

Name: _____ Date: _____

Manifest Destiny or Imperial Overreach? 12th Grade History Quiz

Goes beyond basic dates to analyze the Gadsden Purchase, the Oregon Boundary Dispute, and the ideological shifts in 19th-century American expansionism.

1. Which 1840s geopolitical concept, popularized by John L. O'Sullivan, argued that American expansion was not merely a political choice but a divinely ordained necessity to spread democratic institutions?

- A. The Monroe Doctrine
- B. Manifest Destiny
- C. Social Darwinism
- D. The American System

2. In 1853, the United States finalized the _____, a \$10 million land acquisition from Mexico intended to facilitate the construction of a southern transcontinental railroad route.

- A. Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo
- B. Platt Amendment
- C. Gadsden Purchase
- D. Adams-Onís Treaty

3. The 'Fifty-Four Forty or Fight' slogan referred to a diplomatic dispute with Russia over the boundary of the Alaska Territory.

- A. True
- B. False

4. How did the 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo fundamentally transform the internal political landscape of the United States regarding the 'peculiar institution'?

- A. It settled the border of Maine and New Brunswick through arbitration.
- B. It led to a moratorium on all western settlement until 1860.
- C. It reignited the sectional crisis over the extension of slavery into new territories.
- D. It abolished the Three-Fifths Compromise in the newly acquired Mexican Cession.

5. The _____ of 1862 was a pivotal piece of legislation that incentivized western settlement by offering 160 acres of public land to any head of household, provided they 'improved' the land.

- A. Morrill Act
- B. Homestead Act
- C. Exoduster Act
- D. Desert Land Act

6. The 'Frontier Thesis,' proposed by Frederick Jackson Turner in 1893, argued that the existence of an open frontier was the primary driver of American democracy and national character.

- A. True

Name: _____ Date: _____

B. False

7. Which indigenous resistance movement, led by the Nez Perce in 1877, involved a 1,170-mile retreat toward Canada to avoid forced relocation to a reservation?

- A. Chief Joseph's Campaign
- B. The Ghost Dance War
- C. The Red River War
- D. The Black Hawk War

8. The ____ of 1887 sought to end tribal land ownership by allocating individual plots to Native Americans, a policy of forced cultural assimilation that resulted in the loss of millions of acres of tribal land.

- A. Curtis Act
- B. Wheeler-Howard Act
- C. Dawes Severalty Act
- D. Indian Reorganization Act

9. The Wilmot Proviso was a successful piece of legislation that permanently banned slavery in all territories gained during the Mexican-American War.

- A. True
- B. False

10. Which demographic group, often called 'Exodusters,' migrated to Kansas in the late 1870s to escape the oppressive 'Redemption' era of the post-Reconstruction South?

- A. Irish famine refugees
- B. African Americans
- C. Chinese railroad laborers
- D. Mormon pioneers