Land and Change

Read how expansion changed places and people's lives

SS24.4.17 "Describe the social, political, and economic impacts of the conflicts, legislation, and treaties that led to the United States acquiring additional territory after the Civil War..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline how each place became part of the United States or became a state. Circle one effect on people's work, land, or political power.

Expansion After the Civil War

1. In 1867, the United States bought Alaska from Russia through a treaty. Alaska lies northwest of Canada. Its land and waters offered fish and other resources. In 1898, Congress annexed Hawaii, a group of islands in the Pacific Ocean west of the mainland. U.S. businesses wanted Hawaii's sugar, but many Native Hawaiians opposed annexation because it ended their nation's independence.

2. In 1869, the transcontinental railroad joined tracks across the country. Many Chinese and Irish immigrants built it, often doing dangerous work for low pay. Trains carried settlers and goods west more quickly. New settlements and rail lines crossed Native American homelands. The U.S. government broke treaties and fought wars with tribes as settlers took more land. Congress made the western territories of Colorado and Utah states in 1876 and 1896.

3. Long before the railroad, the U.S. government had forced Muscogee (Creek) and Choctaw people from Alabama to Indian Territory, in what is now Oklahoma. They were promised land there. As settlers moved west, government laws and agreements took away more Native land. The 1898 Curtis Act weakened tribal governments and pushed the division of shared tribal lands into smaller plots. Some land then passed to non-Native owners.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Where are Alaska and Hawaii? How did the United States gain each place?

2. How did the transcontinental railroad affect immigrant workers and Native Americans?

3. How did the Curtis Act change both tribal governments and tribal land in Indian Territory?

4. How was Colorado and Utah becoming states different from the way the United States gained Alaska?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a museum label called "Two Sides of Expansion." In 3 to 4 sentences, explain one economic opportunity and one loss of land or political power. Name at least two places and one date, and explain how a law, treaty, annexation, or railroad caused a change.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline how each place became part of the United States or became a state. Circle one effect on people's work, land, or political power. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Where are Alaska and Hawaii? How did the United States gain each place?	**Alaska is northwest of Canada, and the United States bought it from Russia through a treaty. Hawaii is in the Pacific Ocean west of the mainland, and Congress annexed it.**
2	How did the transcontinental railroad affect immigrant workers and Native Americans?	**Many Chinese and Irish immigrants did dangerous railroad work for low pay. Rail lines and the settlers they carried crossed Native American homelands and contributed to land loss.**
3	How did the Curtis Act change both tribal governments and tribal land in Indian Territory?	**It weakened tribal governments and pushed the division of shared land into smaller plots. Some land passed to non-Native owners.**
4	How was Colorado and Utah becoming states different from the way the United States gained Alaska?	**Congress made Colorado and Utah, which were already U.S. territories, states. The United States gained Alaska by buying it from Russia through a treaty.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In 1867, a treaty let the United States buy Alaska from Russia, giving Americans access to fish and other resources. In Hawaii, U.S. businesses wanted sugar, but annexation in 1898 ended the nation's independence. Rail lines brought settlers into Native American homelands. In Indian Territory, the Curtis Act weakened tribal governments and helped move tribal land into non-Native hands.

Accept other accurate examples from the passage. For the museum label, check for an economic opportunity, a loss of land or political power, two named places, a date, and a clear cause-and-effect link.