

## WESTWARD EXPANSION

### Document 1: Manifest Destiny by John O'Sullivan, 1839

The American people having come from many other nations...our national birth was the beginning of a new history...which separates us from the past and connects us with the future only...our country is destined to be the great nation of [the future]... The expansive future is our arena... We are entering on its untrodden space, with the truths of God in our minds, kind objects in our hearts, and with a clear conscience unsullied by the past. We are the nation of human progress, and who will, set limits to our onward march? ***[It is] our manifest destiny to overspread the continent allotted by Providence for the free development of our yearly multiplying millions*** ... The far-reaching, the boundless future will be the era of American greatness. In its magnificent domain of space and time, the nation of many nations is destined to manifest to mankind the excellence of divine principles... Yes, we are the nation of progress, of individual freedom, of universal enfranchisement. We must onward to the fulfillment of our mission — to the entire development of the principle of our organization — freedom of conscience, freedom of person, freedom of trade and business pursuits, universality of freedom and equality. This is our high destiny, and in nature's eternal, inevitable decree of cause and effect we must accomplish it.

\*\* Unsullied: not tarnished, spoiled or made impure

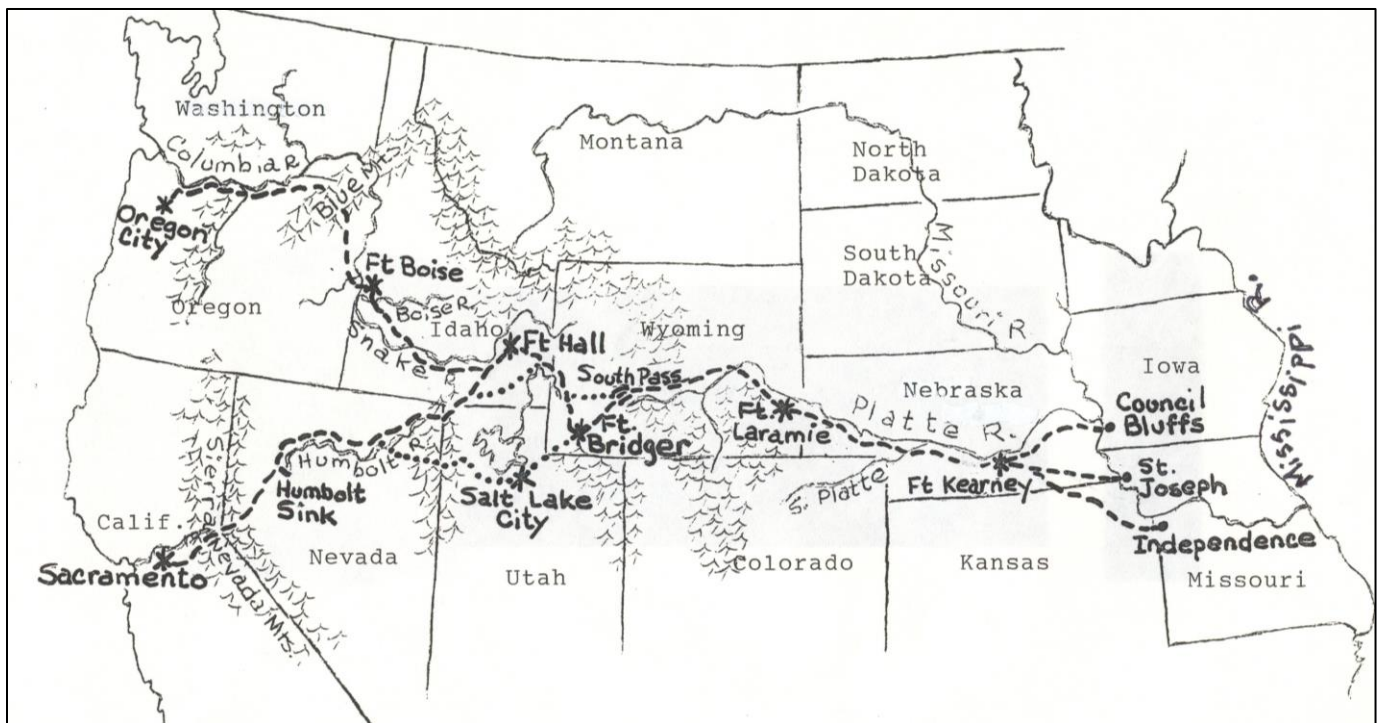
1. According to John O'Sullivan, what is America's *manifest destiny*?

