

Westward Turning Points

Trace three major forces behind U.S. territorial expansion.

5.4.C “identify significant events and concepts associated with U.S. territorial expansion, including the Louisiana Purchase, the expedition of Lewis and Clark, and Manifest Destiny;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the three named events or ideas that shaped expansion. Circle one detail showing why each mattered, then write 1, 2, or 3 beside them in time order.

Growth Across the Continent

- ① In 1803, the United States bought the Louisiana Territory from France for \$15 million. This Louisiana Purchase doubled the nation’s size and gave it control of land west of the Mississippi River. President Thomas Jefferson wanted to learn about this vast area. He asked Meriwether Lewis and William Clark to lead an expedition through the new territory toward the Pacific Ocean.
- ② From 1804 to 1806, Lewis and Clark traveled with the Corps of Discovery. Sacagawea, a Shoshone woman, helped the group communicate and find food. The expedition gathered information about rivers, plants, animals, and Native peoples. It did not create the Louisiana Purchase. Instead, it helped leaders and settlers learn more about lands the United States had purchased.
- ③ By the 1840s, many Americans believed in Manifest Destiny, the idea that the United States was meant to expand across North America to the Pacific. This belief encouraged support for adding western lands. Not everyone agreed. Expansion could bring conflict with Native nations, Mexico, and other countries, and it raised arguments about slavery in new territories. These events and ideas changed the country’s boundaries and future.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did the Louisiana Purchase change the size and control of the United States?

2 How did the expedition of Lewis and Clark help the United States after the Louisiana Purchase? Give two details.

3 What was Manifest Destiny, and what did this idea encourage people to support?

4 Name one conflict or argument that expansion could bring, according to the passage.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a three-sentence explanation that connects the Louisiana Purchase, the Lewis and Clark expedition, and Manifest Destiny. Show how each event or idea helped shape U.S. territorial expansion.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the three named events or ideas that shaped expansion. Circle one detail showing why each mattered, then write 1, 2, or 3 beside them in time order. 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 size and control of the United States?	It doubled the nation's size and gave the United States control of land west of the Mississippi River.
2	How did the expedition of Lewis and Clark help the United States after the Louisiana Purchase? Give two details.	It gathered information about rivers, plants, animals, and Native peoples. It also helped leaders and settlers learn more about the purchased lands.
3	What was Manifest Destiny, and what did this idea encourage people to support?	Manifest Destiny was the belief that the United States was meant to expand to the Pacific. It encouraged support for adding western lands.
4	Name one conflict or argument that expansion could bring, according to the passage.	Accept conflict with Native nations, Mexico, or other countries, or arguments about slavery in new territories.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Louisiana Purchase gave the United States a huge area of land west of the Mississippi River. Lewis and Clark explored this area and brought back information about it. Later, Manifest Destiny encouraged many Americans to support expansion farther west, even though expansion also caused conflicts and arguments.

Accept responses that identify all three terms and accurately explain their connected roles in expansion. Students may describe different accurate details about the expedition or conflicts from the passage.