

Growth and Conflict

Analyze how land expansion changed the United States.

8.6.B “analyze the westward growth of the nation, including the Louisiana Purchase and Manifest Destiny; and”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each action or belief that encouraged westward growth. Circle each effect or conflict caused by growth, then number three cause-and-effect links you notice.

A Nation Moves West

- ① In 1803, President Thomas Jefferson bought the Louisiana Territory from France for \$15 million. The Louisiana Purchase stretched from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains and roughly doubled the nation's land area. Jefferson wanted control of the port of New Orleans and access to the Mississippi River for trade. The purchase also raised a hard question. As settlers moved west, would new states allow slavery or prohibit it? Federal leaders would struggle over that question for decades.
- ② During the 1840s, many Americans embraced Manifest Destiny, the belief that the United States was meant to expand across North America. Supporters hoped expansion would provide land, farms, trade, and ports on the Pacific Ocean. Critics argued that expansion could cause war with Mexico and spread slavery into new territories. This belief influenced government actions. In 1845, the United States annexed Texas, and in 1846 it went to war with Mexico. The war ended in 1848 with Mexico ceding a vast western region.
- ③ Westward growth created opportunities, but it also brought conflict. New settlers, soldiers, and railroads often entered lands where Native nations already lived. Federal policies and military force pushed many Native peoples from their homelands. Expansion changed the balance of power between free and slave states, increasing sectional tension. It also connected distant regions through trade and migration. The Louisiana Purchase supplied a huge area for future settlement, while Manifest Destiny supplied an argument that encouraged later expansion. Together, they shaped where the nation grew and whose rights were threatened.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did the Louisiana Purchase change the size of the United States, and what trade goal did Jefferson have?

2 How was Manifest Destiny different from the Louisiana Purchase? Use details from the passage.

3 Identify one reason supporters favored Manifest Destiny and one concern critics had about expansion.

4 How did westward growth increase conflict over both slavery and Native nations?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a five-sentence claim about how westward growth brought both benefits and conflicts. Use the Louisiana Purchase or Manifest Destiny as one piece of evidence, and explain one effect on people or the nation.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each action or belief that encouraged westward growth. Circle each effect or conflict caused by growth, then number three cause-and-effect links you notice. 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 of the United States, and what trade goal did Jefferson have?	It roughly doubled the nation's land area. Jefferson wanted control of New Orleans and access to the Mississippi River for trade.
2	How was Manifest Destiny different from the Louisiana Purchase? Use details from the passage.	Manifest Destiny was a belief that the United States was meant to expand across North America. The Louisiana Purchase was the 1803 purchase of a large territory from France.
3	Identify one reason supporters favored Manifest Destiny and one concern critics had about expansion.	Supporters favored land, farms, trade, or Pacific ports. Critics feared war with Mexico or the spread of slavery into new territories.
4	How did westward growth increase conflict over both slavery and Native nations?	New territories raised conflict over whether slavery would be allowed, affecting the balance between free and slave states. Settlers, soldiers, and railroads entered Native lands, while federal policies and military force pushed many Native peoples from their homelands.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Westward growth made the United States larger, but it increased conflict over power and rights. The Louisiana Purchase gave the nation land for future settlement and trade. Manifest Destiny encouraged leaders to annex Texas and seek more western territory. Yet expansion helped spread sectional tension over slavery. It also threatened Native nations when settlers and soldiers entered their homelands.

Accept equivalent evidence-based explanations from the passage. For Part 3, the response should make a clear claim, include accurate evidence about the Louisiana Purchase or Manifest Destiny, and explain both a benefit and a conflict.