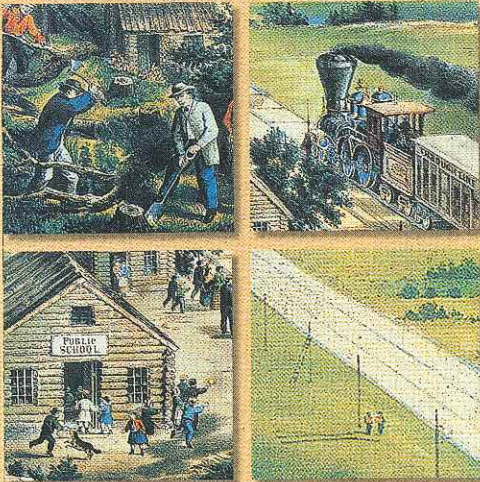
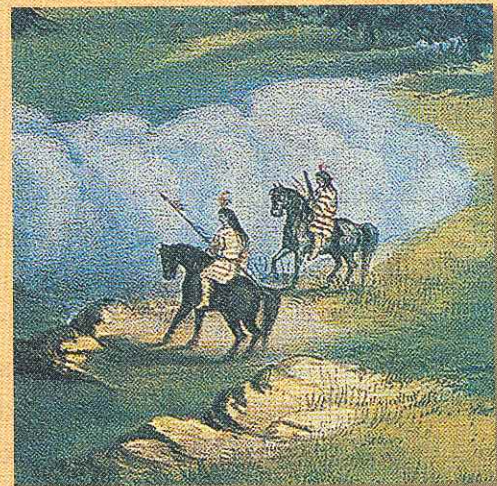




The Granger Collection, New York



What changes did settlers bring to the West in the early 1800s?



What might these people already living in the West be thinking about the changes?

Manifest Destiny and Settling the West

16

How did the expansion of the United States affect people inside and outside the country?

16.1 Introduction

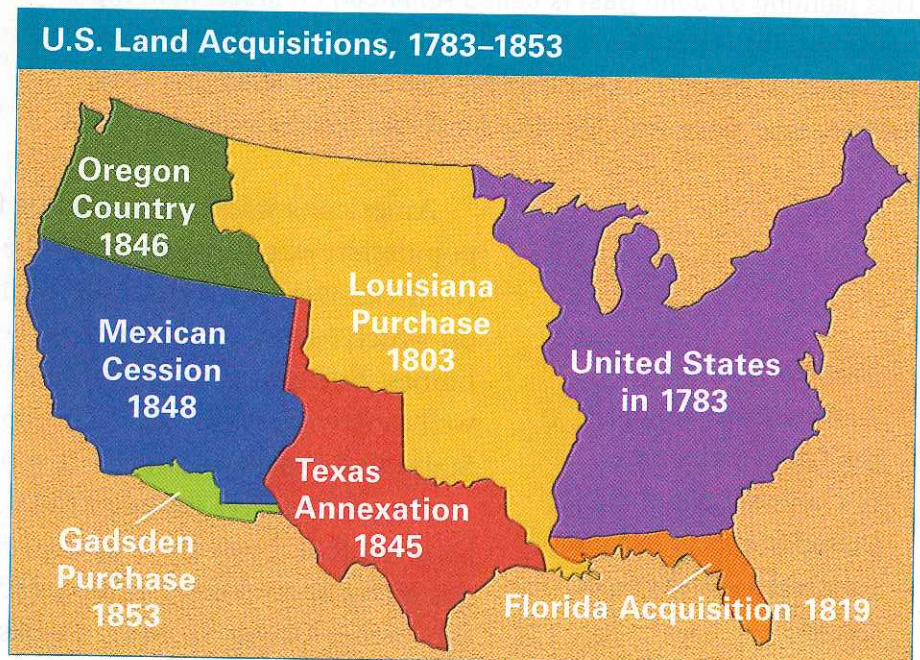
In Chapter 15, you learned how leaders of the young nation added the Bill of Rights to the Constitution to protect the rights and freedoms of Americans. At that time, the United States stretched from the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi River. In this chapter, you will read about how the United States spread west across North America by taking control of **territories**, or large regions of land.

In the 1800s, the lands west of the Mississippi River were claimed by several nations. Many Americans wanted these lands. Some people believed that it was their natural right to take these territories for the United States. They said that expanding westward was the nation's fate.

American leaders used a variety of methods to **annex**, or add, territory to the United States. Sometimes they bought land. Sometimes they made agreements with other countries for land. One time, the United States was able to add land after fighting a war.

Many Americans thought that expanding the United States was good for the country. But as you will see, it was not good for everyone.

The map to the right shows the United States' **acquisitions**, or lands gained, between 1783 and 1853. As you read this chapter, look back at this map. How did the United States gain control of each territory? What happened to the people who already lived there?



