# Westward Expansion

### Vocab List

Output Service Service A service 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

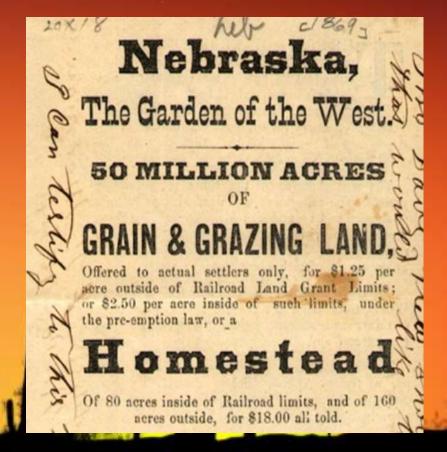
The west was viewed as the great untapped Frontier

# California Gold Rush

- Gold was discovered in California in <u>1848.</u>
- 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



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.