


## Primary Source

"On the morning of November 17th, we encountered a terrific sleet and snow storm with freezing temperatures, and from that day until we reached the end of the fateful journey on March the 27th, 1839, the sufferings of the Cherokee were awful. The trail of the exiles was a trail of death."

—Memoirs of Private John G. Burnett, December 1890

**The Seminole Resist** In Florida, people of the Seminole nation also resisted removal. Led by Chief Osceola (ah see OH luh), they began fighting the United States Army in 1835. This conflict, known as the Second Seminole War, was the costliest war ever waged to gain Indian lands. Although most of the Seminole people were forced to leave Florida, starting in 1855, the United States waged a Third Seminole War to hunt down Seminoles who still resisted relocation.

While Jackson's Indian removal cleared the area east of the Mississippi River for white settlement, settlers already had their eyes on lands west of the Mississippi, too. These lands represented the new frontier. Although occupied by American Indians who had their own cultures and civilization, to white settlers, the term *frontier* meant wild and uncivilized. In their minds, it was free and theirs for the taking. In a few years more, settlers would be streaming into these new lands as they had recently streamed into the Northwest Territory and the South.

 **READING CHECK** **Recall** Where was the land known as Indian Territory located?




**Analyze Images** Seminoles began building chickee-style homes using palmetto thatch and a cypress log frame. **Use Visual Information** How did chickee-style homes help Seminoles to flee from the pursuing U.S. Army?

## Lesson Check

### Practice Vocabulary

1. How did the **frontier** differ from the settled areas along the east coast?
2. How did the **Indian Removal Act** lead to the **Trail of Tears**?
3. What and where was the **Indian Territory**?

