

Paths Westward

Trace the ideas, rules, and conflicts that expanded the United States.

8.6 "History. The student understands westward expansion and its effects on the political, economic, and social development of the nation. The student is expected to: explain how the Northwest Ordinance established principles and procedures for..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each phrase that names an action or belief that pushed expansion. Circle each phrase that tells a result, such as a new government, boundary, land gain, or effect on people.

Rules, Land, and Conflict

- ① In 1787, the Northwest Ordinance gave Congress a plan for governing land north of the Ohio River. Congress first organized an area as a territory, appointing officials while settlers built communities. When a territory reached set population steps, residents could elect a legislature. At 60,000 people, it could apply for statehood. New states entered on equal terms with older states. The ordinance also banned slavery in the Northwest Territory, shaping its social and political development. Its procedures replaced uncertain settlement with an orderly path to statehood.
- ② In 1803, the Louisiana Purchase transferred about 828,000 square miles from France to the United States. President Thomas Jefferson wanted secure access to the Mississippi River and the port of New Orleans, important routes for western farmers. The purchase nearly doubled the nation's size and opened land for exploration and settlement. During the 1840s, supporters of Manifest Destiny claimed that the United States was meant to expand across the continent. This belief encouraged migration and claims to Oregon and Texas, while increasing pressure on Indigenous peoples and arguments over slavery.
- ③ After Texas was annexed in 1845, the United States and Mexico disagreed over its southern border. Mexico said the Nueces River was the border, but the United States claimed the Rio Grande. President James K. Polk sent troops into the disputed area, and fighting began in 1846. The 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ended the war. Mexico recognized the Rio Grande boundary and ceded a western region, including California and New Mexico, for \$15 million. The gain enlarged the United States, but it renewed debates over slavery in territories and changed life for residents.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did the Northwest Ordinance provide an orderly path from territory to statehood?

2 How did the Louisiana Purchase support both economic growth and westward expansion? Use two details from the passage.

3 What was Manifest Destiny, and what were two effects of this belief?

4 Identify two causes of the U.S.-Mexican War and two effects of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly four sentences that connect the Northwest Ordinance to one later expansion event in the passage. Explain one way expansion changed the nation's politics or economy and one way it affected people already living in the West.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each phrase that names an action or belief that pushed expansion. Circle each phrase that tells a result, such as a new government, boundary, land gain, or effect on people. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the Northwest Ordinance provide an orderly path from territory to statehood?	Congress organized territories and appointed officials. As population grew, residents could elect a legislature, and at 60,000 people a territory could apply for statehood on equal terms with older states.
2	How did the Louisiana Purchase support both economic growth and westward expansion? Use two details from the passage.	It secured access to the Mississippi River and New Orleans, important trade routes for farmers. It also nearly doubled the nation's size and opened land for exploration and settlement.
3	What was Manifest Destiny, and what were two effects of this belief?	Manifest Destiny was the belief that the United States was meant to expand across the continent. It encouraged migration and claims to Oregon and Texas, increased pressure on Indigenous peoples, and added to arguments over slavery.
4	Identify two causes of the U.S.-Mexican War and two effects of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.	Causes included the annexation of Texas and the border dispute between the Nueces River and Rio Grande, followed by Polk sending troops into the disputed area. The treaty set the Rio Grande boundary, gave the United States a western region including California and New Mexico, and renewed slavery debates.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Northwest Ordinance created a process for turning organized territories into equal states. Later, the Louisiana Purchase added land where settlers and the government could use that process. The purchase also secured trade through the Mississippi River and New Orleans, strengthening the economy. As settlers moved west, Indigenous peoples faced greater pressure on their lands.

Accept equivalent explanations that accurately connect territorial government, land acquisition, Manifest Destiny, or the U.S.-Mexican War to expansion. For the open response, require exactly four sentences, a connection to the Northwest Ordinance, one political or economic effect, and one effect on people living in the West.