


Name: _____

 **H-SS 5.B.4** Discuss the experiences of settlers on the overland trails to the West (e.g., location of the routes; purpose of the journeys; the influence of the terrain, rivers, vegetation, and climate; life in the territories at the end of these trails).

What was life like on the overland trails?

SET THE SCENE Powerful river currents, illness, bad weather, and water shortages were some of the dangers faced by people who migrated west. You have learned about how explorers helped open up the West for settlement. Who settled the West and why did they go?

Preview the Lesson Vocabulary

resourceful (*adj.*) good at finding solutions to problems

Vocabulary Activity Circle the context clues in the sentence below that help you determine the meaning of the word *resourceful*.

Joanne is very resourceful because she used a map to find a shorter way home from school.

People

Marcus Whitman Joseph Smith
Narcissa Whitman Brigham Young

Reading: Compare and Contrast

You have learned that to *compare* and *contrast* information as you read means to look for similarities and differences. Underline a similarity on page 194 that explains why people moved west.





OREGON COUNTRY
ROCKY MTS.
* Independence

1836 The Whitmans build a mission in Oregon Country.


Reasons for Heading West

Settlers had many reasons for moving west. Some moved for the economic opportunities offered by the West's rich farmland, mineral wealth, and harbors for shipping. Others wanted religious freedom. The one thing most settlers had in common was the hope for a better life at the end of difficult overland trails.

Settlers began moving west in the 1830s. In 1836 Marcus and Narcissa Whitman built a mission for American Indians in Oregon Country. Narcissa Whitman was one of the first American women to cross the Rocky Mountains. By the 1840s, thousands of settlers were moving to the area along the 2,000-mile-long Oregon Trail. Many of these settlers were farmers headed for the rich soil of the Willamette Valley.

The Mormons were a religious group founded by Joseph Smith in New York in 1830. To avoid persecution, the Mormons moved to Illinois. After Smith was killed by an anti-Mormon crowd in 1844, the group followed their new leader, Brigham Young, to present-day Utah. In 1847 the Mormons founded Salt Lake City. The route they followed became known as the Mormon Trail.

Two trails brought traders and settlers to present-day California. The Old Spanish Trail connected routes that had been used by American Indians and Spanish explorers. In 1849 more than 80,000 gold-seekers and farmers traveled the California Trail to the Sacramento area.

1.  Compare and Contrast **List the different opportunities that awaited settlers at the end of the major western trails.**





1840

1845

1850

1847



1849 Thousands of settlers move to California during the Gold Rush.



Severe weather on the Great Plains sometimes made travel to the West difficult.

Life on the Overland Trails

Geography and climate played an important role in the routes chosen for moving west. However, they also caused many hardships for settlers. To complete their journey west, settlers had to be **resourceful**, or good at finding solutions to problems.

Most people walked the entire 2,000 or more miles to California and Oregon. Horses pulled wagons of supplies. The travelers could not set out on the trails until spring, when grass to feed the horses and other animals began to grow on the prairies. Even then, thunderstorms and hail pounded travelers as they made their way west. Trails often followed major rivers, but crossing those rivers was dangerous. Swift currents could carry away entire wagons full of supplies. Lack of water in deserts could be deadly. Some trails ran through tall mountains, where sudden snowstorms could trap settlers. Other trails, such as the California Trail, had shortcuts, but these often ran through even more difficult terrain.

Settlers faced many other dangers too. Illness killed more settlers on the Oregon Trail than anything else. Sometimes encounters with American Indians led to conflicts. Yet despite all these difficulties, thousands of families followed the trails to a new life in the West.

- Circle the biggest danger faced by settlers on the Oregon Trail.

Main Idea and Details

Summary

In the 1800s many settlers hoping for a better life moved west along overland trails. List some of the trails and describe some of the hardships settlers faced on their way west.

Diaries: Lucia Eugenia Lamb Everett

Learn More Diaries are primary sources because they contain a particular person's writings about his or her thoughts and feelings. Lucia Eugenia Lamb Everett was born in Illinois in 1840. In 1862 she and her husband set out west to make a new home in Nevada and later in California. Everett kept a diary of the journey. The passages below were written as Everett passed through the Great Plains. Read them and answer the questions below.