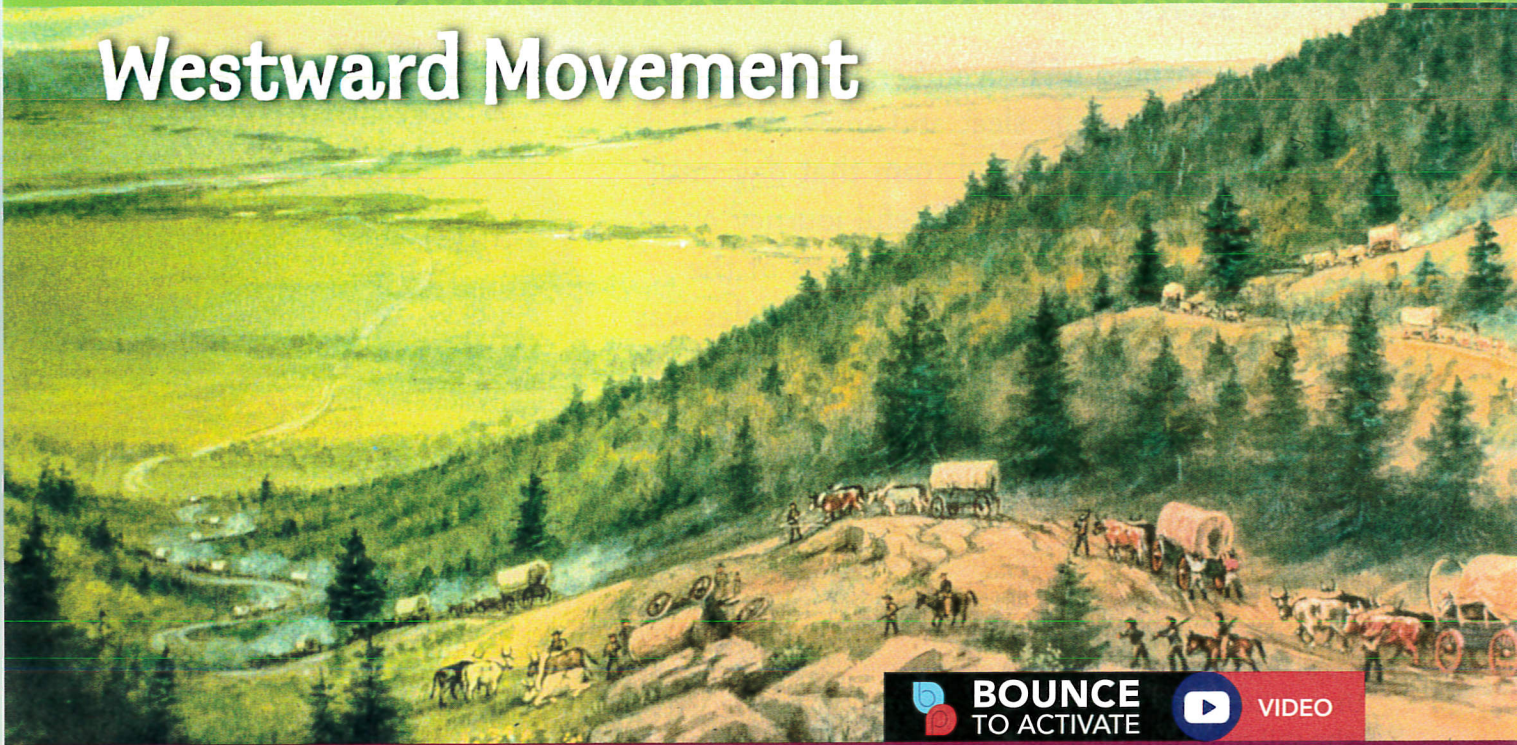
### Critical Thinking and Writing

4. **Summarize** Why were white settlers and American Indians typically unable to live peacefully in neighboring areas?
5. **Draw Conclusions** What does *Worcester v. Georgia* demonstrate about the power of the judiciary?
6. **Writing Workshop: Organize Sequence of Events** In your  Active Journal, list the main events you will tell about that take place on your journey west. Number them in the order you will write about them. You will follow this sequence of events in the narrative you will write at the end of the Topic.



## LESSON 4

# Westward Movement



 **BOUNCE**  
TO ACTIVATE

 VIDEO

## GET READY TO READ

### START UP


Examine this painting of wagons heading west. What might have gone through people's minds as they looked toward the wilderness before them?

### GUIDING QUESTIONS


- What did the frontier mean to the nation in the first half of the nineteenth century?
- How did the Westward movement change family life?
- How did geography affect life in the West?

### TAKE NOTES

#### Literacy Notes: Classify and Categorize

Use the Graphic Organizer in your  Active Journal to take notes as you read the lesson.

### PRACTICE VOCABULARY

Use the Vocabulary Builder activity in your  Active Journal to practice the vocabulary words.

Vocabulary	Academic Vocabulary
revenue	extend
flatboat	despite
Clermont	
Erie Canal	
National Road	

English colonists began moving west almost as soon as they arrived in America in the 1600s. Westward expansion quickly became a tradition that helped define the nation.

## Why Did Americans Move West?

As the population of the United States grew, land became more expensive, and some Americans began to feel crowded. By the early 1800s, the promise of new farmland and other work opportunities brought a flood of new emigrants from settled areas in the East to the lands west of the Appalachian Mountains.

**Northwest Ordinance** The Northwest Territory was the area north of the Ohio River and east of the Mississippi. Colonists had been moving into this area since before the American Revolution. When the United States acquired this land from the United Kingdom, the flow of settlers increased.

One of the first tasks of the new federal government was to organize how the territory was to be settled. In a series of



three acts, passed between 1784 and 1787, Congress created the Northwest Ordinance. It applied specifically to the Northwest Territory at first. Later, the principles of the Ordinance were **extended** to other territories.

The Ordinance allowed individuals to buy land in 640-acre tracts. That much acreage was too expensive for most settlers. Soon, developers were buying land and dividing it into smaller parcels that were more affordable and more manageable.

The sale of land attracted settlers, but it also provided needed **revenue**, or income, for the U.S. government. The money was needed to pay off debt from the American Revolution.

In the past, people thought of territories as colonies. The Ordinance changed that. Settlers in these territories could now organize into states that would have all the rights of the original thirteen states. People moving into the territories were not leaving the United States, they were expanding it.

Another part of the Ordinance outlawed slavery in the territories. This provision would cause many sectional disputes.

**Opportunities and Challenges** Americans moved west for many reasons, but mostly they wanted the opportunity to own land, start businesses, and build new lives. Some people, like the Mormons, moved west to find religious freedom.