16.2 The United States in 1783

When the American Revolution ended in 1783, the original 13 colonies along the Atlantic Coast became the United States. The new nation also gained most of the land that stretched from the colonies to the Mississippi River, which had previously been under British control. Soon, more settlers began moving west



This painting by John Gast is called *American Progress*. In it, the United States is portrayed as a woman. She floats west toward her manifest destiny. She brings the railroad and telegraph lines. Settlers also move with her. The American Indians seem to retreat.

manifest destiny

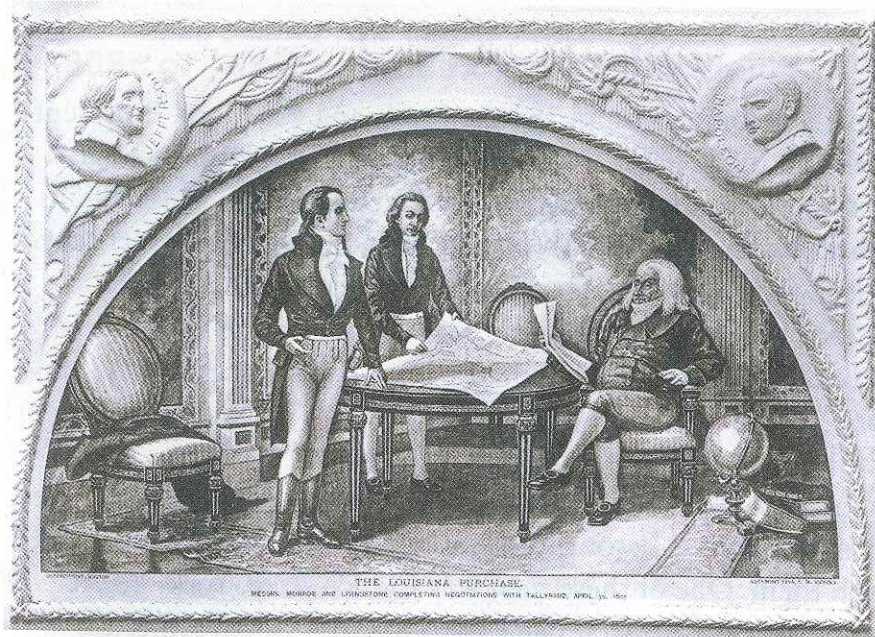
an American belief in the 1800s that it was the natural right of the United States to expand westward to the Pacific Ocean

into this territory, where only American Indians had lived before. Some settlers wanted to go even farther, across the Mississippi River.

Several nations claimed territories that Americans wanted for themselves. In the Southeast, Spain controlled Florida. France claimed much of the land west of the Mississippi River. Farther west, first Spain and then Mexico controlled huge territories. These territories included the places we know today as Texas, the Southwest, and California. Great Britain still claimed large areas in the Northwest. These included the present-day states of Oregon and Washington. Russia claimed a part of the Northwest, too.

Americans wanted these lands for many reasons. The U.S. population was growing, partly because people from other countries were moving to the United States. Settlers wanted land on which to live and farm. They wanted to work and to build homes. Businesses wanted resources, like wood and minerals, as well as new places to sell their goods. Leaders wanted the United States to be strong—and safe from attacks by other countries.

Americans were proud of their new country. Many Americans believed that it was their natural right to spread their religions, government, and ways of life westward across North America to the Pacific Ocean. In 1845, a newspaper writer called this idea the **manifest destiny** of the United States.



In this scene, James Monroe (left) and Robert Livingston (center) discuss the Louisiana Purchase with French statesman Charles Talleyrand (right).

16.3 Louisiana Purchase (1803)

The first land added to the nation was the Louisiana Purchase of 1803. The United States bought most of the land between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains from France.

This was important because Americans had interests in this area. People shipped goods down the Mississippi River to the port city of New Orleans. From there, ships took goods to the Atlantic Coast. This was easier and cheaper than moving goods by land over the Appalachian Mountains.

But New Orleans was controlled by France. To ensure that Americans could move their goods, President Thomas Jefferson wanted to buy New Orleans. He was willing to pay up to \$10 million for the port city.

At this time, France feared a possible war with Great Britain. The French needed money for their army. And they were ready to give up their claims in North America. They surprised Jefferson by offering to sell all of the Louisiana Territory for \$15 million. American representatives James Monroe and Robert Livingston agreed to the sale. This land doubled the size of the nation.

