



Westward Expansion

Name: _____

Date: _____

Grade: Grade 5

Part A: Multiple Choice

Circle the best answer for each question.

1. Which statement best describes the idea of Manifest Destiny?

- A) Native Americans should keep all western lands
- B) Americans had a duty to expand across the continent
- C) The United States should return land to France
- D) Only farmers were allowed to move westward

2. How did the Transcontinental Railroad most change the United States?

- A) It replaced all wagon trails with paved roads
- B) It connected the East and West coasts by rail
- C) It gave free land to every American citizen
- D) It ended all conflict with Native Americans

3. Why was the Trail of Tears harmful to the Cherokee people?

- A) They chose to move but disliked the weather
- B) They were forced from their homeland and thousands died
- C) They lost a trade agreement with France
- D) They had to build the Transcontinental Railroad

4. What was one negative effect of the California Gold Rush?

- A) California never became a state
- B) No one found any gold at all
- C) It caused lawlessness and environmental damage
- D) It decreased the population of California

Part B: Fill in the Blank

Write the correct answer on each line.

1. Manifest Destiny encouraged Americans to expand from coast to _____.
2. The government broke many _____ it had made with Native American tribes.
3. The Homestead Act offered _____ acres of free land to settlers.
4. The word coined to describe the belief in westward expansion was _____.

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1. Manifest Destiny encouraged Americans to expand from coast to coast .
2. The government broke many treaties it had made with Native American tribes.
3. The Homestead Act offered 160 acres of free land to settlers.
4. The word coined to describe the belief in westward expansion was Manifest .
5. Native Americans lost their ancestral lands as settlers moved west.