June 9, 1862

"Two miles from here we found a ranche and store, and one mile farther; was the Platte Vally House, here we stopped for dinner. We never lack for company now, on the road many we find have passed on before us and many are still following after . . . miles farther we came to Shell Creek, we camped for the night. It is a very pretty little creek . . ."

June 18, 1862

"[Leaving] our camping place which was on the banks of Elm Creek, in very good time, as the creek, was dry. [W]e had much trouble in getting water sufficient to do the necessary cooking[.] What we succeeded in procuring [getting], had to be dipped up by the cup-full, from some shallow holes nearby . . ."


1. Circle a geographical feature that is mentioned in both passages. *Identify*
2. How does the diary entry for June 18 show the Everetts to be resourceful pioneers?

Analyze



Immigrants crossing the Great Plains

Name _____

 **HS 5.8.5** Describe the continued migration of Mexican settlers into Mexican territories of the West and Southwest.

Why have Mexican settlers migrated into the West and Southwest?

SET THE SCENE What evidence of Mexican culture do you see around you? Many events in the history of Mexico and the United States, such as the Mexican War, have affected the history of our own state. How has the migration of Mexican settlers influenced culture in the United States?



Preview the Lesson Vocabulary

equality (*n.*) having the same conditions and opportunities as everyone else

Vocabulary Activity The suffix *-ity* means “the state of being.” For example, *diversity* means “the state of being diverse.” Use the meaning of *-ity* to write a new definition for *equality* below.

Reading: Main Idea and Details

Remember that writers often state a main idea at the start of a paragraph to tell you what the paragraph is about. Writers include other sentences to provide details that support the main idea. As you read the first paragraph on page 198, underline the main idea and place check marks next to the details that support it.



1600

1650

1700



1610 Spanish settlers establish Santa Fe.



Land in the Southwest Changes Hands

Spain's influence in the West and Southwest dates back hundreds of years. Spanish explorers first came to present-day New Mexico as early as the mid-1500s. The city of Santa Fe was established in 1610. New Spain won independence from Spain in 1821 and changed its name to Mexico. With that victory, Mexico included the present-day states of California, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, and Arizona as well as parts of Colorado and Utah.

Mexicans Migrate North

After gaining independence, many Mexican settlers made their way north to search for new opportunities. Some settlers came to mine gold and silver. Many others wanted land for farms and ranches. However, the Mexican government wanted to send even more people to the northern territory. To do this, they gave some people large areas of land. Under this system, called the rancho system, landowners were given special rights. Many of these owners used their land grants as cattle ranches.

In 1848, after two years of war with the United States, Mexico gave most of its northern territory to the United States. Many Mexicans who lived in the area decided to stay. As the United States expanded west, more Mexicans migrated north to take jobs that filled the growing nation's labor needs. Since then, large numbers of Mexicans have immigrated to the United States to find new opportunities or to join family members who are already here.

1. For about how long did Spain control land in the West and Southwest before losing the area to Mexico? *Sequence*



2. What are three reasons Mexicans migrated north into the West and Southwest? *Main Idea and Details*





Under the rancho system of the 1800s, many people in the Southwest worked on horse and cattle ranches.

1821



Mexican American Culture

The culture of the modern West and Southwest has been influenced by the American Indians of the Desert Southwest and the area's early Spanish settlers. The adobe style of architecture, which is still popular today, originated with the Anasazi. American Indian farming techniques, such as irrigation, are also still important. In addition, many skills used by modern cowboys, such as roping and herding cattle, were first developed by Spanish cowboys, called *vaqueros*.

The influence of Mexican American culture in the United States has grown over time. In the 1900s, millions of Mexican immigrants came to this country. In 2000 Mexicans made up 30 percent of all immigrants to the United States, more than any other country. Each new wave of Mexican immigrants has brought with them new ideas that have influenced life in the West and Southwest and throughout the United States.



