



WESTWARD EXPANSION

Learning Objectives: The students will...

1. Review significant historical events of the westward expansion movement.
2. Understand the costs and benefits of westward expansion.
3. Use research skills to locate information.

TEKS: SS 5.4C, 5.7B, 5.23A, 5.23B, 5.23C, 5.25D

Materials Needed: Research materials or internet access, one copy of the Train Track handout for each pair.

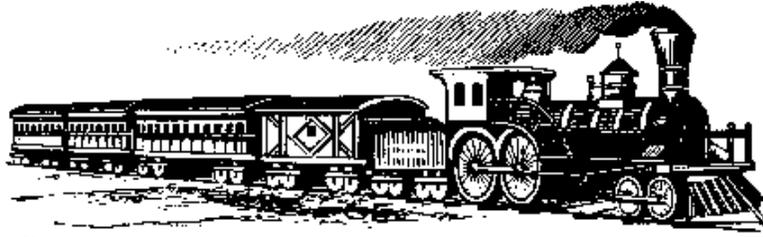
Vocabulary: expansion, transcontinental, hardships

Teaching Strategy:

1. Upon completion of a unit on westward expansion, students will create a timeline of events significant to that movement.
2. Divide students into pairs. Each pair of students will research one event of the westward expansion movement from library books, classroom resources, or the internet.
3. Students will summarize their findings into one paragraph, telling the most important facts about the topic. This paragraph will be recorded on the Train Track handout.
4. Each pair of students will also create a graphic representation and title of the event, to be recorded on the same page.
5. When all students have completed their paragraphs, they will read their paragraphs to the class.
6. All pieces of the “train track” will be placed in chronological order, creating a timeline.
7. Remind students of the purpose of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, to find a fur trading route to the Pacific Ocean. They were also commissioned to record landmarks, distances, plants, animals, and native people along the way.
8. Each student will create a journal of their trip to school from their homes. They should include the direction traveled, landmarks (streets, stores, houses), plants, animals, “native” people seen, and distances, if possible.

Extension for Gifted/Talented:

Lewis and Clark had to go to the West to find out distances, landmarks, etc. If we wanted to explore virgin territory today, what devices or technology would we use? Students will research that subject and write a paragraph answering the question.



SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN WESTWARD EXPANSION MOVEMENT

- 1. Manifest Destiny**
- 2. Louisiana Purchase—1803**
- 3. Lewis and Clark—1804**
- 4. Indian Removal Act of 1830**
- 5. Trail of Tears—1838**
- 6. Oregon Trail—1843**
- 7. Discovery of Gold in California—1848**
- 8. Pony Express—1860**
- 9. Overland Stage Line—1862**
- 10. Homestead Act—1862**
- 11. Transcontinental Railroad—1869**

The image shows a blank legal form template. On the left side, there is a large, vertically oriented rounded rectangle. To its right is a table with 8 rows and 3 columns. The table is defined by two vertical lines and eight horizontal lines. The cells within the table are empty, providing space for text entry.