Westward Expansion & Native Americans

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Main Learning Objectives

• Understand the origins, characteristics, and course of Westward Expansion in American History
  ▫ Role of politics, government, economics, and culture
  ▫ Geographical dimensions and scope
• Evaluate Westward Expansion from the perspectives of the United States and American Indian Nations
  ▫ Understand that there are different views on the past
• Recognize the importance of specific historical figures and events that shaped Westward Expansion
  ▫ Contributions of individuals
• Analyze key documents that reflect American and Native views on expansion, and in the process develop critical thinking skills
  ▫ Focus on “points of debate” and reasons for difference
• Assess the significance of expansion for larger relationships between Indians and the U.S.
  ▫ How did expansion change or perpetuate
• Connect these objectives to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Social Studies
Main Points

• Origins of Westward Expansion
  ▫ John Winthrop & Benjamin Franklin
  ▫ Thomas Jefferson

• Nation-Building and Competing notions of Citizenship
  ▫ Andrew Jackson, Indian Removal and the Cherokee Nation
  ▫ Jackson’s Inaugural and the Removal Act
  ▫ Cherokee Reactions

• The Course of Westward Expansion
  ▫ Ideology of Manifest Destiny
  ▫ O’Sullivan, Montgomery, Hart-Benton

• The U.S.-Mexico War
  ▫ Debates

• Gold Rush, California, Oregon
  ▫ Accounts

• Conclusions
Native Peoples
## Intellectual Origins of “Manifest Destiny”

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- Document 1
- Document 2
Louisiana Purchase, 1803

- Secret treaty with Spain, France bought territory
- Napoleon sold to Jefferson for $15 million
- Doubled size of U.S.
- Questionable constitutionality
- Lewis and Clark: The Corps of Discovery
- 1805 Second Inaugural Address
  - Larger nation protects against “local passions”
  - Educate and uplift Indians
  - Protection against foreign nations

- Document 3
Louisiana Purchase and the Louis and Clark Expedition
War of 1812 and Legacy

- British eliminated
- Tecumseh & Pan-Indian resistance defeated
- 125,000-200,000 Native People east of Miss. River
- Conflict with states
- Assimilation?
- Extermination?
- Removal?
Nation - Building & Early Expansion

- Creek War and invasion of Spanish Florida
- Adam-Onis Treaty 1819
- Westward Expansion of Slavery
- Missouri Compromise, 1820
- Mexican Independence
- Colonization Laws in Coahuila y Tejas
- Westward migrations
- Pressure on Indian Nations between the Appalachian Mountains and Mississippi River
Jackson and Indian Nations

• Cherokee
• Choctaw
• Chickasaw
• Creek
• Seminole

←William McIntosh
The Cherokee Nation

- Gov’t modeled US
- Constitution
- Dictionary
- Cherokee *Phoenix*
- Bilingual
- Schools & churches
- Sequoyah →
Georgia and the Cherokee

- GA ignored 1827 Cherokee constitution
- Claimed jurisdiction over tribe
- Farm land
- Gold, 1829
Jacksonian Democracy, Race, and Indian Removal

- Jacksonian Democracy defined citizenship and the citizenry as white males and property owners
- Jackson and American Indians
  - Jackson disliked federal-Indian relations
  - Did not want to treat Indians as equals
  - Pressure from slave holders
  - “Save” the Indians from harm
- Remove them east of the Mississippi River
- Open land for white farmers
- Elias Boudinot Opposes Removal (1828)
  - Document 4
- Indian Removal Act, 1830
  - Document 5
- Creation of Indian Territory disregarded the presence of settled Indian populations
- Jackson’s State of the Union Address, Dec. 1830
  - Document 6
The Cherokee Cases, 1831-2

- Cherokee v. Georgia
  - Tribe sued Georgia
  - Are Cherokees a foreign nation?
  - “Domestic dependent nations”
  - Indians and federal gov’t
- Document 7

- Worcester v. Georgia
  - Rev. Samuel Worcester
  - GA arrested him
  - Sued GA, won in Court
  - States lack power on res.
- Document 8
Chief Justice John Marshall

- “...one of the great constitutional crises in the history of the nation”
- Jackson Ignored Marshall
Cherokee Removal

- Chief John Ross
- Opposed removal
- 16,000 signatures
- Wife died on Trail of Tears
- Speckled Snake’s Reply to President Jackson
  - Document 9
- John Ross Letter re: Washington and Indian Affairs, 1836
  - Document 10
Trail of Tears

- 1838: ¼ Died on trip
- No compensation for property
- Cold, hunger, disease
- Some refused to go, remain in GA, NC, TN
Indian Removal
Texas and Expansion

- Empresarios, immigrants, and slavery
- Santa Ana, Austin, Travis, and Seguin
- The Alamo
- The Republic of Texas, 1836-1845
- Texan Treaties with Indians for “neutrality”
- Ethnic cleansing as Texas Indian Policy
  - Mirabeau Bonapart Lamar
- Indian Territory, Original Tribes, New Immigrants, and Texas Indians
Manifest Destiny

