

Name: _____

Class: _____

Date: _____

Humanities December Break Homework

Directions:

1. Read and **annotate** the attached article to prepare for our next unit.
2. Answer the **multiple choice** questions.
3. **Summarize** the article in one full paragraph. Be sure to:
 - a. Include a **topic sentence**
 - b. Use two directly cited **quotes**
 - c. **Analyze** EACH quote
 - d. Include a **concluding sentence**

Manifest Destiny: The idea behind America's westward expansion

The phrase Manifest Destiny was first used in 1845. It described the idea that the United States would settle and control most of the North American continent. The idea helped drive the country's westward expansion.

Louisiana Purchase

The U.S. population exploded in the first half of the 19th century. It jumped from about 5 million people in 1800 to more than 23 million by 1850.

Millions of Americans looked westward in search of new land and new opportunities.

In 1803, President Thomas Jefferson completed the Louisiana Purchase.

This land deal with France added some 828,000 square miles to American control. It basically doubled the young country's territory. Jefferson also

sponsored the western expedition of Lewis and Clark in 1805-07. This mission gave Americans a better understanding of what and who lay west of the Mississippi River.

Texas Independence

Texas became a battleground as U.S. settlement pushed westward. In 1821, Mexico had won its independence from Spain. Mexico's control of much of the west put the United States and Mexico on a collision course.

Texas settlers won independence from Mexico in 1836. Their new leaders aspired to have Texas join the United States. Presidents Andrew Jackson and then Martin Van Buren resisted such calls, however. They wanted to avoid war with Mexico over the territory. They also faced political opposition from anti-slavery groups. These groups believed calls for annexation were part of an effort to expand slavery into Texas.

In 1840, John Tyler won the presidency. He moved forward with plans for adding Texas as a new state, though many lawmakers opposed it. However, the pro-annexation candidate James K. Polk won the 1844 election. Tyler then pushed the bill through Congress before he left office.

The Coining of "Manifest Destiny"

Texas gained statehood in 1845. By that time, the idea had taken hold that the United States would control territory all the way to the Pacific Ocean. A majority of Americans now accepted the march westward as a certainty.