But the Louisiana Purchase was not good for everyone, especially American Indians. For years, settlers had wanted to push American Indians westward. Now, there was a place to put them. In the 1830s, the U.S. government forced several tribes from their homelands in the South. Thousands of Choctaws, Creeks, Chickasaws, and Cherokees had to move onto **reservations** in what is now Oklahoma. Many starved, froze to death, or died from diseases on the brutal trip west.

reservation an area of land set aside by the United States government for American Indians to live on

expedition a group of people sent to explore unknown places

16.4 Lewis and Clark Expedition (1804 to 1806)

Shortly before he completed the Louisiana Purchase, President Jefferson made plans for an **expedition** to explore the huge territory. Two former soldiers, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, led the group. They would map the Louisiana Territory. They would also look for a Northwest Passage to the Pacific Ocean. Jefferson asked them to take notes on the soil, plants, animals, and American Indian tribes that they came across in their travels. He also wanted the explorers to scout locations for trading posts and settlements.

In May 1804, Lewis and Clark started up the Missouri River from St. Louis, Missouri. They took more than 40 other men with them. One of these men was Clark's slave, York. York would become the first black man to cross North America.

As the expedition moved along the Missouri, the men found high, cold plateaus. The explorers spent the winter with a group of American Indians, the Mandans, in what is now North Dakota.

There, Lewis and Clark met Sacagawea (sah-keh-jeh-WEE-uh), a young Shoshone woman. The next year, she joined the group as they crossed the Rocky Mountains and struggled through early snows. She helped them speak with tribes they met along the way. The group followed the Snake and Columbia rivers, finally reaching the Pacific Ocean in November 1805.

On their return journey, Lewis and Clark mapped two more routes across the Rocky Mountains. In 1806, they returned as heroes. Now settlers could move even farther west.

This painting shows members of Lewis and Clark's expedition. The woman is Sacagawea. To her right is Meriwether Lewis, and then William Clark. York, Clark's African slave, is to Clark's right.





16.5 Florida Acquisition (1819)

In the early 1800s, most of the land we know today as Florida was under Spanish rule. Americans in the Southeast wanted this land. Slave owners in Georgia were angry because some slaves were escaping to Florida. Often, the runaways hid with the Seminoles, a tribe of American Indians. Some runaway slaves even became members of the tribe.

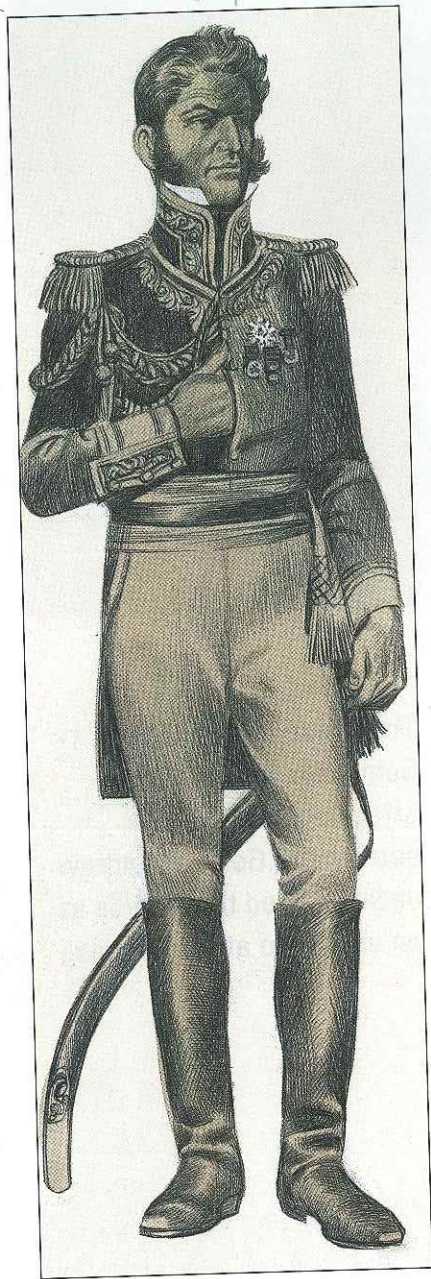
Also upsetting were the raids, or attacks, by the Seminoles on settlements in Georgia. The Seminoles made these raids out of fear that the white settlers would eventually attack them.

In 1817, General Andrew Jackson marched his army into Florida. He ended the Seminole raids. And he captured two Spanish forts, including the one at Pensacola, the capital of Spanish Florida. President James Monroe did not fully support General Jackson's actions. But Monroe wanted Florida and he did not stop Jackson.

Spain soon realized that it could not defend its land from U.S. attacks. In 1819, Spain agreed to give Florida to the United States. In return, the United States agreed to give \$5 million to the settlers in payment for slaves lost and property damaged in the Seminole raids.

Within 10 years, many Americans had moved to Florida. The U.S. government ordered the Seminoles to leave, but many refused. The tribe fought one more war against the United States before most of its members were either killed or forced to move to the West.

This painting shows Seminoles from Florida attacking a Georgia settlement. General Andrew Jackson used these raids as an excuse to attack Florida.



Santa Anna led his 7,000 Mexican troops in an attack on 200 Texans and Americans at the Alamo.

