

**Vocabulary:**

1. Prospector- Someone who explores an area looking for minerals like gold.
2. Expansion- To become larger or expand.
3. Reservation- An area of land reserved for a group of people.
4. Pioneer- A person who is among the first to explore or settle in a new area.
5. Interpreter- A person who translates speech for two parties to communicate easier.
6. Expedition- A journey or voyage taken by a group of people with a set goal or purpose in mind.

**Westward Expansion:**

- The Homestead Act occurred during this time. This is when the U.S. gave away plots of land to travelers who wanted to settle in the West.
- The United States needed more land because the population was growing very quickly. It had to have more room to fit the people.
- During Westward Expansion the size of the United States doubled.
- The Pony Express was created to get mail out to people who lived in the west.
- Inventions such as the steam locomotive changed the lives of Americans by transporting people and goods across the nation, it paved the way for the development of cars, and It created jobs as workers were needed to lay tracks across the United States.
- In 1869, the Transcontinental Railroad was finished. It made traveling out west much quicker than ever before.
- Traveling out west was a dangerous and long journey. Pioneers faced many dangers such as wild animals, bad weather, sickness, and crossing the steep snow-covered mountains.

**Louisiana Purchase and the Lewis & Clark Expedition:**

- Thomas Jefferson was president at this time.
- The land west of the Mississippi River was purchased by the US from France for \$15 million dollars.
- Lewis and Clark were the first to reach the Pacific Ocean by land.
- When the United States purchased the Louisiana Territory from France they had no idea what was beyond the Appalachian Mountains. Lewis and Clark were hired by President Jefferson to map out the land, explore the area, and share their findings. Their trip was a great success and it encouraged pioneers to move out west.

### **Oregon Trail**

- The most popular route that people took while traveling out west was the Oregon Trail.
- The Oregon Trail started in Independence, Missouri and continued for almost 2,000 miles before ending in Oregon.

### **California Gold Rush**

- People from all over the world moved to California. They would stay in mining camps and hunt for gold in specific areas. They would pan for gold in hopes of becoming rich.
- Only a small number of people became rich.
- In a small town called Sutter's Mill in California gold was discovered. A man named James Marshall found tiny golden flakes in Sutter Creek. It was supposed to be kept a secret but the news spread quickly. Soon, thousands of people came to California to hunt for gold.

### **Native Americans**

- The United States government forced many Native American tribes to relocate to different areas called Indian Reservations so that white settlers could move on the land.
- Many Native Americans agreed to move because they felt like they had no choice. Others were angry and refused to move. More than 17,000 Native Americans moved from their homes and nearly 3,000 died along the trail.