

Moving Westward

Trace causes and effects of nineteenth-century westward expansion.

SS.5.A.6 "Growth and Westward Expansion"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline events or actions that caused westward expansion to change. Circle the effect each underlined cause had on people, travel, land, or trade.

Changes Across the West

- ① In 1803, the United States bought the Louisiana Territory from France. The purchase stretched from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains and nearly doubled the nation's size. It gave farmers and merchants more land and access to the Mississippi River. As more settlers moved west, they built towns on land already home to many Native American nations. This growth created both opportunity and conflict.
- ② New transportation changed how people and goods traveled. Steamboats carried cargo upstream on rivers, while canals linked waterways and lowered shipping costs. Later, railroads moved people and products faster across long distances. These improvements helped western farmers sell crops in eastern cities. They also encouraged more families to move west because travel became quicker and more dependable.
- ③ Westward expansion also brought painful changes to Native American peoples. In 1830, the Indian Removal Act allowed the federal government to force southeastern nations from their homelands. The Cherokee were among those removed. During the 1838 to 1839 Cherokee removal, thousands died on the journey known as the Trail of Tears. The law opened Native lands to white settlement, but it caused suffering and loss.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did the Louisiana Purchase make westward expansion possible? Give two details.

2 How did new transportation help western farmers?

3 Why did more settlers moving west create conflict with Native American nations?

4 What happened as a result of the Indian Removal Act?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write three sentences explaining how one government decision and one transportation improvement changed westward expansion. Use *because* and *as a result*, and include one effect on people.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline events or actions that caused westward expansion to change. Circle the effect each underlined cause had on people, travel, land, or trade. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the Louisiana Purchase make westward expansion possible? Give two details.	It nearly doubled the nation's size and gave farmers and merchants more land and access to the Mississippi River.
2	How did new transportation help western farmers?	Steamboats, canals, and railroads made travel and shipping easier or faster, helping farmers sell crops in eastern cities.
3	Why did more settlers moving west create conflict with Native American nations?	Settlers built towns on land that was already home to many Native American nations.
4	What happened as a result of the Indian Removal Act?	The federal government forced southeastern Native American nations from their homelands. Native lands opened to white settlement, and removal caused suffering and loss.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Louisiana Purchase changed westward expansion because it gave the United States more land and access to the Mississippi River. Canals changed expansion because they lowered shipping costs for farmers. As a result, settlers moved west more easily, while Native American peoples faced conflict and loss.

Accept equivalent cause-and-effect explanations supported by the passage. For Part 3, accept either government action from the passage and any listed transportation improvement, as long as the student explains accurate effects.