16.6 Texas Annexation (1845)

In the early 1800s, Spain ruled Mexico and most of what are now the southwestern and western parts of the United States. In 1821, Mexico gained its independence from Spain and took control of this land. Part of the region was known as Texas.

Many of the people in Texas were American Indians, including Apaches and Comanches. The Mexican government wanted more settlers in Texas who would raise crops and animals, pay taxes, and follow the Catholic religion. Mexican officials offered free land in Texas to Americans. The settlers had to promise to obey Mexican laws and to become Catholic.

By 1830, about 16,000 white Americans lived in Texas. They outnumbered the Mexicans. Soon, tensions grew between the settlers and the Mexican government. One issue was slavery. Mexico had outlawed slavery, but many of the American settlers owned slaves. Mexico allowed settlers to own some slaves in Texas. But the American slave owners worried that Mexico might one day free the slaves. Another issue was that most of the settlers wanted Texas to join the United States. Many settlers did not even speak Spanish. Mexico passed a law to stop more Americans from settling in Texas.

In 1833, a group of settlers asked the Mexican government to allow Texas to have its own government. Stephen Austin, who had been a loyal Mexican citizen, gave the group's message to the government. The Mexican government angrily refused.

By 1835, groups of Texans and Mexican soldiers were fighting. In 1836, Texas declared independence. In response, the president of Mexico, Antonio López de Santa Anna, led an army into Texas. He planned to punish the American settlers for trying to break away from Mexico.

When the Mexican army reached the town of San Antonio, Santa Anna found fewer than 200 Texans and other Americans who had come to help them. These men took a stand at an old mission, or church, called the Alamo. Santa Anna demanded that they give up. They replied by firing a cannonball. "Victory or death!" was their message.

For more than 10 days, the small group fought off Santa Anna's large army. Then, the Mexicans climbed the walls and took over the Alamo. Nearly all the Americans were killed, including Jim Bowie and Davy Crockett, two famous pioneers.

During the battle at the Alamo, a group of Texans met in another town and organized a temporary government. They appointed Sam Houston to lead the Texas army.



Dan Mieduch

Six weeks later, in April 1836, General Houston led more than 800 Texans in a surprise attack against Santa Anna's army at San Jacinto. The Texans charged the Mexican troops, shouting, "Remember the Alamo!" They won the battle and captured Santa Anna. The Texans let him go when he promised to give Texas its independence.

Texans approved a new constitution for the Republic of Texas. They chose Houston as their president. For nine years, Texas ruled itself. Its flag showed one white star on a red, white, and blue background. People called Texas the Lone Star Republic. Some Mexicans moved away to Catholic, Spanish-speaking Mexico. Others stayed on to marry and do business with American Texans. They worked in the government. But, in time, most of the Mexicans lost their lands and government positions.

Many Texans still wanted the United States to annex Texas. U.S. President John Tyler agreed. In 1845, Congress made Texas the 28th state.

Mexican troops fought and killed a group of Texans at the Alamo. Six weeks later, Sam Houston led Texans against Santa Anna's Mexican army. The Texans yelled, "Remember the Alamo!" as they attacked. They defeated the Mexicans.



The Granger Collection, New York

Oregon City was just south of Portland, on the Willamette River. This city was the capital of Oregon Country until 1852.

boundary the geographic line between two places, such as two countries

16.7 Acquisition of Oregon Country (1846)

From the early 1800s, Americans had dreamed that their nation would control the territory called Oregon Country. This northwestern area included the present-day states of Washington and Oregon, as well as parts of other states and western Canada. For years, Oregon Country had been occupied by both Great Britain and the United States. To the north of this region, Russia controlled Alaska.

In 1844, James Polk was elected president of the United States. He promised to take control of all of Oregon Country, from the northern border of California to the southern edge of Alaska. This area's northern **boundary** was deep in British-controlled territory. The boundary was located at latitude $54^{\circ}40'$ north. Polk's supporters demanded, "Fifty-four forty or fight!"

Neither Great Britain nor the United States wanted to fight a war over Oregon Country. Great Britain knew that the southern part of the territory already contained more Americans than British and Canadians. Besides, most of the British in the area trapped beavers or traded beaver furs. By the mid-1840s, few beavers were left.

In 1846, Great Britain agreed to a boundary drawn at latitude 49° north. It reached from the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Ocean. The British gave up any land claims south of this line.

The lives of American Indians in Oregon Country soon began to change for the worse. By 1850, Congress was giving away tribal lands to American settlers. The settlers took American Indian hunting lands and turned them into farms and ranches. For many years, there were wars between American Indians and U.S. settlers and soldiers. But in time, most tribes were forced onto reservations.