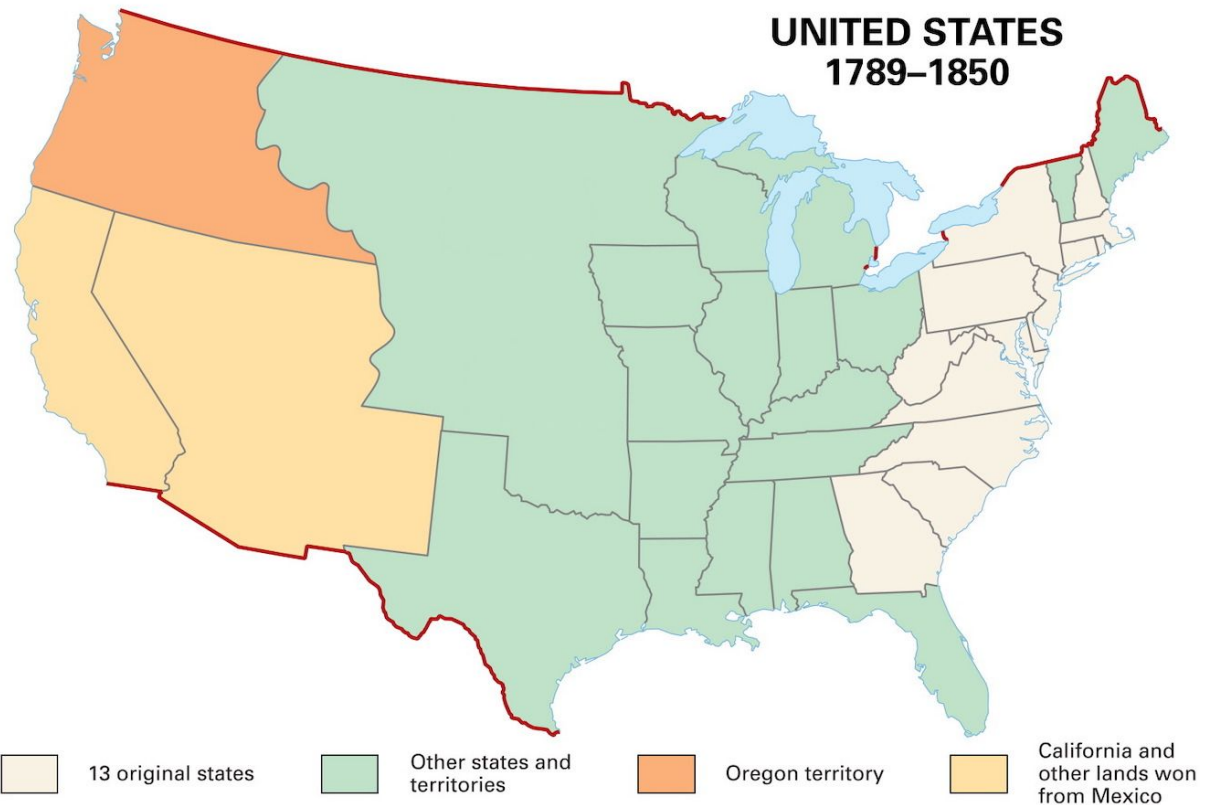


Image 2. Locator map of the United States (The Nation's Westward Advance). Photo by: Encyclopaedia Britannica/UiG via Getty Images

"Manifest Destiny" became an expression of this idea. The phrase first appeared in newspapers in 1845. The writer urged "the fulfillment of our manifest destiny to overspread the continent ... for the free development of our yearly multiplying millions." Writer and editor John O'Sullivan is widely credited with creating the phrase. He suggested God had made the land for Americans to own and control.

Oregon Territory

By the 1840s, the Oregon Territory had become a fresh point of conflict. An 1842 treaty between Great Britain and the United States had partially

decided where to draw the Canadian border. However, it left open the question of the Oregon Territory. This vast region included what is today Oregon, Idaho, Washington State and most of Canada's British Columbia.

President Polk was a big supporter of Manifest Destiny. As president, though, Polk was more concerned with acquiring California from Mexico. In mid-1846, his administration agreed to a compromise with the British. Oregon was split along the 49th parallel, narrowly avoiding war with Britain.

Impact of Manifest Destiny

American relations with Mexico were a different story. In 1846, President Polk and his supporters launched an all-out war with Mexico. Many Americans opposed U.S. military actions, seeing them as a land grab.

An 1848 treaty ended the war. The American victory added 525,000 square miles to U.S. control. It included all or parts of what is now California, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah and Wyoming.

Manifest Destiny might have described a lofty ideal. However, it came with a high price for those who stood in its way. It left thousands of Americans and Mexicans dead in the war. Many Native American nations and

Hispanic landowners were treated brutally. They were driven from their lands by white settlers backed by U.S. soldiers.

U.S. expansion also fueled the debate over slavery. It raised the question of whether new states in the west should allow slavery or not. It eventually led to the bloodiest war in U.S. history—the Civil War.

1. What caused Thomas Jefferson to complete the Louisiana Purchase?
(A) The growing population meant many people wanted to move west.
(B) The expedition of Lewis and Clark found the Mississippi River.
(C) The people living there had won their independence from Spain.
(D) The bill supporting it was pushed through by Polk and Tyler.

2. What is the relationship between the Oregon Territory and California?
(A) Both territories were opposed by many Americans who saw them as a greedy grab for land.
(B) Both territories had to be taken through agreements between the United States and Mexico.
(C) The Oregon Territory was settled with a compromise, while the United States went to war over California.
(D) The Oregon Territory was a small piece of land, while California included Washington and Idaho.

3. Read the paragraph from the section "Texas Independence." Texas settlers won independence from Mexico in 1836. Their new leaders aspired to have Texas join the United States. Presidents Andrew Jackson and then Martin Van Buren resisted such calls, however. They wanted to avoid war with Mexico over the territory. They also faced political opposition from anti-slavery groups. These groups

believed calls for annexation were part of an effort to expand slavery into Texas.

Which phrase from the paragraph helps the reader understand the meaning of "annexation"?

- (A) won independence
- (B) join the United States
- (C) wanted to avoid war
- (D) faced political opposition

4. Read the selection from the section "Impact Of Manifest Destiny." However, it came with a high price for those who stood in its way. It left thousands of Americans and Mexicans dead in the war. Many Native American nations and Hispanic landowners were treated brutally. They were driven from their lands by white settlers backed by U.S. soldiers.

What is the meaning of the phrase "high price" as it is used in this selection?

- (A) simple answers
- (B) quick and happy sale
- (C) profit from a cash deal
- (D) large amount of suffering