

The Louisiana Purchase: Expansion and Exploration

Read the texts and answer the questions.

The Louisiana Purchase

After the Treaty of Paris of 1783, the United States controlled most of the land east of the Mississippi River. However, other countries occupied areas in North America as well. Great Britain occupied Canada, the Pacific Northwest, and land near the Great Lakes. Spain occupied Florida, what is now Mexico, and the southwestern U.S. France occupied the Louisiana Territory, which spread west from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains.

In the early 1800s, the Mississippi River was a center of trade for British, French, and American frontiersmen. U.S. President Thomas Jefferson believed it was important for the U.S. to control the Mississippi River and the French port city of New Orleans. In 1801, Jefferson sent James Madison to France to negotiate buying New Orleans from the French emperor Napoleon Bonaparte.

Napoleon needed money for a war against Great Britain. As a result, Napoleon offered to sell the entire Louisiana Territory, giving up all French claims to land in North America. Thomas Jefferson believed expanding the nation's land westward would make the United States' economy stronger, so he accepted Napoleon's offer. In 1803, Congress purchased the Louisiana Territory for \$15 million, doubling the land area of the United States. This land purchase opened the door to westward expansion, a defining theme of the 1800s in which the U.S. gained and settled land across the American West.

- Which countries occupied North America in 1783?
- Why was Thomas Jefferson interested in expanding the boundaries of the United States beyond the Mississippi River?
- How did the Louisiana Purchase affect the United States?
 - How did the Louisiana Purchase affect France?
- Define westward expansion, as it is used in the text.
 - What is the relationship between the Louisiana Purchase and westward expansion?

CAUSE & EFFECT

The Indian Removal Act

Read the text and answer the questions.

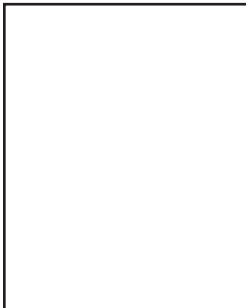
As the United States grew, more and more settlers filled the land of the original 13 colonies. However, Native American tribes already occupied the land, and for many years, they fought over rights to land. Most Americans did not approve of Native American culture and thought “civilized” American settlers could better use the land. Settlers’ desire for farmland, as well as the discovery of gold in Georgia, prompted the U.S. government to take action.

In May 1830, Congress passed the Indian Removal Act, and President Andrew Jackson signed it into law. The law allowed the U.S. to remove Native Americans in the Southeast and force them to live on land west of the Mississippi River in what is now Oklahoma.

During the fall and winter of 1838-1839, Jackson’s military forces gathered Native Americans from their homelands and forced them to march west on what became known as the “Trail of Tears.” The Native American people suffered from bitter cold, starvation, and sickness on the journey. The forced relocation of the Cherokee people from Georgia to Oklahoma was especially brutal. Approx. 4,000 Cherokee people died on the journey. By 1847, almost all the Native Americans in the southeastern U.S. had been removed.

- Use the text to define relocation.
 - Make inferences from the text to explain why the relocation of Native Americans in the 1830s known as the “Trail of Tears”?
- Complete the graphic organizer by identifying the key causes and effects of the Indian Removal Act.

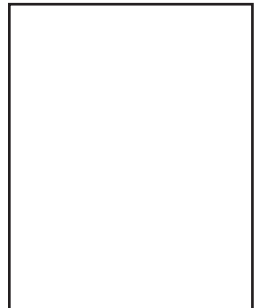
Causes



**Indian
Removal
Act**



Effects



VOCABULARY

Words of Expansion

Use a dictionary and other resources to complete the graphic organizer for each word or phrase.

acquisition	empresario	Indian reservation	steamboat
annexation	expedition	manifest destiny	territory
canal	frontier	migration	treaty
cession	homestead	mission	wagon train
claim	immigrant	pioneer	

DEFINITION	FACTS/CHARACTERISTICS
WORD	
EXAMPLES	NON-EXAMPLES