16.8 Mexican Cession (1848) and Gadsden Purchase (1853)

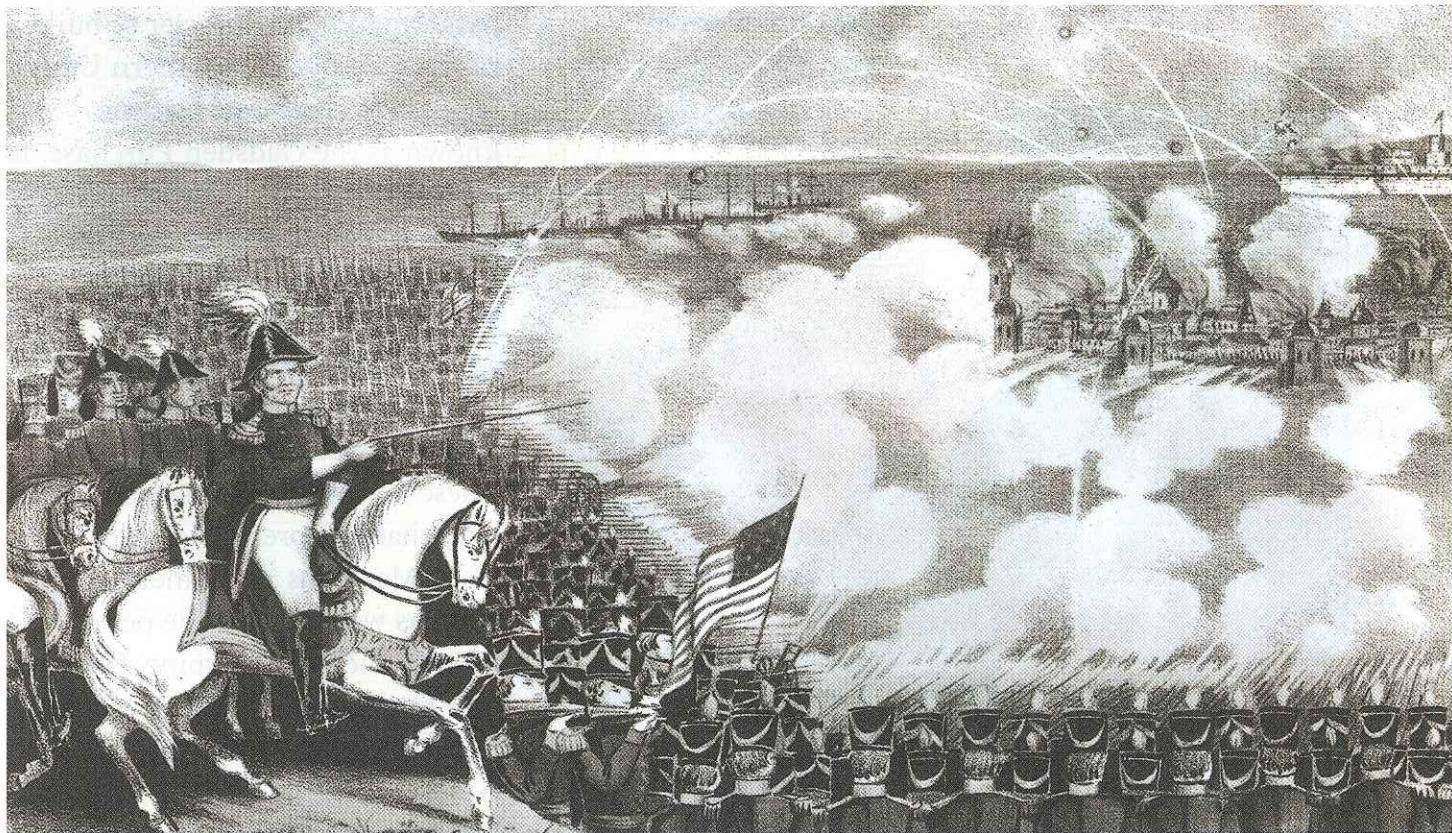
The next large addition to the United States came as a result of what Americans now call the Mexican War. One cause of this war was that the United States had annexed Texas. The Mexican government wanted Texas back. And Mexico knew that many Americans wanted other Mexican lands, including California.

The two countries also disagreed about the southwestern boundary of Texas. Americans wanted the boundary to be the Rio Grande. Mexico wanted it to be about 150 miles farther north and east.

In 1846, President Polk sent an army, led by General Zachary Taylor, to protect the Rio Grande. A group of Mexican soldiers tried to defend the area, believing that it belonged to Mexico. Crossing the river, they fought a small group of Americans. "American blood has been spilled," General Taylor wrote to President Polk. Now the president had an excuse to go to war. Mexico, he told Congress, had started the fighting. On May 13, 1846, Congress voted to declare war.

Many Americans were against the war. They felt that the United States was just trying to get more land. Others supported President Polk and cheered each U.S. victory.

American troops landed at the Mexican seaport of Vera Cruz in 1847. They then began the march to Mexico City.



