Changing U.S. Borders

Trace state admissions and land acquisitions from 1865 to 1900

SS24.4.17b "Locate states admitted to and territories acquired by the United States between 1865 and 1900, and describe how these additional territories were acquired."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each state that joined the Union between 1865 and 1900. Circle each place the United States acquired during that time, then draw an arrow to the words that tell how it was acquired.

New States, New Lands

1. After the Civil War, some places already under U.S. control became states. Nebraska, on the Great Plains near the middle of the country, entered the Union in 1867. Colorado, farther west in the Rocky Mountains, became a state in 1876. Utah, west of Colorado, joined in 1896. Becoming a state gave each place a new role in the Union. It did not mean the United States had just gained that land.

2. Other places came under U.S. control in different ways. In 1867, the United States bought Alaska from Russia. Alaska lies northwest of Canada, far from the main part of the United States. In 1898, the United States annexed Hawaii, a group of islands in the central Pacific Ocean. Annexed means the United States took control and added the islands to its land. Many Native Hawaiians opposed annexation.

3. A war with Spain led to more changes in 1898. Under a peace treaty, Spain transferred Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines to the United States. Puerto Rico is in the Caribbean Sea, east of Cuba. Guam and the Philippines are in the western Pacific Ocean, with the Philippines west of Guam. These places were not admitted as states. Their residents had little say in the treaty that changed who ruled them.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Where are Nebraska and Colorado, and in what year did each become a state?

2. Where is Utah compared with Colorado, and when did Utah become a state?

3. Where are Alaska and Hawaii, and how did the United States acquire each one?

4. Where are Puerto Rico and the Philippines, and how did both come under U.S. control?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose one state and one place the United States acquired from the passage. Write a four-sentence museum label that gives the location and year for both, explains how the United States acquired the second place, and tells how becoming a state differs from acquiring land.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 4 · SS24.4.17b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each state that joined the Union between 1865 and 1900. Circle each place the United States acquired during that time, then draw an arrow to the words that tell how it was acquired. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Where are Nebraska and Colorado, and in what year did each become a state?	**Nebraska is on the Great Plains near the middle of the country and became a state in 1867. Colorado is farther west in the Rocky Mountains and became a state in 1876.**
2	Where is Utah compared with Colorado, and when did Utah become a state?	**Utah is west of Colorado. It became a state in 1896.**
3	Where are Alaska and Hawaii, and how did the United States acquire each one?	**Alaska is northwest of Canada, and the United States bought it from Russia. Hawaii is in the central Pacific Ocean, and the United States annexed it.**
4	Where are Puerto Rico and the Philippines, and how did both come under U.S. control?	**Puerto Rico is in the Caribbean Sea, east of Cuba. The Philippines are in the western Pacific Ocean, west of Guam. Spain transferred both to the United States under a peace treaty.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Colorado is in the Rocky Mountains, and it became a state in 1876. Alaska lies northwest of Canada, and the United States acquired it in 1867. The United States bought Alaska from Russia. Colorado's state admission changed its place in the Union, but buying Alaska brought new land under U.S. control.

Accept locations described in the passage rather than exact borders. For the museum label, check that the state admission and the land acquisition are treated as different events.