

Moving West

Read how land, travel, and new settlements changed America.

SS4H3 "Explain westward expansion in America."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each reason people or the United States expanded west. Circle each result of westward expansion to show how expansion changed different groups.

A Nation Moves West

- ① During the 1800s, many Americans moved west because they wanted farmland, jobs, or a new start. The United States also gained land through purchases, treaties, and war. In 1803, the Louisiana Purchase doubled the nation's size. Explorers such as Meriwether Lewis and William Clark traveled through this new territory and reported on its rivers, plants, animals, and people.
- ② Travel west was difficult. Families crossed long distances in wagons on trails such as the Oregon Trail. Some traveled by riverboat or railroad, which later made trips faster. In 1848, gold was found in California, bringing many people there. New towns and farms grew, but travel brought danger from disease, accidents, and harsh weather as well.
- ③ Westward expansion changed life for many groups. Settlers built homes and businesses on western land. However, Native American nations already lived on much of that land. The federal government forced many Native people to leave their homes, including Cherokee people removed from the Southeast on the Trail of Tears. These removals caused great suffering and death. Expansion brought opportunity to some people and serious loss to others.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did the Louisiana Purchase support westward expansion?

2 How did transportation help people move west? Use two examples from the passage.

3 What happened after gold was found in California in 1848?

4 Explain one way westward expansion affected Native American nations.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly three sentences that explain westward expansion. Include one reason people moved, one way expansion changed the West, and one effect on Native American nations.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each reason people or the United States expanded west. Circle each result of westward expansion to show how expansion changed different groups. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the Louisiana Purchase support westward expansion?	It doubled the size of the United States and added new territory to the west.
2	How did transportation help people move west? Use two examples from the passage.	Families traveled in wagons on trails, by riverboat, or by railroad. Railroads later made trips faster.
3	What happened after gold was found in California in 1848?	Many people went to California, and new towns and farms grew.
4	Explain one way westward expansion affected Native American nations.	The federal government forced many Native people from their homes. These removals caused suffering and death, including for Cherokee people on the Trail of Tears.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Many Americans moved west to find farmland and a new start. Their arrival helped new towns and farms grow in the West. Native American nations lost homes and land when the federal government forced many people to move.

Accept equivalent cause-and-effect explanations that use accurate details from the passage. For the final response, check for all three required ideas and an accurate effect on Native American nations.