



Unit 4 Westward Expansion

Grade 4 Social Studies

Unit Description:

Students explore the causes of Westward Migration in the United States and consider the effects on people and the development of borders.

Social Studies Standards:

- 4.1.1** Construct timelines of historical events
- 4.1.4** Produce clear and coherent writing to:
 - compare and contrast past and present viewpoints on a given historical topic
 - conduct simple research
 - summarize actions/events and explain significance
 - differentiate between the 5 regions of the United States
- 4.2.1** Explain how early explorations affected the expansion of boundaries and development in the United States
- 4.2.2** Cite evidence to support the key contributions and influence of people in the history of the United States
- 4.2.3** Explain the voluntary migration of people and its significance in the development of the boundaries of the United States
- 4.3.1** Explain how inventions and new processes affected the lives of people, migration, and the economy of regions of the United States
- 4.4.6** Interpret various types of maps using a key/legend, compass rose including cardinal and intermediate directions, latitude/longitude, and scale
- 4.5.2** Analyze how physical characteristics of a region shape its economic development
- 4.5.3** Identify and explain how the physical characteristics of a region influenced human settlement

- 4.6.2** Describe the human impact on the land and bodies of water of the five regions of the United States
- 4.9.2** Identify examples of human, natural, and capital resources and explain how these resources are used to produce goods and provide services
- 4.9.3** Define the terms profit and risk and explain how they relate to each other
- 4.9.4** Investigate the relationship between supply, demand, and price

**Enduring Understandings-
Compelling Question:**

- **What are the causes and effects of migration?**

**Essential Questions-
Supporting Questions:**

- What conditions enabled people to move west?
- What motivated people to move west?
- What were the effects of Westward Migration on Native Americans?
- How did Westward Migration impact the borders of the United States?
- What factors led to the development and expansion of the railroad?
- How did the advancements in transportation impact borders of the United States?
- How did the transcontinental railroad affect life for people living in the US, including migrants and Native Americans?
- How did the transcontinental railroad affect the environment in the West?