In 1803, President Jefferson made the Louisiana Purchase from France, doubling the size of the country. The Louisiana Purchase opened up a vast new territory with many valuable natural resources.

### Academic Vocabulary

**extend** • *v.*, to expand or apply further



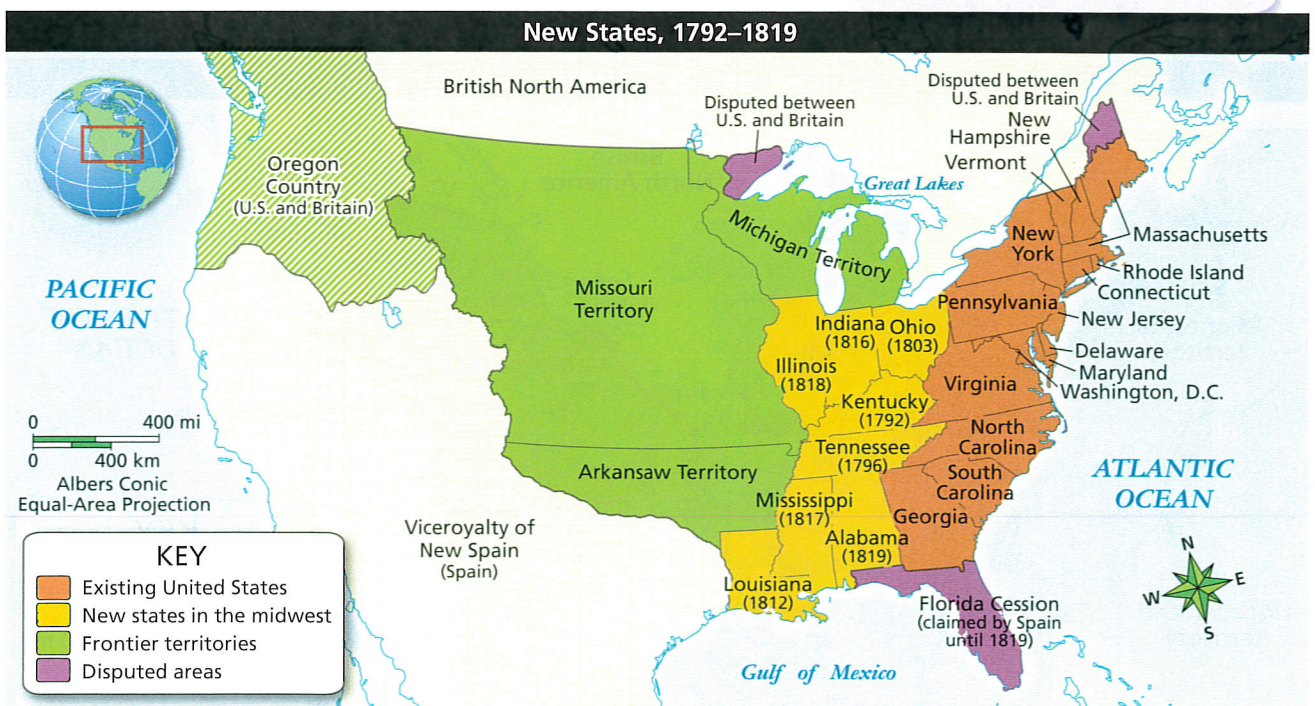
### INTERACTIVE

New Transportation Methods

## GEOGRAPHY SKILLS

By 1819, the United States had grown to 23 states.

- 1 Movement** What can the dates of statehood of the new states tell us about how settlers migrated into the western territories?
- 2 Draw Conclusions** Based on this pattern of settlement, where will settlers move next?







## INTERACTIVE

New Technology:  
The Steamboat

Some of the first people moving into the new territories were fur trappers. Beaver fur, in particular, was in high demand in the east and in Europe. Many of the trails forged by trappers were later used by settlers moving west.



**READING CHECK Summarize** In what ways did the Northwest Ordinance encourage settlement of the West?

## Heading Into the West

When the United States formed its first government, it already controlled most of the land east of the Mississippi River. There was ample land for settlers. Very quickly though, the United States acquired more territory and expanded westward.

