

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Manifest Destiny Webquest and Video Analysis- Key

Directions: Complete the following questions using resources from the links listed below:

[http://www.pbs.org/kenapa/usmexicanwar/prelude/md\\_manifest\\_destiny.html](http://www.pbs.org/kenapa/usmexicanwar/prelude/md_manifest_destiny.html)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=japRb6U\\_FuQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=japRb6U_FuQ)



Please watch the YouTube video prior to reading the PBS article when you begin to answer the questions in this assignment.

1. Where does the term Manifest Destiny come from?
  - The first person to coin the term Manifest Destiny was the reporter John O'Sullivan in the 1840's.

2. According to the video, what are the three parts of Manifest Destiny? Explain all three.

Privilege- White, European descendant, Americans were on a mission from god to spread themselves across the continent.

Democracy- Spreading the old ways of democracy, democracy on the farm. To bring democracy to the barbarian west.

Destiny- There was no stopping the spread of the American way of life.

3. Why were the Democrats so fond of the idea of Manifest Destiny as opposed to the Republicans and Whigs?

- The Democrats favoured the spreading of slavery across more territory as opposed to the other parties which wanted to contain slavery.

4. What major events are considered the “lifeblood” of Manifest Destiny?

- The Northwest Ordinance of 1787, the Louisiana Purchase, Texas Annexation, Mexican Secession (Mexican-American War), Oregon Treaty, Oregon Trail, and Dawes Act.

5. What examples does the video give for Manifest Destiny spreading beyond the North American mainland?

- Hawaii, Cuba, the Philippines,
- It can even be argued that the Space Race includes Manifest Destiny (the Moon, Mars)

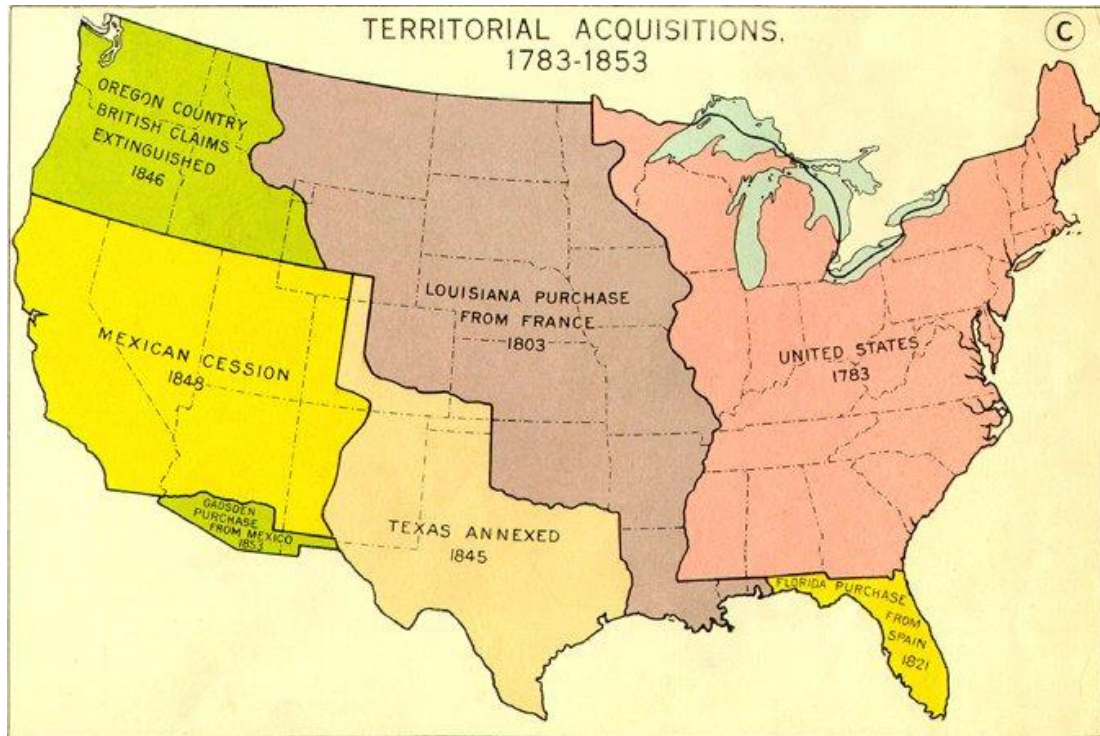
6. What devastating war did Manifest Destiny lead to in the United States? Why?

- The Civil War
- Because of the spread of slavery that accompanied Manifest Destiny.

7. Why does Manifest Destiny “draw blood?”

- It leads to conflicts due to the expansion of America.
- The destruction of the Native American tribes and creation of reservations.
- The Mexican-American War.