The unique colors and designs of Mexican art can be seen in pottery (below) and in blankets called *serapes* (left). Author Sandra Cisneros (right) has written award-winning stories about the lives of Mexican Americans.



- Underline two details in the text that show American Indian influences on Mexican-American culture. *Main Idea and Details*

Summary

Mexicans have migrated to the West and Southwest and influenced this area's culture for many years. What factors encouraged Mexican settlement in the West and Southwest?

César Chávez, 1927–1993

Learn More

César Chávez was born into a Mexican American family in 1927. Growing up, Chávez's family moved to different places in the Southwest to pick crops. He learned firsthand about farm workers' low pay, poor housing, and long, hot hours in the fields.

As an adult, Chávez began organizing farm workers to fight for **equality**, better pay, and working conditions. He founded the National Farm Workers Association in 1962. Three years later, Chávez led California's grape pickers in a strike. Other workers soon joined the strike. They refused to go back to work unless farm owners met their demands. One of their demands was the right to form a labor union. A union is a group that represents the workers' interests in discussions with business owners.

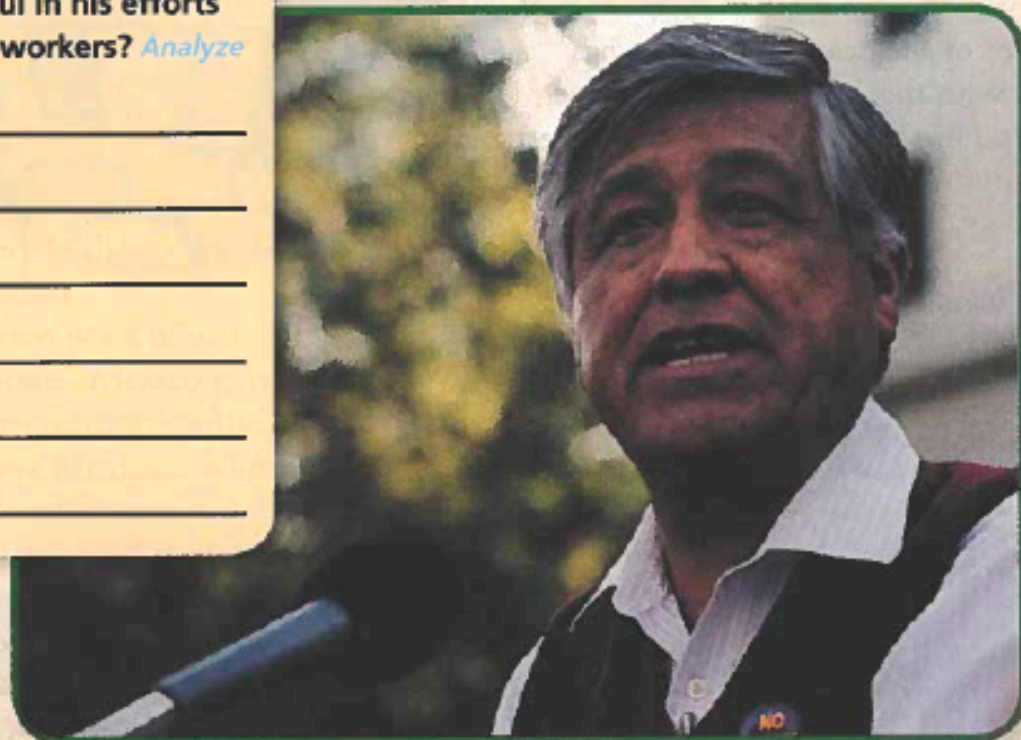
Under Chávez's leadership, in 1971 the workers formed a labor union called the United Farm Workers of America. He had succeeded in giving farm workers a voice that could help protect their rights. In 1994 Chávez was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his support of nonviolence in achieving change.

Answer the questions below.


1. Circle the conditions that migrant workers faced.

Identify

2. Why do you think Chávez was successful in his efforts to help farm workers? *Analyze*



Name: _____

 **H-SS 5.8.6** Relate how and when California, Texas, Oregon, and other western lands became part of the United States, including the significance of the Texas War for Independence and the Mexican-American War.

