

Westward Expansion

Fill up the Canvas

What was the historical significance of the Lewis and Clark expedition? What impact did it have on the growth of the nation...and on its Native American inhabitants?

<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/presentations/lewisandclark/>

On April 7, 1805, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark left Fort Mandan for points west, beginning the process of "filling in the canvas" of America. This exhibition features the Library's rich collections of exploration material documenting the quest to connect the East and the West by means of a waterway passage.

<http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/lewisandclark/lewisandclark.html>

Trails to Utah and the Pacific: Diaries and Letters, 1846-1869, contains 49 diaries, 43 maps, 82 photographs and illustrations, and 7 published guides for emigrants. They can be used to learn about the exploration of the west and immigration to the region, including the gold rush. The collection also provides an in-depth look at the Mormon experience, from the early persecution of the members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, to their emigration and settlement of Great Salt Lake City.

<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/connections/trails/>

Presidents Andrew Jackson, James Polk, and John Tyler, like many Americans of this time, embraced the notion of enlarging the "empire for liberty." In other words they wanted to expand the borders of America westward.

http://www.americaslibrary.gov/jb/reform/jb_reform_subj.html

The Railroad maps represent an important historical record, illustrating the growth of travel and settlement as well as the development of industry and agriculture in the United States. They depict the development of cartographic style and technique, highlighting the achievement of early railroaders. Included in the collection are progress report surveys for individual lines, official government surveys, promotional maps, maps showing land grants and rights-of-way, and route guides published by commercial firms.

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/gmdhtml/rrhtml/rrhome.html>

American Notes: Travels in America, 1750-1920 comprises 253 published narratives by Americans and foreign visitors recounting their travels in the colonies and the United States and their observations and opinions about American peoples, places, and society from about 1750 to 1920. Also included is the thirty-two-volume set of manuscript sources entitled Early Western Travels, 1748-1846, published between 1904 and 1907 after diligent compilation by the distinguished historian and secretary of the Wisconsin Historical Society Reuben Gold Thwaites.

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/lhtnhtml/lhtnhome.html>

Over 30,000 photographs, drawn from the holdings of the Western History and Genealogy Department at Denver Public Library, illuminate many aspects of the history of the American

West. Most of the photographs were taken between 1860 and 1920. They illustrate Colorado towns and landscape, document the place of mining in the history of Colorado and the West, and show the lives of Native Americans from more than forty tribes living west of the Mississippi River.

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/award97/codhtml/hawphome.html>