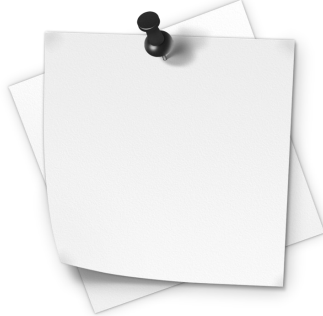
D. Spoils of War. In February 1848, the U.S. got a huge amount of land after winning a war with Mexico. Later in 1848, Americans would elect a new president—and not everyone agreed that war was a good way for the U.S. to grow. Take a look at this cartoon of presidential candidate Lewis Cass:

1. Circle the words Manifest Destiny.

What object is this phrase written on?

What is dripping off that object?

2. Describe what Cass's body is made from:



3. Look at what Cass is saying. List the places he mentions that you have heard of:

5. Political cartoons often exaggerate what a candidate believes. Read the list of Cass's views. Write **C** if the view **makes him seem like the person the cartoonist drew**. Write **X** if the view shows Cass wasn't necessarily out to take over the world.

- _____ He thought the U.S. should have all of Oregon Territory even if it meant war with Britain.
- _____ He hoped the U.S. could someday annex Canada, but only if the people living there agreed.
- _____ He believed the war with Mexico should continue until the U.S. conquered all of Mexico.
- _____ He believed the U.S. was at risk if other European nations controlled territory in North America.
- _____ He thought Great Britain's power in the world could too easily threaten the United States.
- _____ He supported taking military control of Yucatan when that country was having problems.

4. Complete this sentence:

The cartoonist wants people to think Cass would _____

_____ if he became president.

Now, find 3 pieces of evidence in the cartoon to back up your answer. Draw an arrow to each part of the cartoon you are using as evidence. Label the arrows #1, #2, and #3.

Manifest Destiny

Name: _____

E. American Progress. This painting by John Gast was done in 1872. It is called "American Progress." Study the image and answer the questions.



1. Circle each kind of transportation you see the settlers using.
2. Put a box around the group of miners.
3. Draw an arrow pointing to the farmers.
4. Find the Native Americans. What does it look like they are doing?

5. Think of two words to describe the Native Americans' emotions. Explain how you can tell:

Emotion	How can you tell?

6. Find any wild animals. What do they have in common with the way the Native Americans are portrayed in this painting?

7. Look at the woman in the sky. What is her role in this scene? Add a speech bubble and have her explain what she is doing.
8. Add one thing to the painting that *modern* Americans would build or do if they were settling today!



Modern Manifest Destiny?

BALLOT

Yes — Manifest Destiny still exists today.
Here's an example:

No — Manifest Destiny does not exist today.
Here's what's different:

Modern Manifest Destiny?

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Manifest Destiny

Name: ** *TEACHER GUIDE* **

A. Expand That Land! Follow the directions below each map to see how the United States grew across the continent. On each map, shade both the new area AND all the areas you shaded before.

**** Note:** Map areas show the general land acquisitions and do not include all details.



1783: When the Revolutionary War ended, Britain gave up territory to the U.S. **Shade** the area south of the Great Lakes and east of the Mississippi.



1803: The U.S. bought a huge area of land from France. **Shade** the large area that goes all the way from north to south. Don't shade that extra notch at the top!



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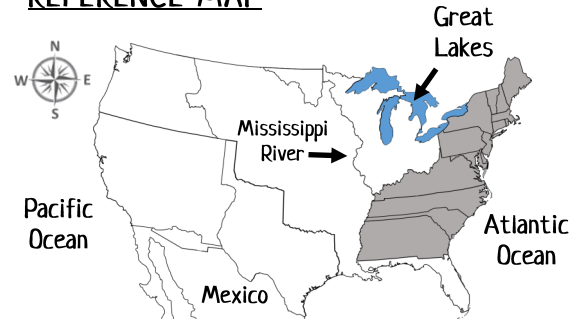


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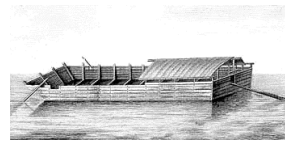
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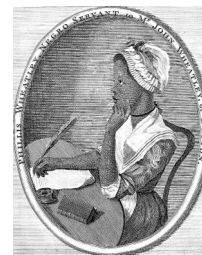


B. Technology, Ho! Why did the U.S. expand so quickly? One huge factor was technology! The first half of the 1800s saw huge advances in transportation and communication. Can you spot the changes? Draw lines to match the earlier and later images.

