

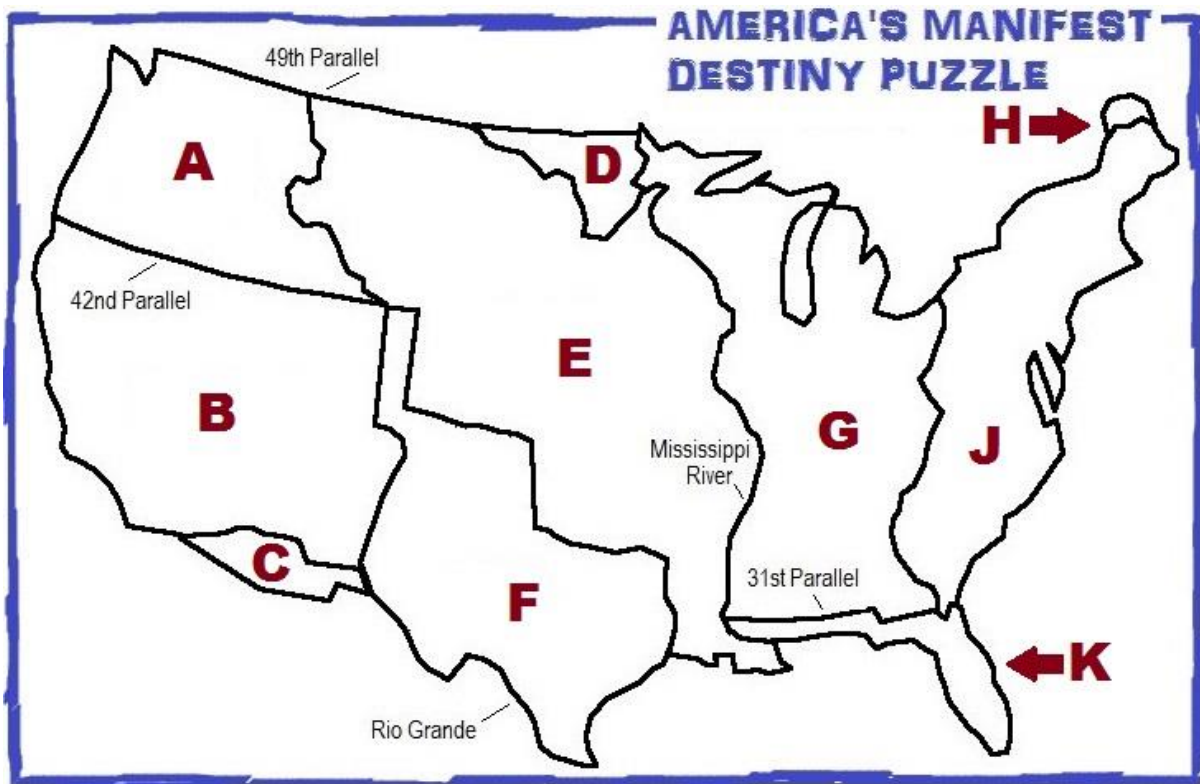
# MANIFEST DESTINY



- What does “manifest destiny” mean? In what three ways was it expressed?
  - ①
  - ②
  - ③
- Who coined the term? What President is especially associated with Manifest Destiny?
- What two events precipitated massive movement westward in America?
  - 1803 →
  - 1812 →
- Three internal foreign agreements during the James Monroe presidency set the stage:
  - Rush-Bagot Agreement (1817) →
  - Convention of 1818 →
  - Adams-Onís Transcontinental Treaty (1819) →
- What major obstacles blocked the way for significant westward expansion?
  - ①
  - ②
  - ③
- Two great trails heading westward were:
  - Santa Fe Trail → \_\_\_\_\_ total miles from Independence to Santa Fe, then continued on to Los Angeles via the \_\_\_\_\_ Trail.
  - Oregon Trail → \_\_\_\_\_ total miles from \_\_\_\_\_ to Portland. Split into the \_\_\_\_\_ Trail, which headed to Sacramento.

Using the map provided, indicate the single best correct answer for each of the following descriptions.

