

Document Based Essay

Grade 7

“Westward Expansion”

Directions:




The following question is based on the accompanying documents. This question is designed to test your ability to work with historic documents. As you analyze the documents, take into account both the sources of the document and the author’s point of view.

Historical Context:

Americans viewed the expansion of our territory to the west as the Manifest Destiny of our nation. From the Appalachian Mountains to the Pacific, America expanded from 1789 to 1860.

Task:

Using information from the documents and your knowledge of social studies, answer the questions that follow each document in Part A. Your answers to the questions will help you write the Part B essay in which you will be asked to.

-  Explain the Louisiana Purchase and discuss its role in American Expansion
-  Discuss Manifest Destiny and the reasons that America expanded westward.
-  Describe the lives lived by western settlers.

Part A Short Answer:

Examine the documents that follow closely and then answer the questions that follow. Carefully read and analyze each document. Answer each question on the separate answer sheet using evidence from the document and your knowledge of Social Studies.

Part B Essay Answer:

Answer the question in a well-organized essay that uses your answers from Part A. Use evidence from the Documents and your knowledge of Social Studies to support the ideas in your essay. You should use definitions, examples, evidence, and other specific examples to fully develop the Topic.

Document #1

Thus we behold Kentucky, lately an howling wilderness, the habitation of savages and wild beasts, become a fruitful field; this region, so favorably distinguished by nature, now become the habitation of civilization...

Here, where the hand of violence shed the blood of the innocent; where the horrid yells of savages, and the groans of the distressed, sounded in our ears, we now hear the praises and adorations of our Creator; where wretched wigwams stood, the miserable abode of savages, we behold the foundations of cities laid, that, in all probability, will equal the glory of the greatest upon earth. And we view Kentucky situated on the fertile banks of the great Ohio, rising from obscurity to shine with splendor, equal to any other of the states of the American hemisphere.

The ADVENTURES OF COL. DANIEL BOONE, 1794

- 1A) What are the reasons that Daniel Boone gives for the settling of Kentucky?
- 1B) How does Daniel Boone view the Native American's who were on the land?

Document #2

A CONVENTION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE FRENCH REPUBLIC

The President of the United States of America and the First Consul of the French Republic in the name of the French people, in consequence of the treaty of cession of Louisiana which has been Signed this day ... have agreed to the followings articles:

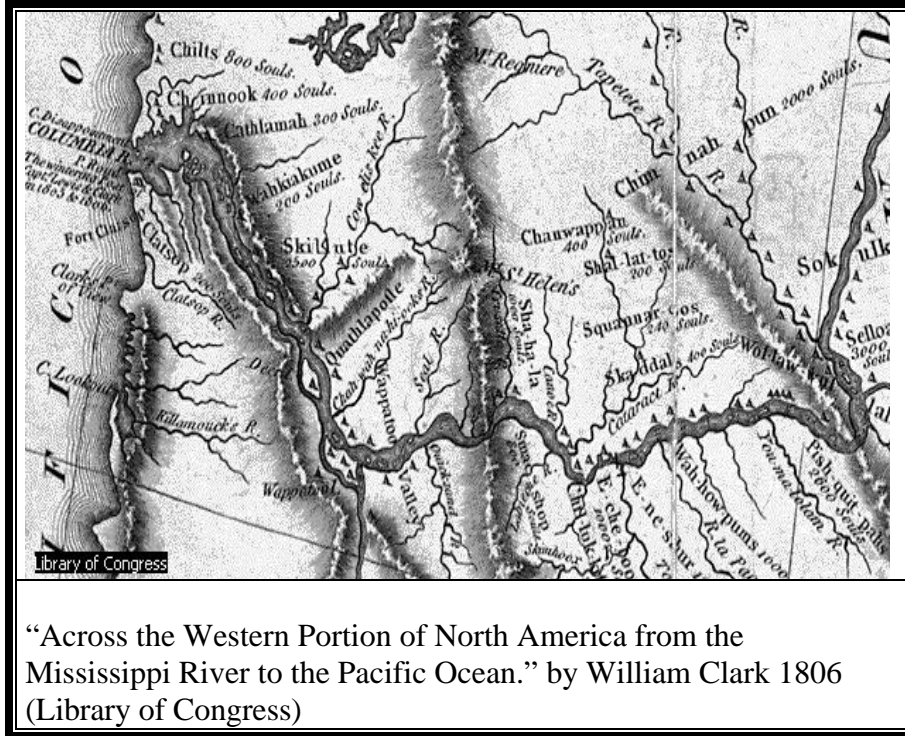
Article: 1 -- The Government of the United States engages to pay to the French government in the manner Specified in the following article the sum of Sixty millions of francs...

Article: 2 -- ...this Stock Shall be transferred to the government of France or to Such person or persons as Shall be authorized to receive it in three months at most after the exchange of ratifications of this treaty and after Louisiana Shall be taken possession of the name of the Government of the United States.

Treaty by Ambassador Robert Livingston and Barbé Marbois in 1802.

- 2A) What agreement is described in this treaty? Explain why it was signed?
- 2B) How did this treaty change the territory of the United States?

Document #3



3A) What geographic features are shown in this map?

3B) How does this map show the dream of Manifest Destiny?

Document #4

... here we purchased a Dog ... Two Indians accompanied us from the last village, they we detected in Stealing a knife and returned, the river being too wide to See either the form Shape or Size of the Islands on the Lard Side.

Great joy in camp we are in view of the Ocean, this great Pacific Ocean which we been so long anxious to see. and the roaring or noise made by the waves breaking on the rocky Shores (as I suppose) may be heard disti[n]ctly

William Clark, Journal Entry,
November 07, 1805

4A) What was the goal of the Lewis and Clark expedition and what does the journal entry say about it?

Document Set #5

"Altho I was but a girl of 11 years I distinctly remember many things connected with that far-off time when all of our western country was a wilderness. We were six months in crossing the plains in ox-wagons. In our home, In Illinois, in the early fifties, there was much talk and excitement over the news of the great gold discoveries in California and equally there was much talk concerning the wonderful fertile valleys of Oregon Territory, an act of Congress giving to actual settlers 640 acres of land."



Harriet Scott Palmer, 1852

- 5A) What is Oregon Country, and how did the United States acquire it?
- 5B) What does this quote say about the motivations for families moving west?

Document #6

<p style="text-align: center;">HOMESTEAD.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Land Office at <i>Prossville Neb</i> <i>January 20th 1868.</i></p> <p>CERTIFICATE, } <i>No. 1</i> }</p> <p style="text-align: right;">APPLICATION, } <i>No. 1</i> }</p> <p>It is hereby certified, That pursuant to the provisions of the act of Congress, approved May 20, 1862, entitled "An act to secure homesteads to actual settlers on the public domain,"</p> <p><i>Daniel Truman</i> has made payment in full for <i>SW 1/4 of NW 1/4 of NW 1/4 of T8S 1/4 R4E</i> of Section <i>Twenty Six (26)</i> in Township <i>fourth N</i> of Range <i>five (5) E</i> containing <i>160</i> acres.</p> <p>Now, therefore, be it known, That on presentation of this Certificate to the COMMISSIONER OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE, the said <i>Daniel Truman</i> shall be entitled to a Patent for the Tract of Land above described.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Henry M. Atkinson</i> Register.</p>	<p>Land Claim, 1868</p>
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- 6A) What was the Homestead Act?