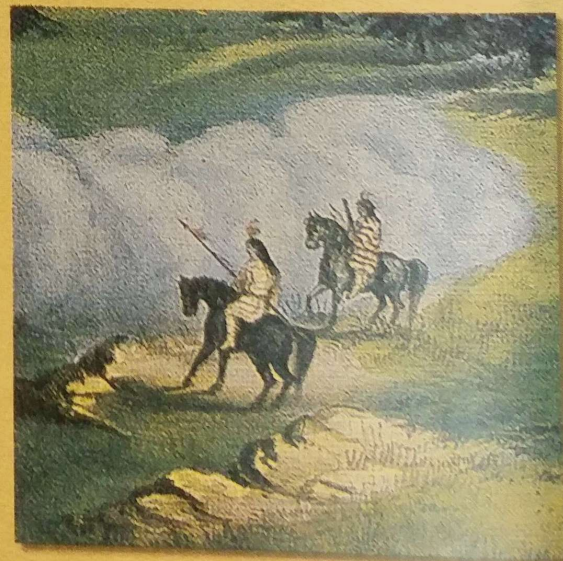


What changes did settlers bring to the West in the early 1800s?



What might these people already living in the West be thinking of all the changes?



Manifest Destiny and Settling the West

16.1 Introduction

In Chapter 15, you learned how the Bill of Rights was added to the Constitution to protect the rights and freedoms of Americans. At that time, the United States stretched from the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi River. In this chapter, you will read about how the United States spread across North America by taking control of **territories**, or large regions of land.

In the 1800s, the lands west of the Mississippi River were claimed by several other nations. Many Americans wanted to move into these lands. Some believed that it was natural and right for the United States to take over these territories. They said that expanding westward was America's **Manifest Destiny**, or obvious fate.

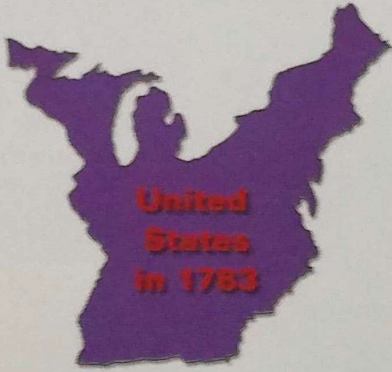
American leaders used a variety of methods to **annex**, or add, territory to the United States. Sometimes they bought territory. Sometimes they made agreements with leaders of other countries. Once, the United States added territory after fighting a war.

Many Americans thought that expanding the United States was good for the country. But as you will see, it definitely was not good for everyone.

Look at the map to the right. The map shows the various territories that were added to the United States between 1783 and 1853. As you read through this chapter, look back at this map. How did the United States gain control of each territory? What happened to the people who already lived there?



16.2 United States in 1783



After the Revolutionary War ended in 1783, the United States gained control from Britain of most of the territory from the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi River. More and more white settlers began moving west into lands where only Native Americans had been living. Some wanted to go farther, across the Mississippi River.

Several nations claimed territories that Americans wanted for themselves. In the Southeast, Florida was controlled by Spain. France claimed much of the land west of the Mississippi River. Farther west, first Spain and then Mexico controlled

huge territories, including the places we know today as Texas, the Southwest, and California. Britain claimed large areas in the Northwest, including the present-day states of Oregon and Washington. Russia also claimed a part of the Northwest.

Americans wanted these lands for many reasons. The number of Americans was growing, partly because people from other countries were moving to the United States. People wanted more room, especially for farming. They wanted more opportunities to work and to build homes. Businesses wanted resources, like wood and minerals, as well as new places to sell goods. Political



This painting shows Manifest Destiny represented as an angel floating westward. She is bringing the telegraph, railroads, farmers, and settlers with her. The Native Americans appear to be running away.

leaders wanted the United States to be strong and safe from attacks by other countries.

Americans were proud of their new country. Many of them believed that it was only natural and right to spread their religion, government, and way of life all the way to the Pacific Ocean. In 1845, a newspaper writer called this idea America's *Manifest Destiny*.

