


Module 4: Creating a New Nation - 1788 to the 1840s

Topic 2 Content: Westward Migration Notes

Introduction

Westward Migration

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Motivation

Manifest Destiny

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Manifest Destiny

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Manifest Destiny

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Manifest Destiny



Americans went west because of a belief that it was America's "Manifest Destiny" to be a country that stretched from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean. The term "Manifest Destiny" was coined by journalist John O'Sullivan in the 1840s. O'Sullivan believed it was America's "Manifest Destiny" to expand its civilization and institutions across North America. This expansion included individual freedom and economic opportunity. Americans believed that a movement westward was ordained by God.

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