

8th Grade Social Studies

Lesson: 14–Westward Expansion Impacts

Learning Target: Synthesize learning about Westward Expansion and draw conclusions about the impact on Native Peoples and US History.

Introduction

As we begin today's lesson think back to the Indian Removal Act. Remember some of these key details:

- The act was created in the year 1830 by President Andrew Jackson.
- All Natives East of the Mississippi were forced to move West.
- Native Americans were forced out of their homes with little to no time to prepare.
- They were forced to walk thousands of miles (often at gunpoint) and create new homes.

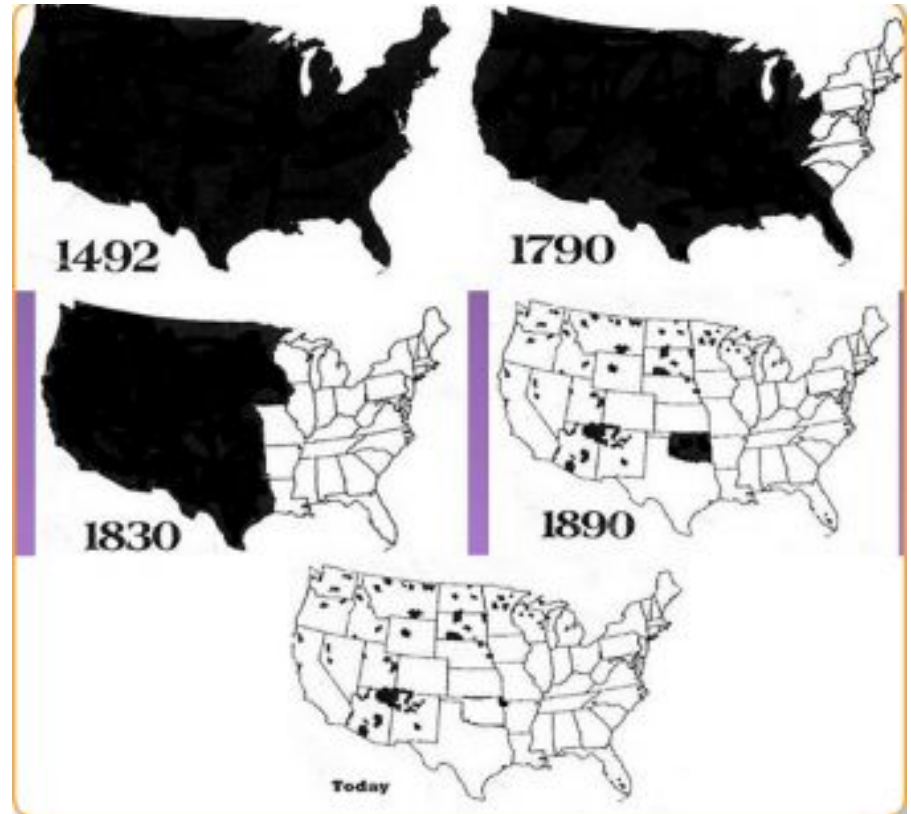


Warm-up

The chart above illustrates Native American lands and how they changed over time. **Black** represents Native American owned land and **white** represents US owned land.

Examine the chart and answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper:

- What do you notice at the beginning of the chart?
- Who loses their land over time?
- Who gains land over time?
- When do the biggest changes occur?



Lesson Activity: Westward Expansion/Manifest Destiny

You will now be watching a video about the impacts of Westward Expansion. As you watch you will be making notes about the positive and negative impacts.

1. Create your T-Chart on your paper.
2. Label the Left-hand side of the T-Chart: Positive
3. Label the Right-Hand side of the T-Chart: Negative
4. As you watch the video fill in information on your T-chart
5. Click this [link](#) to begin.



Lesson activity: Impacts of Westward Expansion on Native Americans

Westward Expansion impacted Native Americans in three main ways:

1. Many were forced to move to reservations
2. Lifestyle changes occurred because of forced assimilation
3. Decline in buffalo population

Lesson activity: Impacts of Westward Expansion on Native Americans

White settlers felt justified in taking Native American land because they felt they were making the land more productive. Treaties with the U.S. government forced millions of Native Americans onto reservations. After tribes made treaties that relocated them to reservations, the U.S. government and settlers frequently broke these treaties and took even more land from Native Americans.



World Book map.
From The World Book Multimedia Encyclopedia © 2005 World Book, Inc. 233 North Michigan Avenue

Reservations – small pieces of land set aside for Native Americans

Lesson activity: Impacts of Westward Expansion on Native Americans

Efforts were made to assimilate Native Americans. Assimilation is the idea of blending one culture into another. Native Americans were encouraged to accept the white settlers culture as their own. Native Americans were encouraged to become settled farmers. Missionaries attempted to convert Native Americans to Christianity. Native American children were sent to Indian Boarding Schools to learn skills such as carpentry and housekeeping. Native Americans were not considered United States citizens until 1924.



Lesson activity: Impacts of Westward Expansion on Native Americans

American bison (buffalo) were deliberately reduced in an effort to force Native Americans to move off their hunting grounds onto reservations. As a result of this buffalo hunting, the American bison was nearly extinct by 1900.

Before 1800 it is estimated that the American bison population was over 60 million. By 1900 there were fewer than 500 animals remaining.



Reflection: Argumentative Summary

Now that you have completed your T-chart with information over the positive and negative impacts of Westward Expansion, reflect back on that information. Using the information in your T-chart decide whether Westward Expansion had more of a negative or a positive impact. Your summary must include the following:

1. 5-7 Sentence (R.A.C.E. format) Restate, Answer, Cite Information, and Explain.
2. Be sure to argue your points as to why the experience was more positive/negative.

Extension activity/optional activity



If you want to know more about what life is like for Native Americans today that live on reservations, check out one of the following links.

[Living conditions on reservations](#)

[Native American Life today](#)