

# WEEK 3: 4/13 - 4/17: U.S. HISTORY

## ASSIGNMENT CHECK-LIST: DUE BY MONDAY 4/20

- ❑ **MONDAY:** Warm-Up: American Progress by John Gast – Read the background information on Manifest Destiny and analyze the painting by John Gast. Answer the art analysis question.
- ❑ **TUESDAY:** CommonLit: Manifest Destiny – Read the letter from Cordelia and answer questions 1-5 that follow, if you're interested there is an audio recording of Mrs. Sellers reading the letter located on her website.
- ❑ **WEDNESDAY:** 13.1 - The Oregon Country – As you read, answer questions 1-5 (located in the margins).
- ❑ **THURSDAY/FRIDAY:** If you are technology capable, play the Oregon Trail Game, a 90s classic! (link to game located on Mrs. Sellers website).

**REMEMBER:** Answers can be done on a print-out of the assignments or on a piece of paper. Pictures of your answers can be sent to your teacher via e-mail or Remind. You can also pick up this work as a packet from Cobb and turn it back to Cobb with your answers if you cannot access our websites, e-mail, or Remind.

Wishing you well! -Mrs. Sellers (SellersL@leonschools.net), Mr. Allen (AllenClyde@leonschools.net), & Mr. Sears (SearsS@leonschools.net)

## WARM-UP: American Progress by John Gast

**Manifest Destiny:** The belief that the United States was destined by God to extend its boundaries to the Pacific Ocean.

The painting below, American Progress by John Gast, illustrates this era of Manifest Destiny and Westward Expansion. The woman in the center is called "Progress." Progress guides American settlers from the settled and light-skied East to the dark and treacherous West. Based on the images in the painting...

1. Identify one piece of symbolism in the painting and explain what it means.
2. Based on the images in the painting, what can you assume occurred during this era of Westward Expansion? (ex: specific interactions with specific groups of people, advancement in technology, communication, travel, agriculture, religion, settlement, etc.).



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## **Manifest Destiny, I Do Believe**

By BirdBrain History  
2016

*In this letter, Cordelia writes to her friend about her plans to become a pioneer, a common ambition during the "Manifest Destiny" era of western settlement in the 19th century. As you read, note how Cordelia mentions God and God's influence on her plans and actions.*

Dear Emily,

This is farewell, dear friend. My family and I set out tomorrow. Out past the horizon to see what waits for us in the west. Will there be gold? Will there be trouble? Will there be some place we can call home? Truly, I am terrified. But I know it is the will of President Polk<sup>1</sup> and of God for us to spread as far as we can. So, we will follow that setting sun to our destiny.

We are going into territory that no one has gone before. I don't just mean the well you and I explored when we were young, dear Emily. No white people have set foot on the path we're about to take. A pioneer, after all, is someone who explores a country for the very first time. Yes, those Indians were here first, but we do not think of them as Christians. Not yet, anyway.

Some people try and kill every Indian they see. But you know me. I am a woman of God. They have blood flowing through their veins just like any other person. That blood can be blessed. I'm a missionary, and it is my goal to bring anyone I can into the light of Christianity. I've seen the Indians with their wives and their children. They seem like they can be good people. They are good hunters, for sure, better than my husband even, but don't tell him I said. I know in my heart that these Indians deserve God's forgiveness, like the rest of us.

What makes me so daring to go out into the dark, you ask? I know that I will have God's help. Manifest Destiny says that God has chosen us to take over this country, all the way to the coast. This means we are meant to overcome everything that gets in our way, be that wars or bad terrain<sup>2</sup> or Indians. Nothing will stand in the way of the pioneers<sup>3</sup> settling this great new land of ours. At least, I hope not.

It's dark out there. There are no maps showing us where to go. Dangers could wait around every corner. But as the pioneers bravely march into these new mysterious places, we carry with us a light. We carry the light of civilization, man's most advanced state of society. The wild land will become fields of crops. The Indians will become Christian. The darkness will become light ... at least in our eyes.

