

Westward Expansion



Vocab List

- ◇ Every unit, you will have a vocab list and a vocab quiz. (On Website)
- ◇ These words will go with the unit and will be beneficial for you to know.
- ◇ The greater a person's vocabulary, the more intelligent they are.



The Main Idea

- ◇ Following the Civil War, the population of the United States began to expand westward into the great untapped frontier.

Territorial Expansion of U.S.

- ◇ 1803: Louisiana Purchase
- ◇ 1845: Texas
- ◇ 1848: Mexican-American War: Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, Wyoming, California, Nevada, and Utah
- ◇ By 1850, America gains the Oregon Territory



Factors That Contributed to the Settlement of the West

1. Manifest Destiny
2. Gold Discovered in California
3. Homestead Act of 1862
4. Transcontinental Railroad
5. The American Dream

Manifest Destiny

- ◇ The belief that it was America's mission to expand from ocean to ocean, spreading democracy and freedom
 - Americans believed it was their God-given duty to conquer the Western territories and unify the Nation
 - The west was viewed as the great untapped Frontier

California Gold Rush



- ◇ Gold was discovered in California in 1848.
- ◇ West becomes the land of opportunity
- ◇ This caused many people who wanted to get rich to move west in search of a fortune.
- ◇ This caused towns to pop up in the Western half of the United States.

The Homestead Act

20X/8
Feb 2/869

Nebraska,
The Garden of the West.

50 MILLION ACRES
OF
GRAIN & GRAZING LAND,

Offered to actual settlers only, for \$1.25 per acre outside of Railroad Land Grant Limits; or \$2.50 per acre inside of such limits, under the pre-emption law, or a

Homestead

Of 80 acres inside of Railroad limits, and of 160 acres outside, for \$18.00 all told.

I can testify to this

that would be like

- ◇ Gave free land in the West for people to settle on provided they lived there for five years.

Transcontinental Railroad

- ◇ Pacific Railway Act → 1862 → Authorized the building of the Transcontinental Railroad.
- ◇ Would link the economies and the country from East & West.