

Paths Westward

Compare how expansion created benefits for some groups and harms for others.

7.6c "Westward expansion provided opportunities for some groups while harming others."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each opportunity created by westward expansion or related policies, and circle each harm or limit. Number the groups named in the passage so you can compare their experiences.

Different Paths, Different Results

- ① In 1825, the Erie Canal opened a water route from the Hudson River to Lake Erie. Barges carried goods and people more cheaply than wagons, helping New York City merchants and farmers in the Great Lakes region reach larger markets. The canal also drew many Irish immigrants, who could earn wages digging its channel. Yet the work was dangerous and difficult. Later, religious groups, including Latter-day Saints, used canal routes as one part of their westward journeys.
- ② Political changes also gave some Americans more power. In the early 1800s, including the Jacksonian era, states eased voting restrictions for white men. More white men could vote and influence government decisions about land and expansion. This change did not give equal political rights to everyone. Women could not vote. Most African American men and many Native people were also excluded from state elections. An expanded democracy for white men existed alongside limits for other groups.
- ③ In 1830, the Indian Removal Act supported federal efforts to force Native nations east of the Mississippi River to move west. The Cherokee challenged Georgia laws in court, and the Supreme Court recognized Cherokee rights in *Worcester v. Georgia*. President Jackson did not enforce that ruling. In 1838 and 1839, U.S. soldiers removed many Cherokee people from their homes. On the Trail of Tears, hunger, disease, and harsh weather killed thousands. Removal took people from their land and disrupted families, government, and culture.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What advantage did the Erie Canal give New York City merchants and farmers in the Great Lakes region?

2 Name one opportunity and one harm that Irish immigrants faced while working on the Erie Canal.

3 How did voting rights expand for white men while remaining limited for other groups? Name one group that gained and one group that was excluded.

4 How did the Cherokee resist removal, and what happened to many Cherokee people after removal began?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Using the voting changes in paragraph 2, write exactly three sentences: explain an opportunity for one group, a limit for another group, and why they might view the change differently.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each opportunity created by westward expansion or related policies, and circle each harm or limit. Number the groups named in the passage so you can compare their experiences. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What advantage did the Erie Canal give New York City merchants and farmers in the Great Lakes region?	It let goods and people travel more cheaply than by wagon, helping them reach larger markets.
2	Name one opportunity and one harm that Irish immigrants faced while working on the Erie Canal.	They could earn wages, but the work was dangerous and difficult.
3	How did voting rights expand for white men while remaining limited for other groups? Name one group that gained and one group that was excluded.	States eased voting restrictions, allowing more white men to vote. Women remained excluded, as did most African American men and many Native people.
4	How did the Cherokee resist removal, and what happened to many Cherokee people after removal began?	The Cherokee challenged Georgia laws in court, and the Supreme Court recognized Cherokee rights in <i>Worcester v. Georgia</i>. U.S. soldiers removed many Cherokee from their homes, and thousands died from hunger, disease, and harsh weather on the Trail of Tears.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The voting changes gave more white men a voice in government. Women and most African American men still could not vote, so they lacked that political opportunity. The change widened democracy for one group while keeping power from others.

Accept accurate comparisons of voting changes that identify white men gaining political opportunities and a group remaining excluded. Part 3 should explain the contrast in exactly three sentences.