Please keep me in your prayers as my husband, Sarah, and I set out into the darkness. I have faith in Manifest Destiny, that the pioneers were meant to bring the light of civilization to this land. As missionaries, my husband and I will bring the word of God to the Indians, if they will have us. Really, Emily, I would have no confidence in myself were it not for God's guiding hand. I know that this is his goal to bring the pioneers to the far sea. But to tell you the truth, I am afraid.

I'll write you often and let you know if God's work is unfolding.

Love,

Cordelia

1. James K. Polk was the 11th president of the United States from 1845 to 1849.
2. **Terrain** (*noun*): land of a particular kind (such as mountains or woods)
3. **Pioneer** (*noun*): someone who is one of the first people to do something, such as move to and live in a new area

## Text-Dependent Questions

**Directions:** For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. PART A: Which of the following statements best identifies the central theme of the text?

- A. God first created the land for Indians but then decided to give Americans control because he preferred their civilization.
- B. God has given Americans the will to spread Christian American civilization from coast to coast.
- C. It is guaranteed that missionaries will bring Christianity to American Indians, and Cordelia does not want to miss the opportunity to help.
- D. Pioneers are more likely to succeed if they are also missionaries because then God has blessed them.

2. PART B: Which TWO phrases from the text best support the answer to Part A?

- A. "I know it is the will of President and of God for us to spread as far as we can." [Paragraph 2]
- B. "Yes, those Indians were here first, but we do not think of them as Christians." [Paragraph 3]
- C. "I know in my heart that these Indians deserve God's forgiveness, like the rest of us." [Paragraph 4]
- D. "Manifest Destiny says that God has chosen us to take over this country, all the way to the coast." [Paragraph 5]
- E. "The wild land will become fields of crops. The Indians will become Christian. The darkness will become light." [Paragraph 6]
- F. "I would have no confidence in myself were it not for God's guiding hand." [Paragraph 7]

3. What statement best explains how Cordelia responds to the west?

- A. She is unafraid of the west and ready to explore.
- B. She is frightened of the west but certain it contains her destiny.
- C. She is unconvinced that she will succeed in the west.
- D. She is disgusted by the darkness of the west as it is.

4. How does the speaker's point of view most influence how the events are described in the letter?

- A. Cordelia's plans seem easy and exaggerated.
- B. Cordelia's plans seem frightening and ill-fated.
- C. Cordelia's plans seem brave and necessary.
- D. Cordelia's plans seem silly and unnecessary.

5. How is it suggested that Manifest Destiny is not as noble as Cordelia makes it out to be? Provide evidence from the text.

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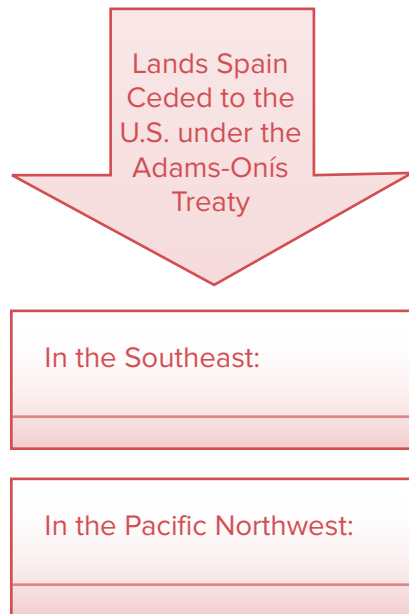
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# The Oregon Country