**Expanded Territories** Not all the new territories were gained by treaty. In 1818, the U.S. Army, led by General Andrew Jackson, invaded Florida. His action led to Spain's surrender of that territory. In the 1840s, the United States acquired the Oregon territory in a settlement with Britain that narrowly avoided a war. Victory in the Mexican-American war added lands in the Southwest and California. In less than 50 years, the United States expanded all the way to the Pacific Ocean.

**Following the Rivers** People wanted to settle these territories, but few easy routes led west. The best routes were often rivers.

Many people moving to the Northwest Territory traveled west along the Mohawk River and then sailed across Lake Erie. Others crossed the Appalachians to Pittsburgh. There, they loaded their animals and wagons onto **flatboats**, or flat-bottomed boats, and floated down the Ohio River.

## GEOGRAPHY SKILLS

This map shows how roads and canals crisscrossed the United States.

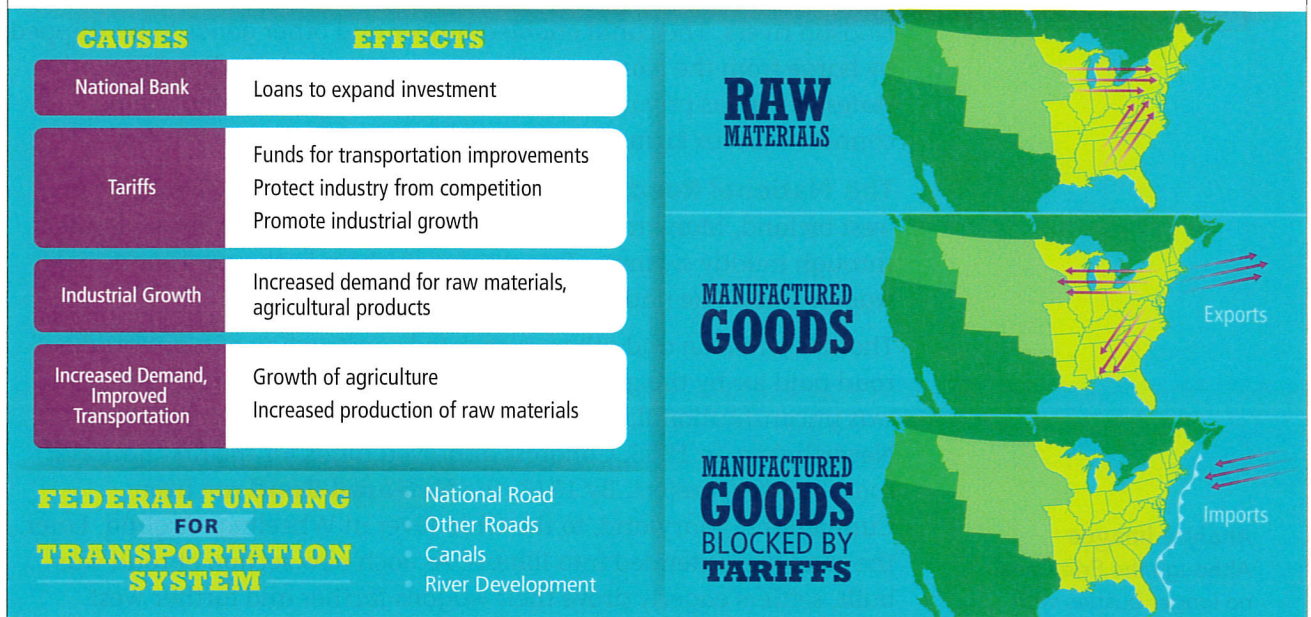
- Movement** What routes could one take from Albany to Columbus?
- Draw Conclusions** Why might a traveler take the Great Valley Road from Lancaster to Louisville instead of traveling in more of a straight line?

Roads and Canals, 1820–1850





# BENEFITS OF THE AMERICAN SYSTEM



As settlers journeyed west of the Mississippi, the rivers continued to play a key role. Lewis and Clark followed the Missouri River as they explored the Louisiana Purchase. Long sections of the Missouri are fast and unpredictable, so few settlers used it for transportation.

