



Westward Expansion of the United States: 1801–1861

Dig Deeper

After reading this book, what questions do you still have about the westward expansion of the United States? Do you want to learn more about what happened to people once they made it to the West? Write down a few questions to help guide your research. With the help of an adult, find a few reliable sources to help answer your questions. Write two or three sentences about how you did your research and what you learned from it.



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Another View

There are many different sources about the westward expansion of the United States. Each source is different. Ask an adult, such as a librarian, to help you find another source about westward expansion. Write a short essay comparing and contrasting the new source's point of view with that of this book's author. What is the point of view of each author? How are they similar or different, and why?



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You Are There

Imagine you are traveling by wagon along the Oregon Trail in 1843. Write 300 words about your journey to the West. As a child, what jobs do you think you will be given? Where will you sleep, and what will you eat?



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Take a Stand

This book discusses how people from around the world came to California when gold was discovered there. Do you think immigration positively or negatively affected the people already living in California, such as Native Americans? Write a short essay explaining your opinion. Make sure to give reasons, facts, and details to support your answer.