SS.8.A.4.1; SS.8.A.4.8; SS.8.E.1.1; SS.8.G.4.2; SS.8.G.4.3;  
SS.8.G.4.4; SS.8.G.5.1; SS.8.G.5.2

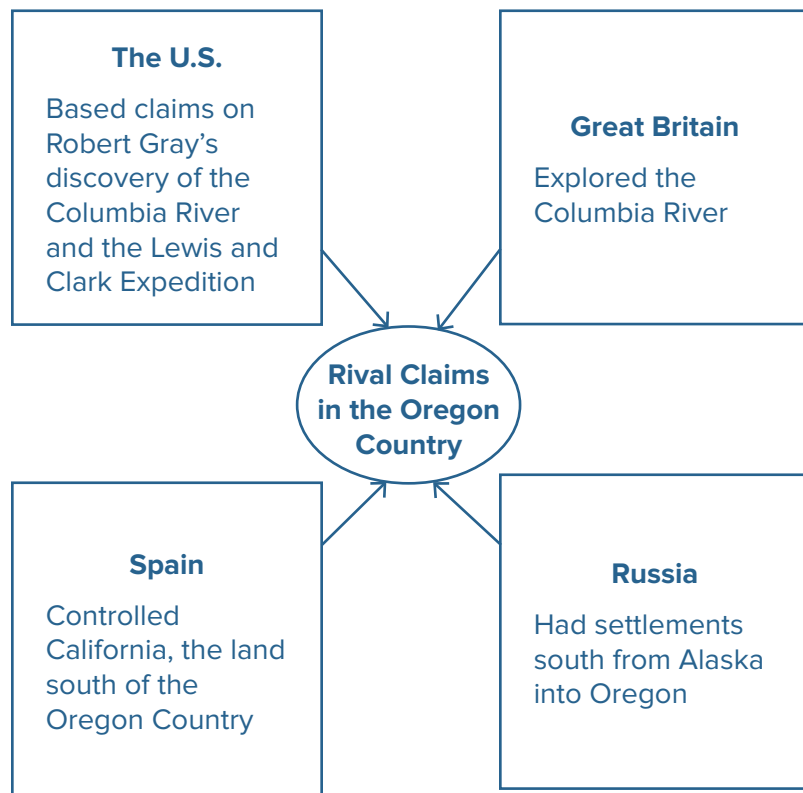
## 1. MAKING CONNECTIONS

Recall that under the terms of the Adams-Onís Treaty, Spain also gave up lands it controlled in the southeast. Complete this organizer to show how the Adams-Onís Treaty affected U.S. territory on opposite ends of the country.



## Rivalry in the Northwest

The Oregon Country was a huge area located north of California, between the Pacific Ocean and the Rocky Mountains. It covered far more land than today’s state of Oregon. And, in the early 1800s, its lands were claimed by four different nations.



## Adams-Onís Treaty

Control of the Oregon Country was especially important to the United States. Settlements in Oregon would give Americans access to the Pacific Ocean.

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**LESSON 1 SUMMARY, *continued***

In 1819, Secretary of State John Quincy Adams convinced Spain to sign the Adams-Onís Treaty. Under the treaty, the Spanish agreed to give up their claims in Oregon. They also set the limits of their territory at what is now the northern border of California. In 1824 Russia also gave up its claims to lands south of Alaska.

Great Britain, however, would not give up its claims to the Oregon Country. In 1819, the United States and Great Britain agreed to **joint occupation**. This meant that people from both countries could settle there.

**2. RECOGNIZING RELATIONSHIPS**

How did the economic factors of scarcity and supply and demand affect the lives of the mountain men in the Oregon Country?

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**Mountain Men in Oregon**

The first people from the United States to live in the Oregon Country were fur trappers. They came to trap beaver, whose skins were in great demand. Fur companies bought the skins to sell as furs in the United States and Europe.

The fur trappers were tough, independent men who spent most of their time in the Rocky Mountains. They became known as **mountain men**. The mountain men traded with Native Americans and often adopted Native American ways.

Over time, the mountain men could no longer make a living by trapping. Overtrapping had reduced the number of pelts available, and changes in fashion had reduced demand. Some mountain men moved to Oregon and became farmers. Others used their knowledge of the area to guide settlers on the long trip to the Oregon Country. They carved out several east-to-west passages that played a vital role in western settlement. The route they used most often was called the Oregon Trail.

**Oregon and Manifest Destiny**

By the 1830s, many Americans had heard about the good farmland in Oregon. With economic troubles in the East, more and more settlers began traveling to the Oregon Country seeking a fresh start.

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**LESSON 1 SUMMARY, *continued***

**ANALYZING MAPS**

3. On a separate sheet of paper, describe the route of the Oregon Trail, using the map to identify geographic features settlers followed along the way.