The Platte River, in Nebraska, was too shallow for shipping, but it was a reliable source of water in a dry region. Traders, settlers, and the U.S. Army built forts and settlements along the river. Settlers stocked up on supplies at these outposts as they traveled across the West.

**The American System** As the country expanded, Americans sought ways to develop the economy. Henry Clay promoted a plan known as the “American System.” It was a government policy to benefit agriculture, merchants, and industry.

The American system had three main parts. First, tariffs would protect industry. Second, a national bank would make loans to promote business growth. Third, the tariffs and the sale of public lands would provide funds for the building of roads, canals, and other improvements. These transportation improvements would help farmers and manufacturers get their products to market. Finally, money from the payment of tariffs plus money from selling public lands would help pay for improvements.

**Technology Speeds Transportation** **Despite** its advantages, river travel presented problems. Moving upstream, for instance, was difficult. Technology, however, soon made travel faster and cheaper.

In 1807, Robert Fulton launched a steamboat, the **Clermont**, on the Hudson River. Soon steamboats plied the Ohio, Mississippi, and Missouri rivers. They carried passengers and gave farmers and merchants a cheap way to move goods.

**Analyze Charts** The American System aimed to take advantage of regional differences. **Use Evidence** Which region benefited most from tariffs?

**Academic Vocabulary**  
despite • *prep.*, in spite of; notwithstanding





## INTERACTIVE

The Erie Canal

Another improvement was the **Erie Canal**. New York Governor DeWitt Clinton pushed for approval of this project. The legislature approved \$7 million for the canal to link the Great Lakes to the Mohawk and Hudson rivers. The canal enabled timber and other goods to be shipped by barge from the Northwest Territory to New York Harbor. Soon other states as well as private investors were building canals that helped connect western farms and eastern cities.

**The National Road** Settlers faced difficult journeys when traveling west by land. Many roads were narrow dirt trails. They often plunged through muddy swamps. Tree stumps stuck up in the roads and broke wagon axles. The nation badly needed better roads.

Thomas Jefferson and others supported construction of a national road paid for by the government. Critics argued that the project was unconstitutional, as road-building is not an expressed power. Nevertheless, in 1806, Congress approved funds for the first national road-building project. By 1818, the **National Road** ran from Cumberland, Maryland, to the Ohio River at Wheeling, Virginia. Later, the road was extended into Illinois. As each new section of road was built, settlers eagerly drove their wagons farther and farther west.

 **READING CHECK** **Compare and Contrast** How was the landscape both an advantage and a disadvantage to settlers moving west?

### Analyze Images

Although the Erie Canal no longer bustles with traffic as it once did, it is still in use today.

**Cite Evidence** What in the picture shows that constructing the Erie Canal was a major undertaking?





## State Populations, 1810–1840

STATE	POPULATION, 1810	POPULATION, 1840
New York	959,049	2,428,921
Ohio	230,760	1,519,467
Illinois	12,282	476,183
Louisiana	76,556	352,411
Tennessee	261,727	829,210

Source: U.S. Censuses of Population and Housing

### Movement Changes the West and the Nation

Settling the West was a challenge for even the hardiest people. Settlers traveled long distances over rugged land for weeks or months. They lived outdoors in all kinds of weather. Sickness, hunger, and thirst were common. They confronted hostile American Indians, although few armed conflicts occurred.

**Settlers Build New Lives** When settlers finally arrived at their destination, the real work began. They found land that had never been plowed and was grown thick with trees, bushes, and dense grasses. The land was rich in natural resources, but it required extensive labor to use and develop them. Settlers created farms and built businesses and towns from the ground up.

