Westward Expansion Before the Civil War

Timeline Cards
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### Illustration and Photo Credits

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<td>Boone’s First View of Kentucky, 1849 (oil on canvas), Ranney, William Tylee (1813–57)</td>
<td>Dustin Mackay</td>
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<td>Card 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Battle of Tippecanoe, pub. 1889 (hand coloured litho), American School, (19th century)</td>
<td>Dustin Mackay</td>
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<td>Portrait of Osceola (1804–38) (oil on canvas), Catlin, George (1796–1872)</td>
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Introduction

As early as c. 30,000–c. 15,000 BCE, people lived as hunter-gatherers in North America.
Introduction

Over a period of thousands of years, as the ice sheets melted, people spread out over the land and settled on it.
In 1607 CE, England established its first permanent colony in North America at Jamestown, in what would become Virginia.
Introduction

In 1776, during the American Revolution, the thirteen English colonies declared their independence from Great Britain.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.
In 1769, after years of searching, Daniel Boone and his companions came upon the Cumberland Gap, which led through the Appalachian Mountains. The trail that later developed through this pass and westward was called the Wilderness Trail.

**Big Question:** What were some of the reasons why so many people wanted to move west?
In 1804, Lewis and Clark set out to explore the Louisiana Territory.

**Big Question:** How might Lewis and Clark’s expedition and findings have helped the United States government?
CHAPTER 2: Exploring the Louisiana Territory

Big Question: How might Lewis and Clark’s expedition and findings have helped the United States government?

In 1805, Sacagawea joined the Lewis and Clark “Corps of Discovery” to assist in translating and communicating with Native Americans.
CHAPTER 3: Native Americans Resist

From 1811–1813, the Shawnee chief Tecumseh tried unsuccessfully to unite Native American nations to battle settlers as they pushed further westward and occupied the lands inhabited by the Native Americans.

**Big Question:** Why was it a struggle for Native Americans to hold onto their land?
In 1811, the brother of Shawnee chief Tecumseh led a Shawnee attack that started the Battle of Tippecanoe. The Shawnee were defeated by the U.S. Army, sent by Governor Harrison.

**Big Question:** Why was it a struggle for Native Americans to hold onto their land?
In 1807, Robert Fulton’s steamboat, the Clermont, made the trip from New York City to Albany much faster than a horse-drawn wagon could.

Big Question:
What were the advantages of traveling by steamboat rather than by stagecoach?
The opening of the Erie Canal in 1825 led to a significant increase in trade, with much cheaper shipping costs.

**Big Question:** What drove the need for better forms of transportation?
 Though early railroad travel was sometimes a challenge, travel by rail became increasingly popular during the 1830s–1840s, thanks to the decrease in travel time.

**Big Question:** What drove the need for better forms of transportation?
In 1836, Osceola, an influential leader in the Seminole tribe, led the resistance against advances by the U.S. Army in Florida. He was taken prisoner in 1837 and died a year later.
CHAPTER 6: Land, Land, and More Land

Big Question: What was Manifest Destiny?

From 1838–1839, thousands of Native Americans died as they were forced to walk to western Indian Territory along the Trail of Tears.
In 1836, Mexican general Santa Anna led an attack against the Texas rebels who sought shelter in the Alamo, an abandoned Spanish mission. All of the Alamo’s defenders were killed.

**Big Question:** What was the main reason the Texans and the Mexicans went to war against each other?
In 1836, Texans declared their independence from Mexico. However, it was not until General Sam Houston defeated General Santa Anna and his troops at the Battle of San Jacinto months later that Mexico promised to withdraw its army.

**Big Question:** What was the main reason the Texans and the Mexicans went to war against each other?
CHAPTER 8: Oregon

Big Question: Why did settlers set off for Oregon, and what was different about the way they moved west along the Oregon Trail?

During the 1840s–1850s, wagon trains on the Oregon Trail snaked their way across the landscape.
In 1846–1847, America waged war with Mexico to take over Mexican land, including most of present-day California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, and large parts of present-day Wyoming, New Mexico, and Colorado.

**Big Question:** Why did President Polk seek to gain land that belonged to Mexico?
CHAPTER 10: Settling the Far West

Big Question: How do the experiences of the Mormons who moved west compare with those of the people who flocked to California?

The Mormons moved west to escape religious persecution. In 1847, they founded the “City of Saints” in Utah, known today as Salt Lake City.
CHAPTER 10: Settling the Far West

Big Question: How do the experiences of the Mormons who moved west compare with those of the people who flocked to California?

Many people went to California during the gold rush of 1848–1849.