

Chapter 10: How Americans Settled the Frontier

Multiple Perspectives and the Idea of a Frontier

Frontier : The land west of where most white settlers lived. Native Americans lived on the frontier.

The white settlers moving west into land that Native Americans lived : **westward expansion**.

The British tried to keep the settlers from moving west into the Mississippi and Ohio River valleys where native Americans lived, but they could not stop them because there were too many settlers and not enough British soldiers.

Westward Expansion of the Political Boundaries

Political boundaries : the imaginary lines that separate countries.

The U.S. first expanded its political boundaries in 1783 when the **Treaty of Paris** was signed, ending the Revolutionary War.

A territory : land that was part of the U.S. but had not become a state.

How People Moved West

Successive : following in order, one after another. The settlers settled the frontier in **successive** order. Each time many settlers would go further west than others had gone before them.

Hunters and fur trappers : the first white people to settle on the frontier. They sold the fur from animals that they hunted and trapped animals such as beaver and raccoons.

A famous hunter and fur trapper from North Carolina who helped blaze a trail through the **Cumberland Gap** into the frontier of what is now known as Kentucky : **Daniel Boone**.

Daniel Boone was part of the **first group of frontier settlers** -- the hunters and fur trappers.

The pioneer farmers were the second group of frontier settlers. They cleared the land, built log cabins and established farms. They would also dig water wells so they would have a close and constant water supply. The pioneer farmers would also supplement their vegetable supply with meat that they had hunted. The Native Americans were angry at the way the pioneer families used the land

because it interfered with the Indians using the land. Practices such as fence building scared the game away that the Native Americans relied on for food.

Abraham Lincoln : one example of a pioneer farming family. Abraham was born in a log house in Kentucky. In 1860 he was elected President of the United States.

The third group of people to settle the frontier : **the permanent settlers**. The permanent settlers were individuals with skills needed to make a community. This group included doctors, lawyers, storekeepers, craftsmen, farmers and others. The permanent settlers built homes, roads, churches, schools, and eventually towns were formed and when they kept growing they eventually became cities.

How Local Self Government Developed: The Northwest Ordinance

Local Governments : the governments that were operated by the people in the frontier.

The Northwest Ordinance : a law that informed the people how to set up a government in the Northwest Territory. The Northwest Ordinance also outlawed slavery in the Northwest Territory, and it gave the settlers a bill of rights that included right to due process, trial by jury and religious freedom. The Northwest Territory was divided into five different territories that would eventually become the states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin and Michigan. The process set up for becoming a state in the Northwest Ordinance was the same process used for most of the states in the United States. The process had three stages.

Stage 1 to becoming a state : When the territory had 5,000 or less free adult males congress would appoint a governor to oversee the territory who would make laws for the territory. Congress also appointed judges to hold court.

Stage 2 to becoming a state : When the population of a territory reached 5,000 free adult males a local self government was elected and a non-voting representative was sent to Congress.

Stage 3 to becoming a state : A territory could become a state when its population reached 60,000. It would write its own state constitution and would be equal to the other states that were part of the United States.

Territories Developed into States

Kentucky : the first western territory to become a state (1792).

Ohio : first territory in the Northwest Territory to become a state (1803).

Louisiana became a state before both Mississippi and Alabama, even though it is further west, because it had a city with a large population (New Orleans).

Florida Becomes Part of the United States

Spain claimed Florida in the 1500s before it was part of the United States. Before the War of 1812, many people believed that the United States should take ownership of Florida from Spain.

Andrew Jackson : U.S. Army General who helped the United States obtain Florida from Spain in 1818. He ordered his army to occupy Pensacola. Pensacola was the capital of Florida at the time. The United States used Pensacola as a base for military operations. Spain was not a strong military power and could not stop the United States from occupying Florida. In 1819, Spain agreed to give Florida to the United States in exchange for a 5 million dollar debt the United States said Spain owed.