8. According to the PBS article, what kind of territorial growth did the United States experience in the 1840's? What did this growth make Americans believe?
- The United States increased in size by 1.2 million square miles, a 60% increase.
  - That it was America's destiny to dominate the continent.



A map of the territorial expansion of the United States. Note the large territorial gains during the 1840's

9. What metaphor did people use when referring to more territory joining the United States?
- Regions surrounding the United States would ripen like fruit and fall into the lap of America.
10. How did the advance of technology in the nineteenth century allow the dream of a transcontinental America become a reality?
- The steamboat had turned America's rivers into busy commercial routes.
  - Railroads had begun to link the cities with the western frontier.
  - The telegraph, first used in 1844, allowed messages to be carried over a great distance in a short time.

11. How did the ideas of Thomas Jefferson influence the supporters of American expansion?

- They viewed an abundance of land would lead to a prosperous country.
- More land would provide unlimited economic benefits for future generations.

12. Why were southerners so eager for expansion of America?

- More slave states would give them more power in government
- New territory would also allow the South to spread out its growing slave population.

13. Why would commercial interests be interested in an expanded America that had ports on the Pacific coast?

- They wanted to compete with Great Britain for trade with Asia.
- San Francisco, in Mexican owned California, would be a perfect location for American businesses.

14. Why did fear of Britain cause the greatest eagerness for the expansion of America?

- Great Britain's claims in the Pacific North West and close relationship with Mexico made Americans feel like they were being surrounded by British influence.
- Southern slave holders were scared of the British since they had outlawed the use of slaves in their Caribbean colonies.

15. Which two land claims did President James K. Polk quickly pursue to stop what he believed was British interference?

- The annexation of Texas and a compromise with Britain over the Oregon territory.

16. What country did President Polk go to war with in order to claim even more land? What territory was conquered?

- Polk went to war with Mexico.
- America seized California and New Mexico.

17. Which two further territories did Polk wish to annex? Was he successful?

- Cuba and the Yucatan Peninsula
- No, Congress did not support him and he backed down.

18. What conflict caused expansionism to lose favor amongst Americans in the 1850's?

- Because of the conflict over the expansion of slavery.

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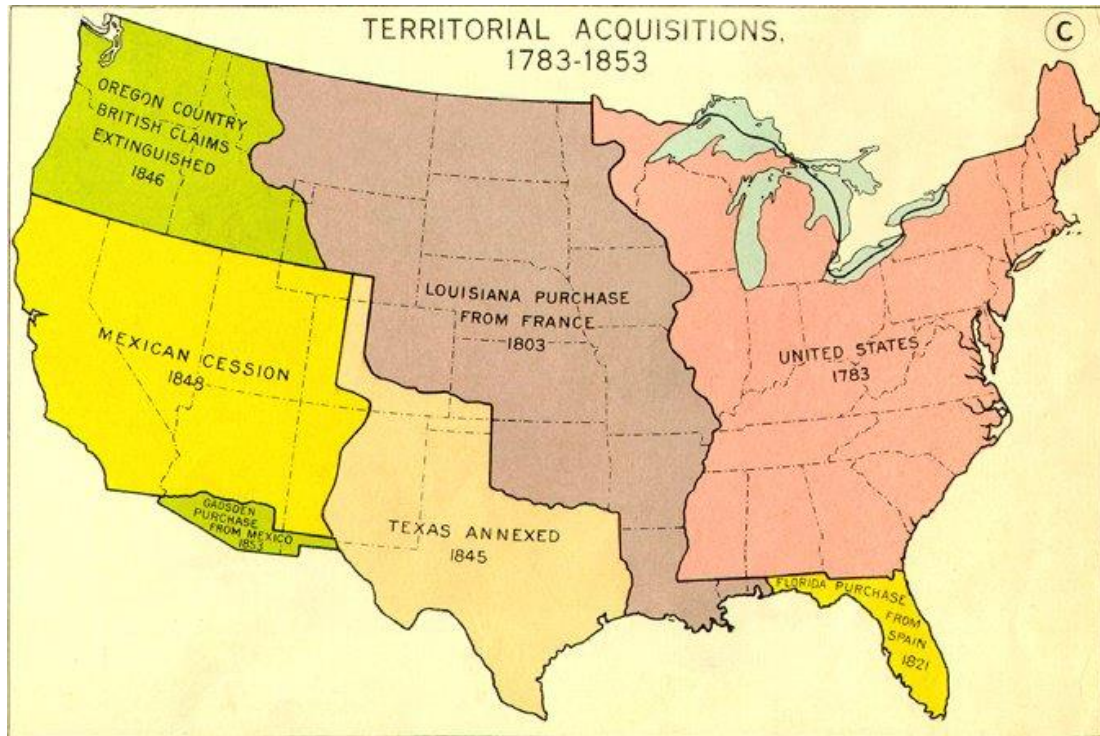
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