

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Mapping the Spreading Ink: A 7th Grade Westward Journey Quiz

Stop the clock and identify the physical and political shifts of 19th-century expansion before the final frontier closes forever.

1. Which geologic feature acted as the primary obstacle for travelers on the Mormon Trail heading toward the Great Salt Lake?

Answer: B) The Rocky Mountains

The Mormon Trail crossed the Rocky Mountains via South Pass, which was a critical geographic gateway for settlers moving into the Great Basin.

2. The Gadsden Purchase was an agreement between the United States and Mexico to secure land for a southern transcontinental railroad route.

Answer: A) True

The 1853 Gadsden Purchase provided a flat strip of land south of the Gila River, ideal for building a railroad across the Southwest.

3. The concept that the United States was divinely destined to expand across North America is known as _____.

Answer: C) Manifest Destiny

Manifest Destiny was the 19th-century belief that U.S. expansion was both justified and inevitable.

4. Before becoming a U.S. state, which territory spent nine years as an independent nation called the Lone Star Republic?

Answer: B) Texas

Texas rebelled against Mexico and existed as an independent republic from 1836 until its annexation by the U.S. in 1845.

5. In 1846, the United States and Great Britain settled a boundary dispute over the _____ Territory at the 49th parallel.

Answer: C) Oregon

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The Oregon Treaty established the border between U.S. and British North America along the 49th parallel to the Pacific Ocean.

6. The 'Exodusters' were African Americans who migrated from the South to Kansas in the late 1870s to escape racial violence.

Answer: A) True

Exodusters were the first general migration of Black people following the Civil War, seeking safety and land in the West.

7. Which unique form of housing was common on the treeless Great Plains for early homesteaders?

Answer: B) Sod houses

Due to a lack of timber on the plains, settlers used blocks of 'sod' (grass and soil) to build 'soddies'.

8. The discovery of silver in Nevada, known as the _____ Lode, brought thousands of miners to the West in 1859.

Answer: A) Comstock

The Comstock Lode was the first major discovery of silver ore in the United States, sparking a mining boom in Virginia City.

9. The Pony Express was the primary method of cross-country communication for over 50 years.

Answer: B) False

The Pony Express only lasted 19 months, quickly becoming obsolete once the transcontinental telegraph was completed in 1861.

10. What 1848 treaty ended the Mexican-American War and resulted in the U.S. gaining the 'Mexican Cession'?

Answer: C) Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo

The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo added lands which would become California, Nevada, Utah, and parts of Arizona and New Mexico.