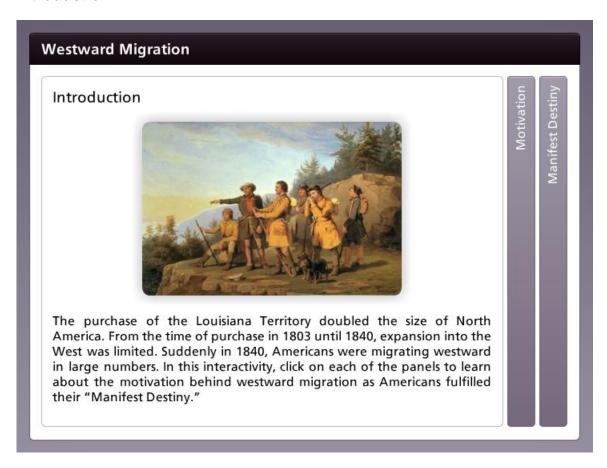
Module 4: Creating a New Nation - 1788 to the 1840s Topic 2 Content: Westward Migration Notes

Introduction



The purchase of the Louisiana Territory doubled the size of North America. From the time of purchase in 1803 until 1840, expansion into the West was limited. Suddenly in 1840, Americans were migrating westward in large numbers. In this interactivity, click on each of the panels to learn about the motivation behind westward migration as Americans fulfilled their "Manifest Destiny."



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Motivation



Many Americans felt that a fresh start would improve their lives, especially if they could easily acquire large amounts of land to own and farm upon. Owning land and farming provided the migrating Americans with a more prosperous economic outlook.



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Manifest Destiny

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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