

Westward Paths

Trace how land, travel, and discovery changed the United States.

SS4H3.c "Describe territorial expansion with emphasis on the Louisiana Purchase, the Lewis and Clark expedition, and the acquisitions of Texas (the Alamo and independence), Oregon (Oregon Trail)..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the names of the four regions that became part of the United States. Circle the words or sentences that tell how people explored, settled, or changed each region.

Moving West

- ① In 1803, the United States bought the Louisiana Territory from France. This Louisiana Purchase doubled the country's size and gave Americans control of land west of the Mississippi River. President Thomas Jefferson sent Meriwether Lewis and William Clark to explore this new region. From 1804 to 1806, their expedition traveled to the Pacific Ocean, recorded plants and animals, and made maps that helped later travelers.
- ② Texas was first part of Mexico, but some settlers wanted it to become independent. In 1836, Mexican soldiers defeated Texan defenders at the Alamo. Soon afterward, Texas won independence from Mexico. It became the Republic of Texas. In 1845, the United States annexed Texas, meaning Texas joined the United States. This added a large area in the southwest, although the border with Mexico was disputed.
- ③ The United States and Britain agreed in 1846 that the United States would gain Oregon Country south of the 49th parallel. Before and after this agreement, many families traveled west on the Oregon Trail to settle there. California became part of the United States in 1848. That same year, gold was discovered there. The Gold Rush brought miners, and busy mining towns grew near gold fields.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did the Louisiana Purchase change the United States, and how did the Lewis and Clark expedition help later travelers?

2 Put these Texas events in order: the Alamo, Texas independence, and annexation by the United States.

3 What agreement added Oregon Country south of the 49th parallel to the United States, and what trail did many families use to settle there?

4 What happened in California in 1848, and how did it change the area?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose three regions from the passage. Complete the table to show the important event or travel route connected to each region and how it helped expand or settle the United States.

REGION	IMPORTANT EVENT OR ROUTE	HOW IT EXPANDED OR SETTLED THE UNITED STATES

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the names of the four regions that became part of the United States. Circle the words or sentences that tell how people explored, settled, or changed each region. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the Louisiana Purchase change the United States, and how did the Lewis and Clark expedition help later travelers?	The purchase doubled the country's size and gave Americans land west of the Mississippi River. Lewis and Clark made maps that helped later travelers.
2	Put these Texas events in order: the Alamo, Texas independence, and annexation by the United States.	Mexican soldiers defeated Texan defenders at the Alamo in 1836. Texas then won independence from Mexico, and the United States annexed Texas in 1845.
3	What agreement added Oregon Country south of the 49th parallel to the United States, and what trail did many families use to settle there?	The United States and Britain agreed in 1846 that the United States would gain the land south of the 49th parallel. Families used the Oregon Trail.
4	What happened in California in 1848, and how did it change the area?	California became part of the United States, and gold was discovered there. The Gold Rush brought miners, and mining towns grew near gold fields.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

REGION	IMPORTANT EVENT OR ROUTE	HOW IT EXPANDED OR SETTLED THE UNITED STATES
Louisiana Territory	Louisiana Purchase and Lewis and Clark expedition	The purchase doubled the country's size, and maps helped later travelers.
Texas	Texas won independence and joined the United States in 1845	Annexation added a large area in the southwest.
California	Gold Rush	Miners came, and mining towns grew near gold fields.

Accept any three of the four regions, as long as the student accurately connects each region to an event or route from the passage and explains its effect. Accept concise wording that shows land was gained, explored, settled, or changed by mining.