1. Brigham Young led the first settlers to this region.
2. Claimed by five different countries in the early 1800s.
3. Acquired from France in 1803 for \$15 million.
4. The Missouri River bisects this region.
5. Known as the Gadsden Purchase.
6. Contains the original thirteen colonies.
7. Prime area of settlement was the Willamette Valley.
8. Acquired through the Webster-Ashburton Treaty of 1842.
9. Contains the area known as the Great Basin.
10. Concept of “manifest destiny” originally applied to this region only.
11. During the mid-1800s, the southern section of this region produced most of America’s number one export—cotton.
12. Known as the Louisiana Purchase.
13. Early settlers here founded Zion (aka Salt Lake City).
14. This region’s northern boundary is the 31st parallel.
15. Contains the so-called Bear Flag Republic.
16. America’s canal system, including the Erie, flourished here.
17. Most of this region contained the last American soil to be settled, and was therefore not part of the aggressive wave of settlement prior to the Civil War popularly known as “manifest destiny.”
18. Purchased from Mexico for \$10 million in 1853.
19. The Columbia River cuts through the heart of this region.
20. Functioned as an independent country from 1836 until 1845.
21. Originally extended much further north, but was separated at the 49th parallel in 1846.
22. The so-called “Forty-Niners” helped populate the western part of this region.
23. America’s railroad industry began in the northern part of this region.
24. Southern boundary is the Rio Grande.
25. Part of this region was settled during the 1840s by the Mormons.
26. For several days during 1836, the famous Battle of the Alamo was fought here.
27. Important city for early settlement in this region was Portland.
28. Ceded by Spain in the Adams-Onís Transcontinental Treaty of 1819.
29. Southern boundary of this region was the 42nd parallel.
30. Discovery of gold here in 1848 caused great influx of settlers.
31. The original United States claim to this region extended to 54° 40' north latitude.
32. Stephen Austin led settlers here in early 1820s.
33. Robert Gray’s landing in 1792 with his ship *Columbia* formed the basis of America’s claim to this region.
34. The final piece of the puzzle forming the continental United States.
35. The Appalachian Mountains are located within this region.



In 1996, They Might Be Giants, an alternative rock band, released the song “James K. Polk.” It is reminiscent of the catchy country tune “The Battle of New Orleans” (Andrew Jackson’s historical coming-out party) sung by Johnny Horton nearly four decades earlier. The “James K. Polk” lyrics below, by John Flansburgh, Matthew Hill, and John Linnell, are not historically precise. The song, of course, was not meant to be a lesson in history, and while none of the mistakes are particularly grievous, they nevertheless show mere relative superficial familiarity with American history. Can you identify the blunders? Here are some hints—three of the mistakes concern Polk as President; only one error has anything to do with Manifest Destiny; one flaw is (admittedly) somewhat subtle.

In 1844, the Democrats were split.  
 The three nominees for the presidential candidate  
 Were Martin Van Buren, a former President and an abolitionist;  
 James Buchanan, a moderate;  
 Lewis Cass, a general and expansionist.  
 From Nashville came a dark horse riding up,  
 He was James K. Polk, “Napoleon of the Stump!”

Austere, severe, he held few people dear;  
 His oratory filled his foes with fear.  
 The factions soon agreed  
 He’s just the man we need  
 To bring about victory,  
 Fulfill our Manifest Destiny,  
 And annex the land the Mexicans command.  
 And when the votes were cast  
 the winner was  
 Mr. James K. Polk, “Napoleon of the Stump!”

In four short years he met his every goal.  
 He seized the whole Southwest from Mexico,  
 Made sure the tariffs fell,  
 And made the English sell the Oregon territory,  
 He built an independent treasury.  
 Having done all this he sought no second term,  
 But precious few have mourned the passing of  
 Mr. James K. Polk, our eleventh President,  
 “Young Hickory,” “Napoleon of the Stump!”

**The Log Cabin Campaign.** The Whigs ran General William Henry Harrison and John Tyler of Virginia to oppose Van Buren's reelection in 1840. The Whigs copied the campaign tactics that Jackson had used in 1828, portraying Harrison as a man of the common people. Harrison won the election, but his triumph was short lived as he died one month following his inauguration and was succeeded by Tyler. Tyler gave the impression of being weak, but he was stubborn and proud. He believed the president should defer to Congress, but as a states' rights southerner he disagreed with Henry Clay and the northern Whigs about the Bank, protection, and federal internal improvements.

**Tyler's Troubles.** As president, John Tyler found himself in office without being the leader of the Whig party. When the northern Whigs, led by Clay, tried to create a new Bank of the United States, Tyler vetoed the bill, whereupon his entire cabinet, with the exception of Webster, resigned. Only one important piece of domestic legislation passed: the Preemption Act (1841) permitting settlers to occupy unsurveyed public lands.

**Webster-Ashburton Treaty.** Daniel Webster was Tyler's secretary of state and played an important role in resolving outstanding problems with England. One concern was the ill-defined Maine-New Brunswick border which had led to minor fighting along the border during the Aroostook "War" (1838). Another was the Creole affair, in which slaves headed for New Orleans had mutinied and sailed to Nassau. The British arrested the leaders, but the other slaves were freed, despite protests from the United States State Department. In 1842 the disputes were settled with the Webster-Ashburton Treaty. On the Maine boundary question, Webster was more than generous in making a settlement. In return, Ashburton conceded 6,500 square miles to the United States between Lake Superior and the Lake of the Woods. Also, the two countries agreed to cooperate in suppressing slave trade.

**The Texas Question.** In 1821, with the permission of the Mexican government, Stephen F. Austin led American settlers into Texas. Thousands followed, keeping their slaves and their Protestant faith, even though both were forbidden by the Mexican government. In 1830 Mexico prohibited further American immigration and placed other restrictions which caused many Texans to think of independence. After some skirmishes General Santa Anna of Mexico marched to Texas in 1836 and defeated the Americans at the Alamo and at Goliad. The tide turned at San Jacinto (April 21, 1836) where General Sam Houston decisively defeated the Mexican army. The Republic of Texas was established and recognized by President Jackson. Although many Texans wanted to be annexed to the United States, Jackson and Van Buren preferred to avoid the slavery expansion controversy. In 1844, President Tyler tried to annex Texas, but the Senate rejected the treaty.