Before 1800...



flatboat—river travel



letter—long-distance communication

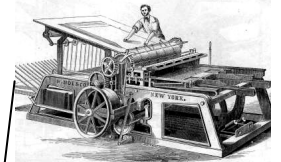


horseback—long distance travel

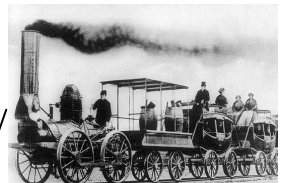


printing press—1780s

By the 1850s...



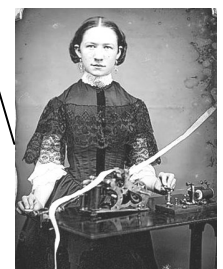
printing press—1850s



railroad—long distance travel



steamboat—river travel



telegraph

Manifest Destiny

Name: ** *TEACHER GUIDE* **

C. That 'Manifest Destiny' Attitude. Even before there was a name for it, people who believed in Manifest Destiny had a distinct way of thinking. Read the following excerpts and answer the questions.

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- One word appears in all three excerpts. Circle it in each excerpt and write it on this line:

civilization

- There are 12 words in the puzzle that describe things people valued. Use all three excerpts to help you find them!

- agriculture
- cities
- towns
- farms
- improvements
- art
- industry
- liberty
- civilization
- religion
- government
- education

S	L	R	P	S	F	G	C	T	Q	M	C
L	T	Q	E	Z	M	I	P	R	I	I	T
I	B	N	V	L	T	R	U	A	V	P	N
B	U	F	E	I	I	B	A	I	R	O	E
E	G	H	E	M	D	G	L	F	I	D	M
R	C	S	E	L	E	I	I	T	K	U	N
T	V	J	I	I	Z	V	A	O	T	I	R
Y	H	Z	G	A	O	C	O	N	N	S	E
E	R	U	T	L	U	C	I	R	G	A	V
U	V	I	O	D	Q	O	N	X	P	L	O
K	O	A	E	S	N	W	O	T	I	M	G
N	I	N	D	U	S	T	R	Y	T	D	I

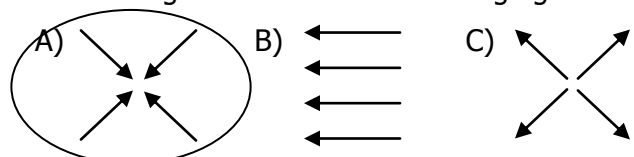
- Based on what President Jackson *did* value, what do you think was his problem with "a country covered with forests"?

He valued cities, towns, and improvements,
which are the activities of people. He probably
didn't like a country covered with forests because
he saw that as a sign there was no human
activity (progress) happening.

- Does it sound like President Jackson had respect for Native Americans? Yes No

Box the evidence for your answer.

- Which diagram shows lines "converging"?



- Manifest Destiny was seen as progress. Underline two phrases in the *Home Missionary* excerpt that mean *progress*.

Manifest Destiny

Name: ** *TEACHER GUIDE* **

D. Spoils of War. In February 1848, the U.S. got a huge amount of land after winning a war with Mexico. Later in 1848, Americans would elect a new president—and not everyone agreed that war was a good way for the U.S. to grow. Take a look at this cartoon of presidential candidate Lewis Cass:

1. Circle the words Manifest Destiny.

What object is this phrase written on?

