

Critical Thinking Skills



- How was Lewis and Clark's exploration of the Louisiana Purchase lands essential to future events in westward expansion? Would history be different if they hadn't gone?
- How did Sam Houston play an important role in the fight for freedom for Texas? What was the cause of the Mexican-American War, and what were the effects?
- What was Manifest Destiny? Was it justified?
- Why were the California Gold Rush and the Transcontinental Railroad significant developments in westward expansion?
- Why do you think the Native American Indians were seen as a threat to westward expansion? What is your opinion of the Indian Removal Act and the Trail of Tears?
- What rights do Native American Indians have today which they did not have during this time period?
- Research an important female character that did not appear in this play, and write a short paragraph about her.
- Find an Internet site that relates to this play: http://_____
- Make a list of questions you would ask General George Custer in an interview.
- Design a boat or a wagon for Lewis and Clark on their journey.
- Write a letter home from someone on the Lewis and Clark Expedition describing a typical day.
- Pretend to be a newspaper reporter in 1836 and write a story about the Battle of the Alamo.
- Put yourself in the Westward Expansion time period. Give yourself a name, tell about your family, and write a letter to the president explaining your views about Westward Expansion. (Write a narrative.)

Vocabulary

Pair two words and use them in a topic sentence. Then write 3 paragraphs about your topic.

Removal
Reservation

Manifest Destiny
Americanize

Canal
Transcontinental

Iron-horse
Agreement