**4. EVALUATING**

Look at the map of the Oregon Country. Circle the line of latitude 54°40' N. Now circle the line of latitude 49° N. Does setting the final border at 49° N seem like a fair compromise over control of the Oregon Country? Why or why not?

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**Marcus and Narcissa Whitman**

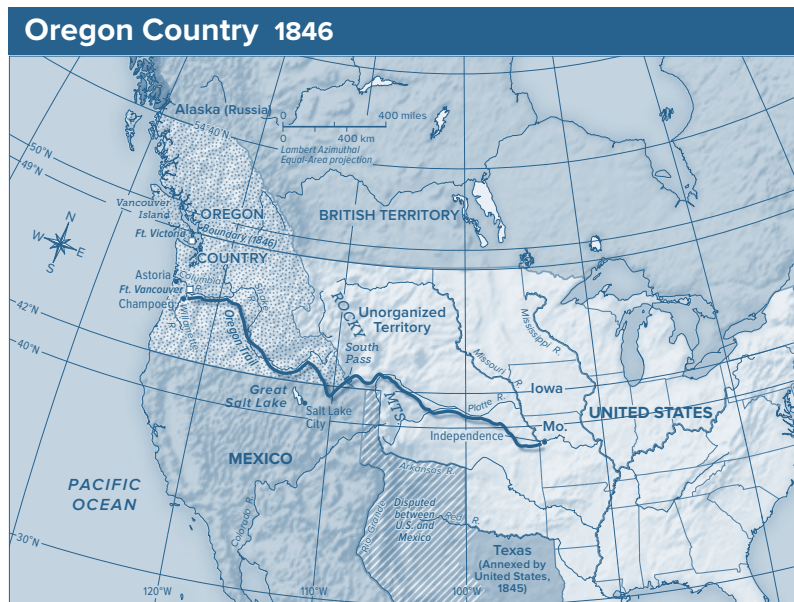
Among the first settlers were Dr. Marcus Whitman and his wife, Narcissa, who went to Oregon in 1836. The Whitmans built a mission among the Cayuse people to provide medical care and convert the Cayuse to Christianity.

Settlers traveling to Oregon often stopped to rest at the Whitmans' mission. In 1847 the people at the mission began getting measles. Many Cayuse children died. The Cayuse blamed the Whitmans for the deaths. They attacked the mission and killed the Whitmans and 11 others.

**Along the Oregon Trail**

The Whitman massacre was a shocking event, but it did little to stop the flood of pioneers heading for the Oregon Country. These pioneers were called **emigrants**—people who leave their country—because they left the United States to go to Oregon.

The Oregon Trail stretched for 2,000 dangerous, rugged miles. Settlers on the trail carried all their belongings and supplies in canvas-covered wagons. People called the wagons **prairie schooners** because, from a distance, they looked like ships called schooners. Over the years, tens of thousands of emigrants made the long, difficult journey across the Oregon Trail to Oregon Country.



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LESSON 1 SUMMARY, *continued*

## America Seeks Its Manifest Destiny

In the early 1800s, many Americans began to focus on what newspaper editor John O’Sullivan called the nation’s **Manifest Destiny**. This was the idea that it was the mission of the United States to spread freedom by settling the entire continent, all the way to the Pacific Ocean. This included the Oregon Country.

James K. Polk supported this idea. Polk was the Democratic nominee for president in the election of 1844. His campaign slogan, “Fifty-Four Forty or Fight,” referred to the line of latitude Democrats believed should be set as the nation’s northern border in Oregon—a line that stretched along the northernmost lands of the Oregon Country. Polk’s Whig opponent, Henry Clay, did not take a strong position on the Oregon issue. Polk won the election.

As president, Polk was focused on acquiring Oregon. But the British refused to accept a border at 54°40' N latitude. In 1846 the two countries compromised. They set the border at 49° N latitude. This line still serves as the northern border of the United States today.

### 5. IDENTIFYING POINTS OF VIEW

How do you think Native Americans viewed the idea of Manifest Destiny?

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