- National debate about American expansion
- Driven by Southern desire to expand slavery
- Some northerners seeking economic growth
- Access to China Markets
- Land hunger and economic “imperatives”
- Texas Republic
- Concern about borders
- Pushing Indians Westward
Manifest Destiny Defined

- Divine imperative to expand and grow
- Christian missionary impulse
- Sense of exceptionalism
- Vanguard of history
- Racial uplift
- Civilization
- Economics

- John O’Sullivan & Annexation
  - Document 11
Manifest Destiny & The U.S.-Mexico War

• Despite nationalist narratives the war stemmed from Westward Expansion and Manifest Destiny
• Expansion of slavery
• Debate about borders and national “security”
• Religion, civilization and racial identity
  ▫ Document 12
President James K. Polk

- Elected 1844
- Annexed Texas, 1845
- Wanted California
- Annexed Oregon
- Access to China
- Cuba, Canada, Alaska
Border Dispute

- 1836 Treaty rejected by Mexico
- Rio Nueces or the Rio Grande?
- Mexico refused $
- Polk decided on war due to debt, land, refusal of $
Provoking a War

- Zachary Taylor to Rio Grande
- Blocked the international port at river
- Violated the disputed area between rivers
- Mexican troops fired weapons
- U.S. troops died
- “U.S. attacked on U.S. soil”
- Secret War in California
U.S.-Mexican War, 1846-8

- Stephen Kearny-NM
- Winfield Scott occupied Mexico City
- Annex Mexico?
- “Journalism”
- U.S. Marines & Navy
US-Mexico War, and Indians

- Apache & Comanche, Kickapoo, “old & immigrant” Indians
- K, C, A Raids into Mexico
- “Seeing Through” Native People
  - US saw Mexican weakness
  - Mexico saw Indians as US proxies
Major Movements & Campaigns

- Bear Flag Revolt: June 14, 1846, San Francisco, July 10, 1846, Monterey, July 7, 1846
- Santa Fe, August 16, 1848
- El Brazo, December 25, 1846
- Texas
- New Mexico
- Unorganized Territory
- Oregon Country
- Upper California
- Pacific Ocean
- Gulf of Mexico
- Veracruz
- Mexico City
- Tampico
- Buena Vista, February 22-23, 1847
- Monterrey, September 21-24, 1846
- Waco
- New Orleans
- Corpus Christi
- Scott
- Keppny
- Colorado River
- Gila River
- Sacramento River
Post-US-Mexico War Annexations

- Ceded to U.S. in 1848
- Annexed by U.S. in 1845
- Gadsden Purchase, 1854
Colonel Hitchcock, com. 3rd Inf.

- “The United States are the aggressors.... We have not one particle of right to be here....It looks as if the government sent a small force on purpose to bring on a war, so as to have a pretext for taking California and as much of this country as it chooses....My heart is not in this business."
Abraham Lincoln

- "...the president unnecessarily & unconstitutionally commenced a war with Mexico....The marching an army into the midst of a peaceful Mexican settlement, frightening the inhabitants away, leaving their growing crops & other property to destruction, to you this may appear a perfectly amiable, peaceful, un- provoking procedure; but it does not appear so to us."
“I do not think there ever was a more wicked war than that waged by the United States in Mexico. I thought so at the time, when I was a youngster, only I had not the moral courage enough to resign.”

Memoirs
• February 11, 1847 *The Congressional Globe* "We must march from ocean to ocean....We must march from Texas straight to the Pacific ocean....It is the destiny of the white race, it is the destiny of the Anglo-Saxon Race."

• *The American Review* [writes of Mexicans]: "yielding to a superior population, insensibility oozing into her territories, changing her customs, and out-living, exterminating her weaker blood."
"The universal Yankee Nation can regenerate . . . the people of Mexico in a few years; and we believe it is a part of our destiny to civilize that beautiful country."

The New York Herald
Significance of War

- 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo
- Rio Grande = Border
- 500,000 sq. miles = CA, NM, NV, AZ, CO
- 13,000 U.S. & 20,000 Mexicans died
- Cost $100 million for U.S.
- Mexicans can choose U.S. citizenship
- Allowed expansion of slavery
- Poisoned relations with Mexico
- Gadsden Purchase/Treaty of Mesilla
Westward Expansion

- Mormons
- Oregon Treaty
- Oregon Trail
  - Whitman’s and the Cayuse
- Gold Rush into California
  - Document 13
- Indian Populations and collapse
Conclusions

• Native people resisted and accommodated to westward expansion into their homelands
• Manifest Destiny as justification for expansion
  ▫ Population growth, economics, racial superiority, culture and "civilization"
• Border disputes
• US-Mexico War, Treaty of GH, and Gadsden Purchase brought 100’s of Indian Nations into US
• US could not conquer the west for another 40 years
• Populations, disease, military, loss of food sustenance, broken treaties
• Shift in Indian Policy from Removal, to Concentration on reservations and assimilation
• Legacy of expansion for Native Peoples calls into question the rhetoric supplied by many Americans that justified expansion