The war went on for nearly two years. The United States won the first battle at Santa Fe easily. But Mexico did not give in. President Polk then ordered U.S. troops to capture Mexico City, the capital.

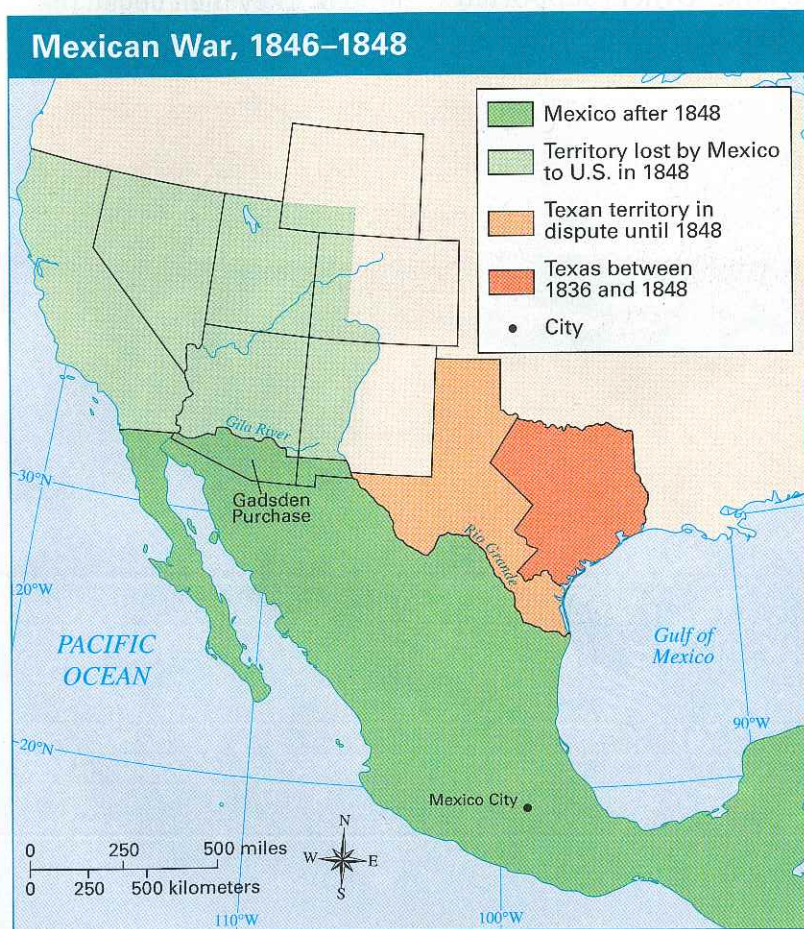
Mexican soldiers battled fiercely to defend their country. Both sides suffered great losses. In one battle at Mexico City, about 800 U.S. soldiers and 3,000 Mexican soldiers died or were captured. Even when U.S. soldiers captured the capital, Mexico did not admit defeat. Volunteer American soldiers continued to attack, rob, and kill Mexican citizens.

cede to give up territory, usually as the result of a treaty

Finally, the Mexicans surrendered. In February 1848, Mexico signed the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. In this agreement, Mexico **ceded** a huge amount of territory to the United States. This land was called the Mexican Cession. It included the present-day states of California, New Mexico, Utah, and Nevada, as well as parts of four other states. Mexico also agreed to the Rio Grande as the border of Texas. The United States paid Mexico \$15 million for this land.

Five years later, in 1853, Congress bought one last piece of Mexican land for \$10 million. It was an area south of the Gila River, in present-day Arizona and New Mexico. This land contained a pass through the mountains. The pass would make it easier to build a railroad across the southern United States. This land sale became known as the Gadsden Purchase. It was named for the American who had worked out the agreement.

After the war with Mexico, American farmers, ranchers, and miners poured into the new lands. Their arrival changed the lives of people in the Southwest. These newcomers often took land that had previous claims on it. Mexicans and American Indians were offered the poorest jobs. In the years to come, these new settlers would fight many wars against Apaches and other American Indians before finally forcing them onto reservations.