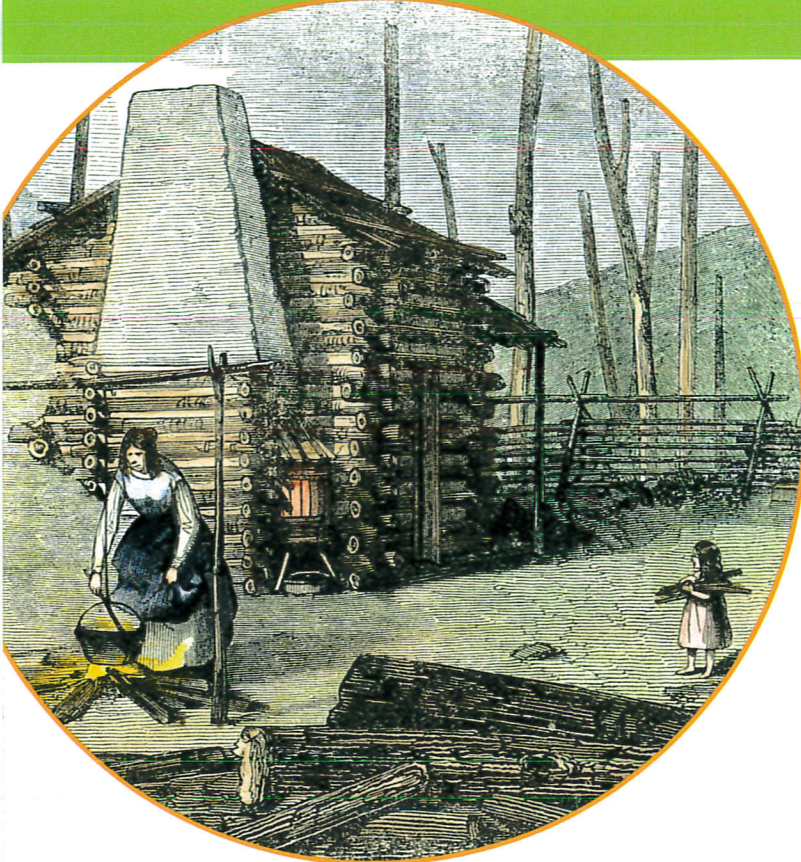
Life in the West changed traditional roles for men and women. Women's roles were as necessary as those of men, and the two often overlapped. Few farms were run by a single man. It took two people to succeed, usually a husband and wife. Wives didn't just run the household as they had back east, they worked alongside their husbands at all sorts of jobs. They helped plant and harvest crops and care for livestock, as well as making clothing and household tools and furnishings. Children had chores, too. Everyone had to work hard to make and maintain a home on this new land.

It is not surprising that the lifestyle that developed in the West was somewhat different from that of the East. Women enjoyed greater equality in the West and, overall, there were fewer class distinctions. Most people were respected for their actions and their character rather than for who they were or how much money they had. Westerners also had a high regard for democracy.

**Changing the Country** By the early 1800s, Americans had settled many of the lands east of the Mississippi. By 1830, almost as many people lived west of the Appalachians as had lived in all of the United States in 1783. In the years that followed, the flood of people moved farther west to such places as Oregon, Texas, and California. The result was a rapid shift in population westward.

**Analyze Images** Over 30 years, many state populations exploded in size. **Analyze Charts** What caused each of these five states to grow so quickly in such a short time?





**Analyze Images** Starting from a young age, women in the West often took on jobs once regarded as work that only men did. **Synthesize Visual Information** What details in the illustration indicate how daily life in the West differed from daily life in an Eastern city?

As people moved westward, so did the frontier. Historian Frederick Turner described the frontier as “the outer edge of the wave—the meeting point between savagery and civilization.” At each stage in westward movement, settlers learned how to survive in their new environment and how to use the available natural resources. They learned how to trade and cooperate with American Indians, and how to exploit and overcome them. They formed governments and disputed the slavery question. In these processes, they remade America.

While settlers were moving into the West, the rest of the country was still dealing with economic challenges and political disagreements. As you will read, sectional conflicts brewed through the first half of the 19th century as differences grew between the North and the South.


**READING CHECK** **Draw Conclusions** Why did women experience greater equality in the West than in the East?

## ✓ Lesson Check

### Practice Vocabulary

1. How did the United States government get **revenue** from the Northwest Ordinance?
2. How did settlers use **flatboats** on their journey's west?
3. How did the **Clermont** and the **Erie Canal** help unite the country?

### Critical Thinking and Writing

4. **Revisit the Essential Question** Why do people move?
5. **Infer** How did technology help unify the nation?
6. **Writing Workshop: Use Narrative Techniques** In your  Active Journal, write a brief description of your first day on your journey west. Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, description, and similes. You will use this narration in the narrative you will write at the end of the Topic.