2. Why does John O'Sullivan feel that America has such a destiny?

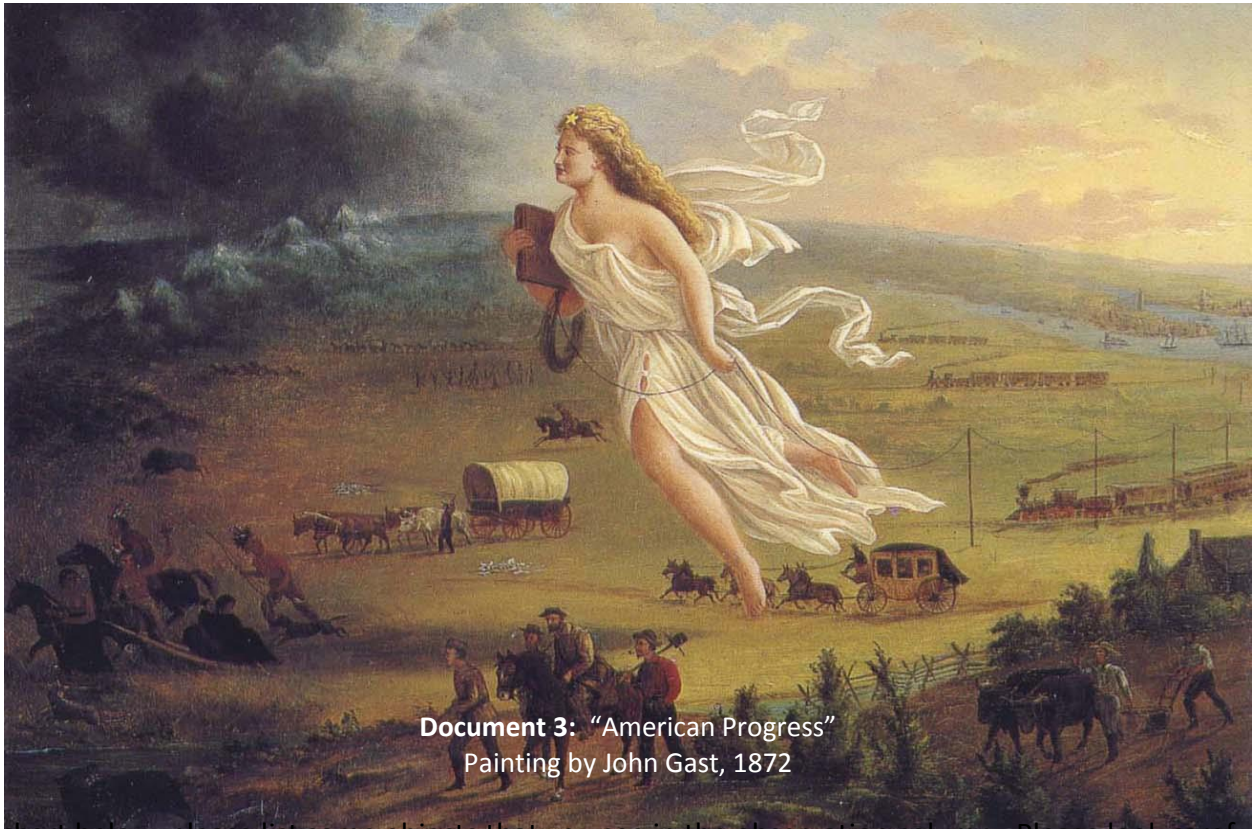
3. Who do you think qualified as an "American" at this point in history?

4. Summarize what you think John O'Sullivan trying to say in this document?

**Document 2: Map of Overland Trails**



- 1. Review Question: Why did the Mormon Pioneers come out west?**
- 2. Why do you think other Americans wanted to come out West (besides the Pioneers)?**
- 3. What kinds of physical barriers were in the way of travel for people to the West? (look at the map)**
- 4. What cities were the starting points for these trails?**
- 5. What cities were endpoints for these trails?**



**Document 3: "American Progress"**  
 Painting by John Gast, 1872

In the chart below, please list some objects that you see in the observation column. Please look carefully and in all corners of the painting. After you have listed several things you see, please write down your inferences about what the painting is trying to tell you. Make sure to fill up all of the boxes in this chart.

<b>OBSERVATION:</b> What do you see?	<b>INFERENCE:</b> From the things you see, what is meaning of the painting?
<i>Example:</i> I see Mountains in the painting (top left)	<i>Example:</i> I think that the Mountains could represent the Western United States, because the Western United States has mountains.

## **American Experience: Episode 1- The Way West**

Between 1845 and 1893, the American West was lost and won - wound with ribbons of iron and wire and brought within the dominion of the United States - while, along the way, the lives of hundreds of thousands of Native Americans were violently disrupted and all but destroyed.

- 1. Why do you think that the video clip started out the way that it did?**
- 2. How did Americans and Natives differ in their views of the Western land?**
- 3. What was the White settlers attitude towards Native Americans?**
- 4. That narrator talks about “Land Hunger”- What do you think “Land Hunger” is?**
- 5. What did white people really want to do in the West? Did they intend to hurt the Native Americans?**
- 6. What was in the rugged mountains of Upper California?**
- 7. How did this excitement over California change the West? How did this change men?**
- 8. Where did the Native Americans think they should go, since the West was being taken over?**