Summary

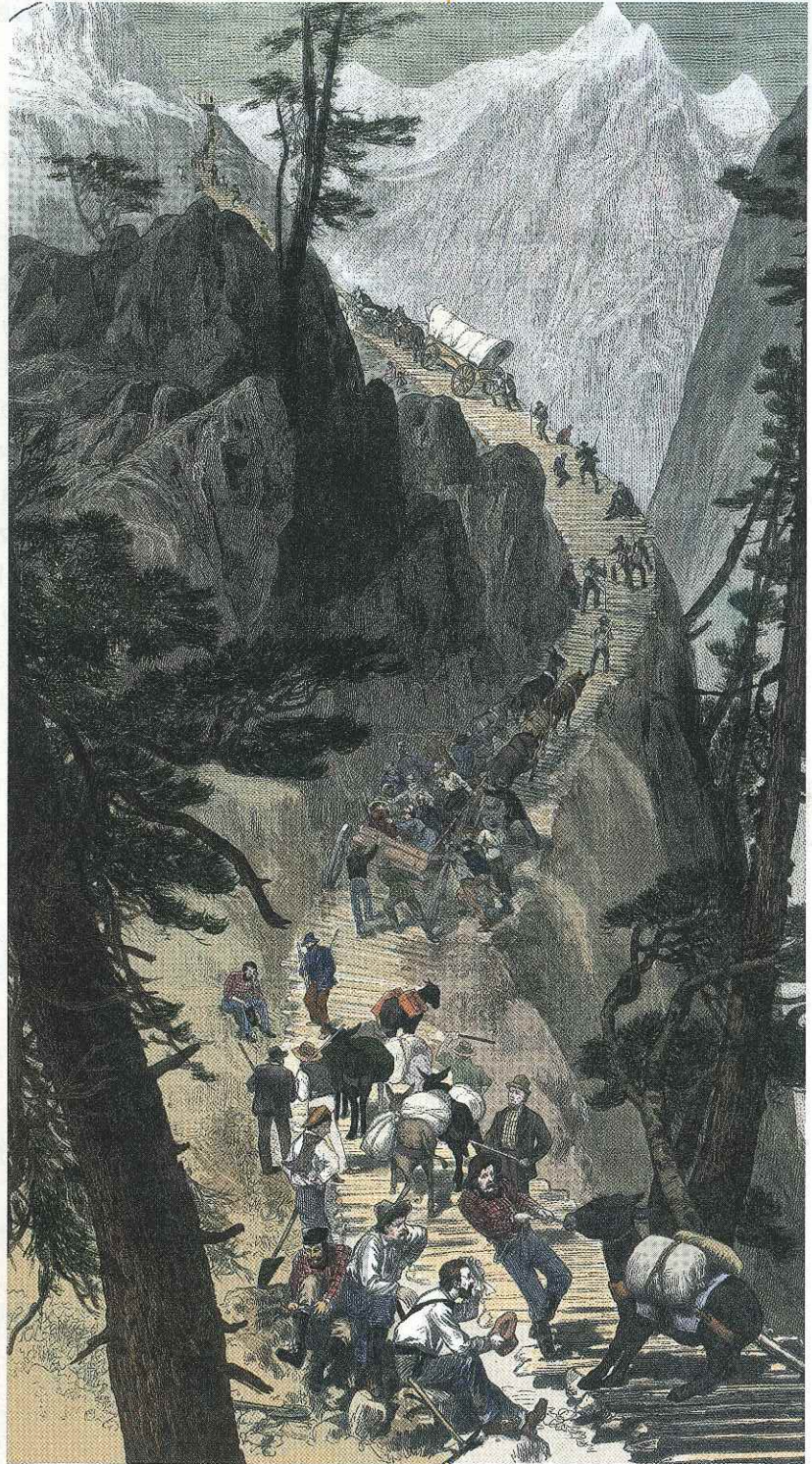
In this chapter, you read about how the United States spread across North America between 1783 and 1853. You used a map to study key U.S. acquisitions made during this time through purchase, agreement, and war.

Many Americans believed that it was their manifest destiny to spread their way of life all the way to the Pacific Ocean. As the nation gained each new territory, more settlers pushed westward. Their desire for land led to deadly conflicts with American Indians and with Mexico.

Although ranchers, miners, and farmers created new settlements and opportunities, their westward movement also forced American Indians from their homelands and onto reservations. Sometimes, the new settlers took land from former Mexican citizens.

How did the arrival of these new settlers affect the lives of American Indians in the West? How were American Indians treated? What happened to their way of life? Read on to find out.

In the belief that it was their manifest destiny, settlers and miners overcame obstacles to settle the new lands of the West. Here, settlers struggle up a road in the Rocky Mountains.



Reading Further 16

The Cherokee Trail of Tears

The Cherokees had fought other tribes to hold their land. But American settlers were harder to defeat. In the 1830s, the Cherokees were forced to leave the land they loved. They made a harsh journey called the Trail of Tears to their new home. What events led to this move?

In the spring of 1838, 7,000 American soldiers arrived. They had come to round up the Cherokees in New Echota, Georgia and in other parts of the Southeast—and to force them from their homes.

Some soldiers mistreated the Cherokees. Other soldiers felt badly for them. The general in charge thought that he saw tears in the eyes of some troops. The Cherokees had been warned for two years that this day was coming. Still, many tribal members were unprepared. They begged for more time to collect their things, but the soldiers refused.

The scene was heartbreaking. Families picked through their belongings and made agonizing choices. What could they carry with them? What must they leave behind? For many, the move meant leaving the family pet or cherished personal treasures.