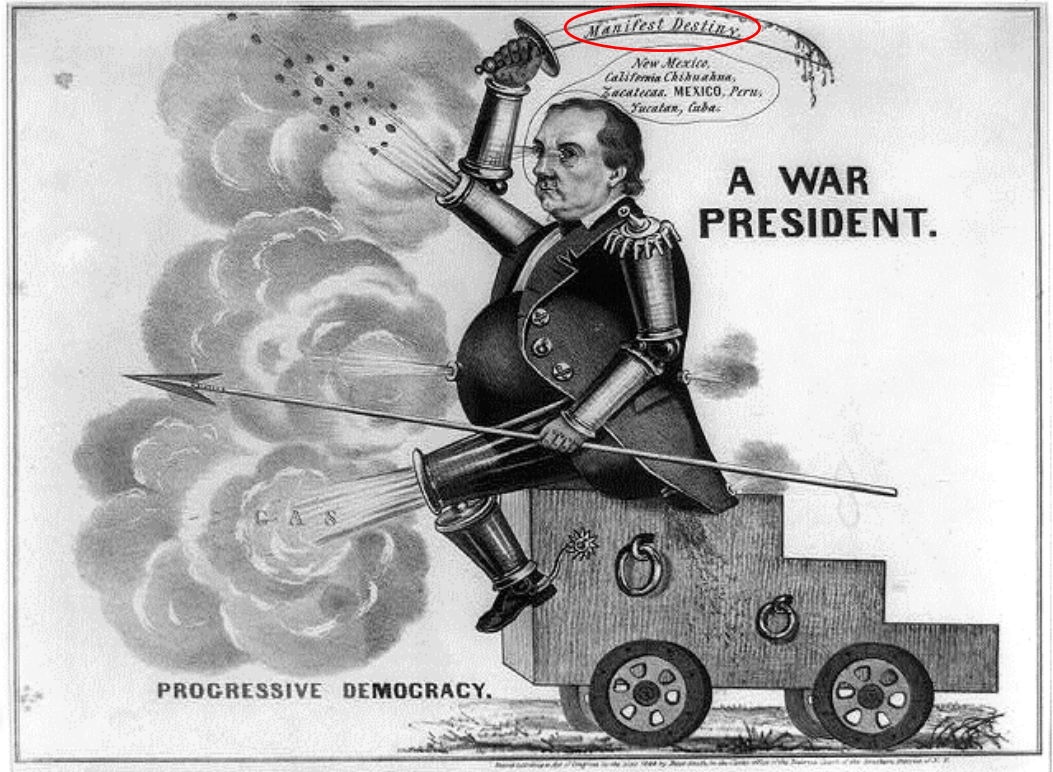
sword/saber

What is dripping off that object?

blood

2. Describe what Cass's body is made from:

cannons, guns, bombs, metal parts, weapons, etc.



3. Look at what Cass is saying. List the places he mentions that you have heard of:

answers will vary

4. Complete this sentence:

The cartoonist wants people to think Cass would

go to war to take over other countries

_____ if he became president.

Now, find 3 pieces of evidence in the cartoon to back up your answer. Draw an arrow to each part of the cartoon you are using as evidence. Label the arrows #1, #2, and #3.

5. Political cartoons often exaggerate what a candidate believes. Read the list of Cass's views. Write **C** if the view **makes him seem like the person the cartoonist drew**. Write **X** if the view shows Cass wasn't necessarily out to take over the world.

- C He thought the U.S. should have all of Oregon Territory even if it meant war with Britain.
- X He hoped the U.S. could someday annex Canada, but only if the people living there agreed. *(he didn't want expansion at any cost)*
- C He believed the war with Mexico should continue until the U.S. conquered all of Mexico.
- X He believed the U.S. was at risk if other European nations controlled territory in North America. *(he saw expansion as nat'l security issue)*
- X He thought Great Britain's power in the world could too easily threaten the United States. *(again, he saw expansion as nat'l security issue)*
- C He supported taking military control of Yucatan when that country was having problems.

Manifest Destiny

Name: ** *TEACHER GUIDE* **

E. American Progress. This painting by John Gast was done in 1872. It is called "American Progress." Study the image and answer the questions.



I am guiding the way for the settlers. [Accept any reasonable answers]

1. Circle each kind of transportation you see the settlers using. *Stagecoach, covered wagon, railroad, horseback, boats/ships, walking*
2. Put a box around the group of miners.
3. Draw an arrow pointing to the farmers.
4. Find the Native Americans. What does it look like they are doing?

It looks like they are running away.

5. Think of two words to describe the Native Americans' emotions. Explain how you can tell:

Emotion	How can you tell?
	<i>Accept any reasonable answers</i>

6. Find any wild animals. What do they have in common with the way the Native Americans are portrayed in this painting?

They also seem to be running from the settlers. [wild animals have a star]

7. Look at the woman in the sky. What is her role in this scene? Add a speech bubble and have her explain what she is doing.
8. Add one thing to the painting that *modern* Americans would build or do if they were settling today!