**Manifest Destiny.** By 1844, the American public had come to believe that it was their destiny to occupy the continent from coast to coast and establish American government and institutions throughout that area. The phrase "Manifest Destiny" was first used by journalist John L. O'Sullivan in 1845.

**California and Oregon.** By the 1830s a profitable trade had developed between American merchants and Mexican California. Many Americans moved to California with the idea that someday it would enter the Union. Held jointly by the United States and England since 1818, Oregon also was a magnet to land-hungry Americans. "Oregon fever" drove pioneers to make the difficult five-month trip over the Oregon Trail. The Far West also meant unlimited economic trade possibilities based on the importance of West Coast harbors.

**Election of 1844.** The Whigs nominated Henry Clay, but Van Buren lost control of the Democratic convention and a "dark horse," James K. Polk of Tennessee, was nominated. The Democrats played up an expansionist platform that called for the "reannexation" of Texas and the "reoccupation" of all Oregon. Awakening to the public support of expansion, Clay tried to hedge his opposition to expansion, but this probably cost him as many votes as he gained. Polk won narrowly; Clay probably lost the election due to the strength of the Liberty party in New York. Polk's victory was taken as a mandate for expansion. President Tyler responded by obtaining the annexation of Texas by a joint resolution of Congress. Texas retained title to its public lands and accepted full responsibility for its debts.

**Polk as President.** Polk achieved all his major objectives regarding expansion: Texas, Oregon, and the great Southwest. In domestic affairs, Polk lowered the tariff and restored the Independent Treasury.

**War with Mexico.** When Texas was annexed, Mexico broke off diplomatic relations with the United States. Polk ordered General Zachary Taylor into the disputed border region between Texas and Mexico. John Slidell was sent on a secret mission to Mexico to buy New Mexico and Upper California, but the Mexicans refused to negotiate. Taylor advanced to the Rio Grande where an American patrol was attacked by Mexican forces. Polk obtained a declaration of war against Mexico (May 1846), and General Taylor quickly swept the Mexican army from Texas.

**To the Halls of Montezuma.** Polk designed a three-pronged strategy for defeating Mexico. First, he would clear the Mexicans from Texas and occupy the northern provinces of Mexico. Second, he would take California and New Mexico. Finally, he would march on Mexico City and force the enemy to negotiate. Taylor proceeded to occupy northern Mexico. The combined forces of John C. Frémont, John D. Sloat, and Stephen W. Kearny gained control of California by February 1847. General Winfield Scott landed his troops near Vera Cruz in March 1847 and began a series of moves that eventually resulted in the fall of Mexico City (September 1847).

**The Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo.** Polk sent Nicholas P. Trist to accompany General Scott's army and act as peace commissioner. After the fall of Mexico City the confused political situation there delayed negotiations. Polk became upset at the delay and ordered Trist home. Trist, with Scott's backing, ignored the order and proceeded to negotiate the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo. The Rio Grande became the boundary of Texas, New Mexico and Upper California were ceded to the United States, and the United States agreed to pay Mexico \$15 million and assume \$3.25 million in American claims against Mexico. While angry with Trist for negotiating after his recall, Polk nonetheless submitted the treaty to the Senate and it was ratified.

**Fruits of Victory.** The expansionist desires of most Americans were satisfied as the Mexican War brought huge territorial gains at a minimum cost in dollars and lives. Two events seemed to forecast a bright future for the new territories: the railroad was beginning to push westward and gold was discovered in California in 1848. An era of continental prosperity and harmony seemed to dawn.

**Slavery: The Fire Bell in the Night Rings Again.** One knotty question remained unsolved: what would be the status of slavery in the new territories? During the Mexican War, this issue had arisen in Congress when David Wilmot proposed that slavery should never exist in any territory acquired from Mexico. To counter Wilmot's Proviso, John Calhoun offered several resolutions declaring it unconstitutional for Congress to bar slavery from any territory. Polk and other moderates proposed extending the Missouri Compromise line to the Pacific. The most discussed proposal was that of Senator Lewis Cass of Michigan who favored "popular sovereignty," allowing each territory to decide the slavery issue.

**Election of 1848.** The Whigs decided to copy their strategy of 1840 by nominating a military hero and campaigning without a platform. Zachary Taylor, totally lacking in political sophistication, received the Whig nomination. The Democrats nominated Lewis Cass but refused to take any stand on slavery. A third party movement, composed of the Barnburner wing of the Democratic party and members of the Liberty party, nominated Van Buren who carried the banner of the Free Soil party. The campaign was unexciting; Taylor won a narrow victory.

**The Compromise of 1850.** The population boom in California resulting from the gold rush brought about the need for a territorial government. President Taylor, attempting to avoid a divisive sectional debate, advocated the immediate entry of California into the Union on the basis of popular sovereignty while New Mexico would be developed as another state. Southerners refused to accept his plan and some threatened secession. Henry Clay, his presidential ambitions dead, designed a grand compromise strategy for ending the slavery question.