

Westward Expansion

Expansion and Reform
(1801–1861)



Expansion

Manifest destiny

Indian removal

Mexican-American War

Thematic Icons



Economics and business



Geography and environment



Historical concepts and questions



Politics, government and citizenship



Society and culture



War, diplomacy and foreign policy

Icons: For more detailed instructions, see the *User Guide*



Flash activity (these activities are not editable)



Teacher notes included in the Notes page



By the end of this section, you will know about the following aspects of U.S. expansion in the 19th century:

- The Louisiana Purchase
- The Lewis and Clark Expedition
- Territorial gains between 1800 and 1850.



Looking back timeline



Use this timeline to recap key historical events and contextualize western expansion. Either press on a date, or drag the pointer along the timeline to read about what happened in each year.

Press **start** to begin.

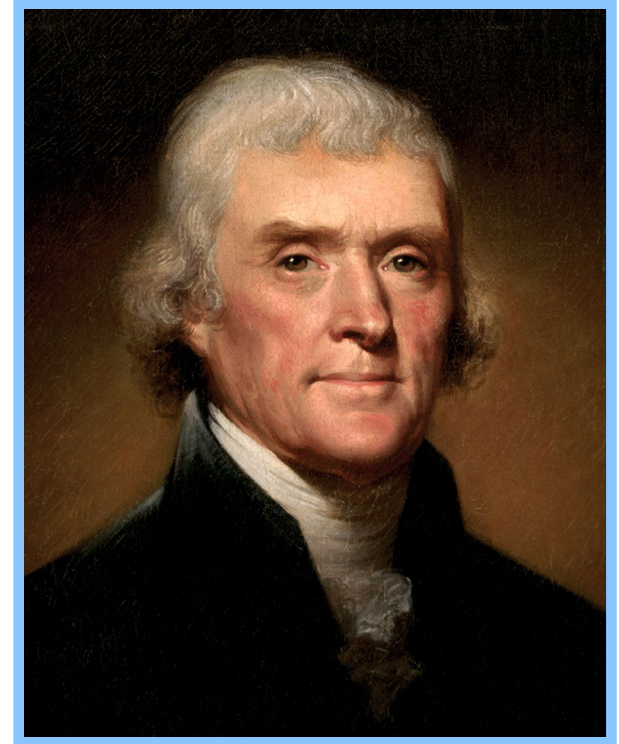
start





At the start of the 19th century, Spain owned the vast Louisiana Territory.

However, with its empire weakening, Spain agreed to return the land to France in 1801. President **Thomas Jefferson** worried about the presence of the powerful French Empire so close to the United States.



In 1803, Jefferson sent **James Monroe** to France to negotiate American access to the Gulf.





Louisiana Purchase

Frustrated by slave rebellions in the Caribbean, Emperor **Napoleon Bonaparte** had decided to give up Louisiana.



When Monroe arrived in Paris in 1803, Napoleon offered to sell the Louisiana Territory for \$15 million.

Monroe did not have time to consult with Jefferson, but decided to accept Napoleon's offer anyway. The **Louisiana Purchase** doubled the size of the United States.

Some feared the nation was growing too large to govern. Jefferson worried that he had overstepped the Constitution.





Despite his reservations, Jefferson was eager to learn about the new territory. He commissioned **Meriweather Lewis** (quickly joined by **William Clark**) to lead the **Corps of Discovery** from St. Louis to the Pacific. Along the way, the explorers faced bitter cold, treacherous rivers and near-starvation. Press on the numbers to learn more.

Press **start** to begin.

start





During the first half of the 19th century, the United States grew from the original 13 colonies to become a vast nation spanning an entire continent.
Press the orange info buttons to learn more.
Press **start** to begin.

start