How did the United States expand in the 1800s?

SET THE SCENE Today, the United States is a large country, but this was not always so. You have learned that the 1783 Treaty of Paris and the Louisiana Purchase of 1803 added important lands to our country. What other events helped the United States become a country that stretched “from sea to shining sea”?



Preview the Lesson Vocabulary

annex (v.) to add or attach

Vocabulary Activity Circle the word in the following sentence that is a synonym for the vocabulary word *annex*.

The city had to add some nearby land before the park could expand.

People

Stephen F. Austin
Sam Houston
Antonio López de Santa Anna
James K. Polk



Reading: Sequence

It is important to follow the *sequence*, or order, of events when you read history. Dates can help you understand the sequence. As you read the lesson, circle important dates in the westward expansion of the United States.





1836 Texas defeats Mexico and becomes an independent republic.

The Texas Revolution

After winning independence in 1821, Mexico began asking settlers to move to a territory called Texas. Mexican settlers, later called Tejanos (tay HAH nohs), moved to the area. Stephen F. Austin started an early American settlement there. Before long, American settlers greatly outnumbered the Tejanos.

The Mexican government and the settlers had many conflicts about how the territory should be run. In 1835 Texans decided to fight for independence. Despite early losses, the settlers fought on. In 1836 a Texan army led by Sam Houston defeated General Antonio López de Santa Anna's Mexican forces. Later that year, Texas became an independent republic.

The Mexican-American War

In the 1840s, many Americans believed that the United States should control land from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean. This idea came to be known as "manifest destiny." President James K. Polk believed strongly in manifest destiny. To achieve it, Polk wanted to gain more western land from Mexico.

In 1845 Congress voted to **annex**, or add, Texas as a new state, even though Mexico strongly opposed the idea. Fighting broke out along the border between Texas and Mexico, and in 1846 Polk asked Congress to declare war. That same year, American settlers who were unhappy with Mexican rule declared independence in California. This event became known as the Bear Flag Revolt. Polk sent U.S. troops to drive the Mexican army out of California. By 1847 U.S. troops had pushed Mexican troops out of the West and Southwest and captured Mexico City.

1. **Underline** what happened after the settlers' early losses in the Texas Revolution. *Sequence*



The Mexican army defeated Texan troops at an old Spanish mission called the Alamo. Soon Texas fought back and became an independent republic.

2. **What main issue led to the Mexican-American War?**

Cause and Effect



1845

1850

1855

1846 The Mexican-American War begins.

1853

Manifest Destiny Is Achieved

Even as the Mexican-American War began in 1846, the United States peacefully gained land in the Northwest. The Oregon Treaty of 1846 settled a conflict about the border between the United States and land owned by Great Britain.

In 1848 the United States and Mexico signed the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, which officially ended the Mexican-American War. The United States received a large area of land from the treaty, including parts of what later became seven western states.

In 1853 the United States bought more southwestern land from Mexico in the Gadsden Purchase. This purchase gave the United States control of the rest of the land that would become the first forty-eight states. Our nation finally reached “from sea to shining sea.”

3. In the text, underline the name of the country that signed the Oregon Treaty of 1846 with the United States. *Main Idea and Details*



Summary

In the 1800s, many Americans wanted the United States to expand all the way to the Pacific Ocean. How did the United States achieve this goal?

Chronology on Maps

Learn More Maps can be used to show chronology, or the order in which events happen. The map below shows the development of new routes and transportation technologies from 1775 to 1869. As travel became faster and easier, more people moved west. Today, California has the biggest population of any state. Use the map to answer the questions below.

Try It

1. Draw a star next to the event that made it easier for settlers to cross the Appalachians in the 1700s.

Identify

2. Circle the bodies of water connected by the Erie Canal in 1825.

Identify

3. About how long did it take to complete the Transcontinental Railroad?

Analyze

4. What routes and transportation technologies of today might you add to the map? Why?

Apply

Transportation Systems, 1775–1869