16.3 Louisiana Purchase (1803)

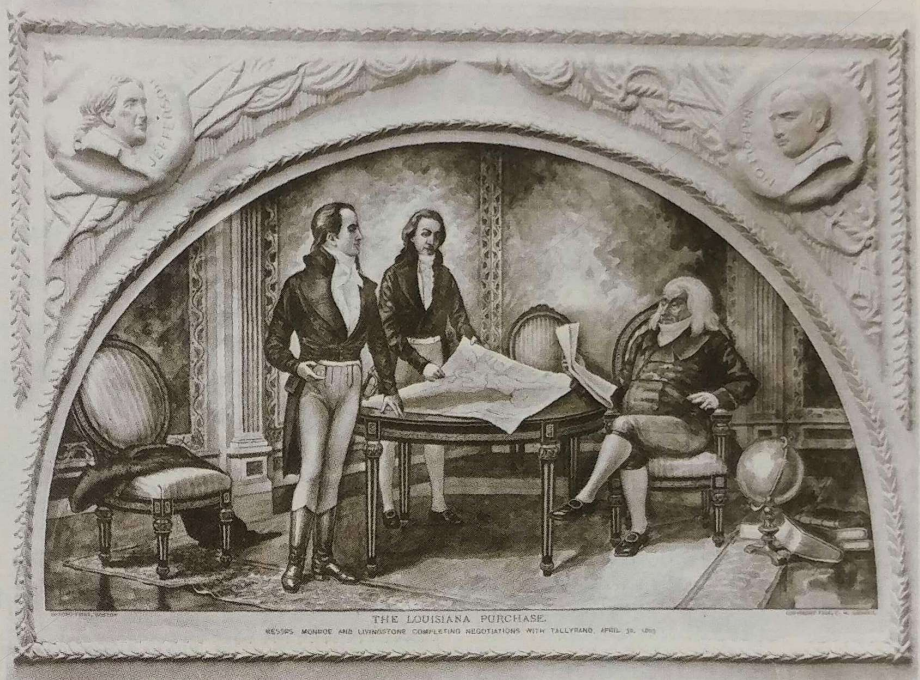
The first huge addition to the United States was the Louisiana Purchase of 1803. In a single agreement with France, the United States purchased (bought) most of the land from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains.

The Louisiana Purchase came about because Americans wanted to be able to ship goods down the Mississippi River to the port city of New Orleans. From there, goods could be sent by ship to states on the Atlantic Coast. Moving goods in this way was easier and cheaper than shipping them over the Appalachian Mountains.

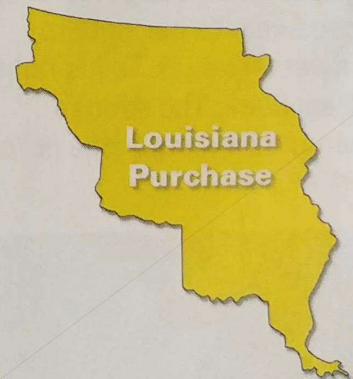
New Orleans, though, was controlled by France. To make sure that Americans could move goods freely through the city, President Thomas Jefferson offered to buy New Orleans for up to 7.5 million dollars.

At this time, France had its own problems, including worries over a possible war with England. The French wanted money for their army, and they were ready to give up their claims in North America. They surprised President Jefferson by agreeing to sell all of the Louisiana Territory for 12 million dollars. This purchase was a great bargain that doubled the size of the United States overnight.

But the Louisiana Purchase was not good for everyone, especially Native Americans. For years, white settlers had wanted to push Native Americans westward. Now there was a place to put them. In the 1830s, several tribes were forced to move out of their homelands in the South to what is now Oklahoma. Thousands of Choctaws, Creeks, Chickasaws, and Cherokees were forced off their land and onto **reservations** in Oklahoma. Many starved, froze to death, or died from diseases during these terrible journeys.



Diplomats from the United States (standing on the left) present a French leader (seated on the right) with a map and description of the Louisiana Purchase in 1803.



reservation: an area of land set aside by the United States government for Native Americans to live on

16.4 Lewis and Clark Expedition (1804 to 1806)

expedition: A trip by a group of people to explore unknown places. The group itself is also called an *expedition*.

Shortly before the Louisiana Purchase, President Jefferson sent two former soldiers to lead an **expedition** to explore the huge territory. Jefferson asked the two men, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, to map the Louisiana Territory and describe its soil, plants, animals, and Native American tribes. He also wanted to learn about locations for trading posts and settlements and perhaps even find the Northwest Passage.

On May 14, 1804, Lewis and Clark started up the Missouri River from St. Louis with more than 40 other men. One of them was Clark's slave, a man named York. York would become the first African American to cross North America.

The expedition traveled up the Missouri in search of another river that would take them west to the Pacific Ocean. Instead, they discovered high, cold plateaus. They spent the winter with a group of Native Americans, the Mandans, in what is now North Dakota.

One of the Native Americans they met was a young Shoshone woman named Sacagawea. In the summer, she guided the expedition over the high, steep Rocky Mountains. After crossing dry, barren land, Lewis and Clark finally found the Salmon, Snake, and Columbia Rivers. The expedition traveled down the rivers and reached the Pacific Ocean in November 1805.

On their way back from the Pacific, Lewis and Clark discovered two new routes across the Rocky Mountains. In 1806, they returned to Missouri as heroes. Now that the Louisiana Territory was better known, settlers could move even farther west.

This painting shows the key members of Lewis and Clark's expedition at Three Forks, Montana. The young woman is Sacagawea. To her right is Meriwether Lewis. To his right is William Clark. The African American carrying a rifle is York, Clark's slave.