Three Factors Attract Americans to the Western Frontier

“Go west young man” : Horace Greeley’s advice to individuals who were looking for an opportunity to improve their economic situation. Horace Greeley was a New York newspaper editor. He wrote the article in 1846 and many people took his advice and moved west to make a better life.

Religious freedom : one factor why people moved into the frontier west in the 1800s.

Mormons : one example of a group that moved into the frontier west for religious freedom.

Land and natural resources : two things available to the settlers that helped solve their economic problems. Land was inexpensive and often free. Natural resources such as precious metals and animals used for the fur trade were available.

Two economic factors that influenced settlers to move west : plentiful and inexpensive land in the west and problems in the East.

Land, water and climate : three factors that determined which areas of the country were settled first.

Sod : the reason The Great Plains were not settled by many people. In the 1840s the steel plow had not been invented yet and the land could not be farmed.

Good, free farmland : the second factor that attracted people to travel the long and difficult Oregon Trail to the Oregon Country.

Gold rush : a time when people from many different places hear about gold being discovered and then move to that place to get the gold.

Natural resources : the third factor that attracted people to travel west into the frontier. One example of people moving west for the natural resources is the California Gold Rush.

Americans Carry Out Manifest Destiny in Texas

Manifest Destiny : the belief that United States had the right and responsibility to take ownership of the western frontier from the east to the Pacific Ocean.

Three core beliefs of Manifest Destiny : 1) God wants the U.S. to expand westward. 2) Expansion was a necessary thing due to population growth. 3) Westward expansion is a good thing because it brings a democratic form of government to others.

1824-1835 : Texas population increase. Between 1824–1835 the population in Texas increased from 2,000 to 35,000 settlers.

Conflict in Texas with Mexico : one result of Manifest Destiny. Texas was part of Mexico. Many settlers believed that it was their right and responsibility to continue the expansion of the United States, which included making Texas theirs.

Dictator : someone who has complete political control of a country.

General Santa Anna : Dictator of Mexico in 1834. He was unpopular with the Tejanos (mexicans living in Texas) because he made himself dictator and was not elected to office.

Americans gain control of Texas : capture of General Santa Anna. After the Texans were beaten at the Alamo in San Antonio by Santa Anna's army, Sam Houston led an army of Texans into Mexico and captured Santa Anna. The Texans made him sign a document that allowed Texas to be self-governing and gave additional land to Texas.

Annex : attaching a smaller area of land to a larger area of land. Many people wanted Texas (smaller) to be joined with or attached to the United States. They wanted to **annex** Texas.

Why Texas was not annexed : two main reasons. 1) The United States Senate feared that it might cause a war with Mexico. 2) Many Texans had slaves and the Senate thought that if Texas was annexed, it would give the southern slave states control of the Senate.

1836-1846 : Texas population increase. Between 1836-1846, the population of Texas increased from 35,000-142,000.

No annexation of Texas : Texas governs itself. Texas governed itself for ten years.

The Political Boundaries of the United States Expand

Polk's main campaign issue : Manifest destiny. Polk lured American voters by promising to continue expansion of the United States.

"54-40 or fight!" : Polk's campaign slogan. The phrase referred to the latitude of the northern most part of the Oregon Country. Both the United States and Britain occupied this area. Polk was saying that the United States should have all of it, even if it meant going to war with Britain.

Polk's election as U.S. President in 1844 : Americans support of Manifest Destiny.

The Americans support of Manifest Destiny : congress supporting the annexation of Texas. Congress decided to tolerate the political problems it would cause with Mexico and the fact that it would add another slave state to the Union.

\$30,000,000 : the amount of money the United States offered to pay Mexico for its land between Texas and the Pacific Ocean.

The United States capability, leadership, resources and motivation : greater advantage in the Mexican War.

The United States paid Mexico \$15,000,000 for the land it earlier offered to buy for \$30,000,000 : The United States won the Mexican War and forced Mexico to sell the land to the U.S. at that price.

49th Parallel : the boundary agreement that Polk and the United States made with Britain instead of pushing for ownership of the entire Oregon Country.