A crowd of Americans waited for the Cherokees to depart. It was clear that they would take whatever the tribe left behind. In desperation, a few Cherokees tried to sell items they could not carry. But there was little time to bargain. The soldiers forced the Cherokees to begin a long and brutal march. It would lead to a strange new place, hundreds of miles away.

Cherokee Relocation in 1838





Americans Want Land

The events of 1838 had been building for years. The Cherokees were among the last tribes to leave their homes in the Southeast. Others, such as the Choctaws, Creeks, Chickasaws, and Seminoles, had already moved on or been forced out.

The mighty Cherokees had held their homeland for a long time. Their lands once stretched across the Southeast. They had defeated many tribes who wanted their land. These tribes included the Creeks, the Shawnees, and even the powerful Iroquois. But the Cherokees had survived and thrived.

Then, in the late 1700s and early 1800s, white American settlers had begun a steady advance to the west. They had moved beyond their land along the Atlantic Coast. The settlers wanted more land. They saw the forests used by the Cherokees and other tribes for hunting. American farmers could clear and use this land, the settlers had said. Only the American Indians stood in the way of progress.

The U.S. government began working to push the American Indians off their land—to force them west, beyond the Mississippi River. There, the Americans said, the tribes would not be in the way of U.S. settlement.

The United States used several methods to get the American Indians to leave. The government bought their land and gave them new western homes. It harassed them and took their land illegally. It waged war against them.

In all of these ways, American Indians steadily lost their lands east of the Mississippi. The Cherokees were among the last to remain in their eastern homes.

In this painting, *Trail of Tears* by Robert Lindneaux, thousands of Cherokees begin the long march away from their homeland.



Major Ridge, above, was a Cherokee chief. He signed the treaty agreeing that the Cherokees would leave their land. His people called him a traitor for this action.

Cherokees Try to Live Among Americans

The Cherokees had wanted to keep their lands. But they had chosen not to fight the new settlers. They knew that the Creeks and the Seminoles had suffered serious losses when they had battled the Americans.

Instead, the Cherokees tried to fit in with the settlers. Some Cherokees lived on American-style farms. They sent their children to American-style schools. A Cherokee named Sequoyah created a written form of the Cherokee language. Soon, thousands of Cherokees had learned to read and write.

Still, white settlers did not accept the Cherokees. Settlers fought the Cherokee people and took their land. In 1829, gold was found on Cherokee land in Georgia. Hundreds of gold-seekers rushed to the area. Now there was a greater demand for the U.S. government to remove the Cherokees.

U.S. President Andrew Jackson agreed that the Cherokees must go. He wanted them to leave on their own. He offered to trade their land in the East for land in the West. When they refused, Jackson got angry. He did not stop Georgia's government from sending soldiers to attack the Cherokees. In 1831, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that Georgia's actions were illegal. But President Jackson did not enforce the ruling.

A small group of Cherokees feared that they would lose their land. They signed a treaty with the U.S. government saying that all the Cherokees would leave their homes by 1838. The tribe would move to new homes in present-day Oklahoma.

Many Cherokee tribe members were furious about the group's actions. They said that the group had had no right to speak for the whole tribe. The treaty should not stand. But the U.S. government disagreed. A few thousand Cherokees gave up and left. Some 16,000 refused to go. And so, in May 1838, the American troops arrived to force the Cherokees out.

The Terrible Journey

The journey west was grueling. A few Cherokees traveled by water. Most of them, however, traveled hundreds of miles on foot. The children and the elderly moved slowly. The trip would last for months.

Along the way, the Cherokees suffered terribly. They had little food and water. Heat, cold, snow, and rain caused great misery. And disease spread quickly in the crowded camps.

The young and the old died first. But soon, even strong men and women began to fall. About 4,000 of the 16,000 Cherokees who began the trip did not survive it. Graves littered the roadside. One survivor wrote, "Children cry and many men cry, and all look sad when friends die, but they say nothing and just put heads down and keep on go towards West." The Cherokees' path became known as the Trail of Tears.

At the journey's end, the Cherokees faced another ordeal. The tribe was still divided over the treaty that had led to their removal. Many leaders that had signed the treaty were killed.

Despite these hardships, the Cherokees survived. They formed a new tribal government in Oklahoma. They settled into new homes. And they kept alive their proud traditions.

Meanwhile, the United States would continue to expand and grow. Settlers quickly filled the land that the Cherokees and the other tribes of the East, such as the Creeks, Choctaws, Chickasaws, and Seminoles, had left behind. Still, Americans kept pressing to the west. The Cherokees would not be the last tribe to come into conflict with the restless, determined people of the young country.

In this painting by Cherokee artist John Guthrie, the owl is a messenger of death above tribe members on the Trail of Tears. Heat, cold, starvation, and disease killed 4,000 Cherokees on the brutal march.



Shadow of the Owl by John Guthrie