

# *Journal*

1. List anything you know about how the U.S. got to be its current size/shape. How did our country expand to its current size?
2. Based on what you know about manifest destiny and the context of the time and place, do you think westward expansion was inevitable? Explain...

# Westward Expansion Vocabulary

- **Acquisition** = **buying or obtaining** something, like **land**. *Ex- The acquisition of Louisiana doubled the size of the U.S.; The U.S. acquired Florida from Spain*
- **Annexation** = **add/claim territory**, with or without the original owner's permission *Ex- The Annexation of Texas increased territory for slaveholders; The U.S. annexed Texas.*
- **Cession** = the formal **giving up** of rights, property, or **territory** *Ex- The Cession of Florida by Spain; Spain ceded Florida to the U.S.*

# Instructions

1. Put your **name** on the provided space on your blank map.
2. Title your map “**U.S. Westward Expansion 1776-1853**”.
3. Label the necessary physical features- this will make the whole process much easier!
4. Follow along with the presentation, and each time U.S. territory expands, draw the boundary in on your map, and label the new acquisition by year and how it was acquired.
5. On your “key” page you need to take a few notes. You need to tell how the U.S. got the parcel of land and why they wanted it.

# Westward Expansion: 1776-1853



**Label:** Appalachian Mountains, Mississippi R., The Great Plains, The Rio Grande, the Gila R., & the Rocky Mountains

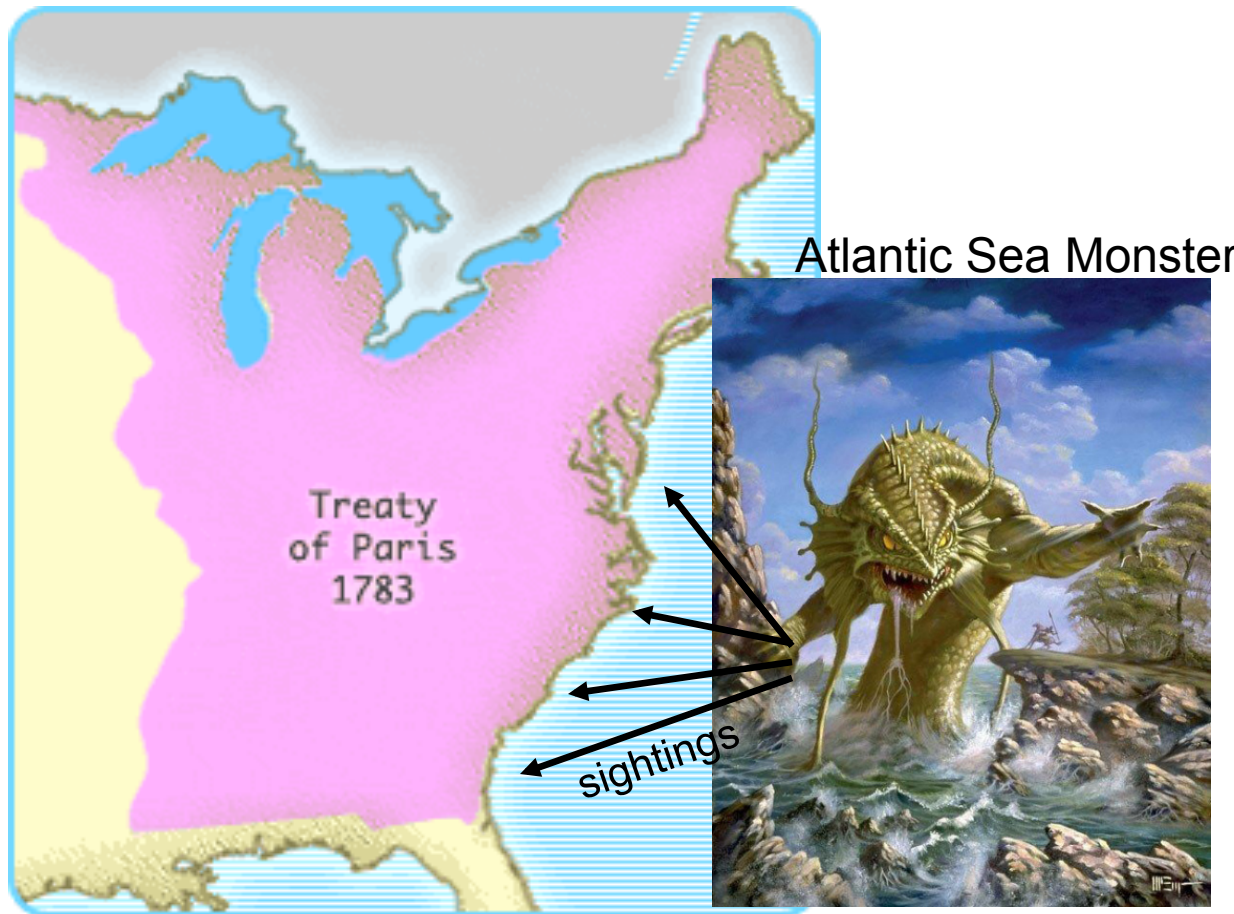


# The Original 13 Colonies



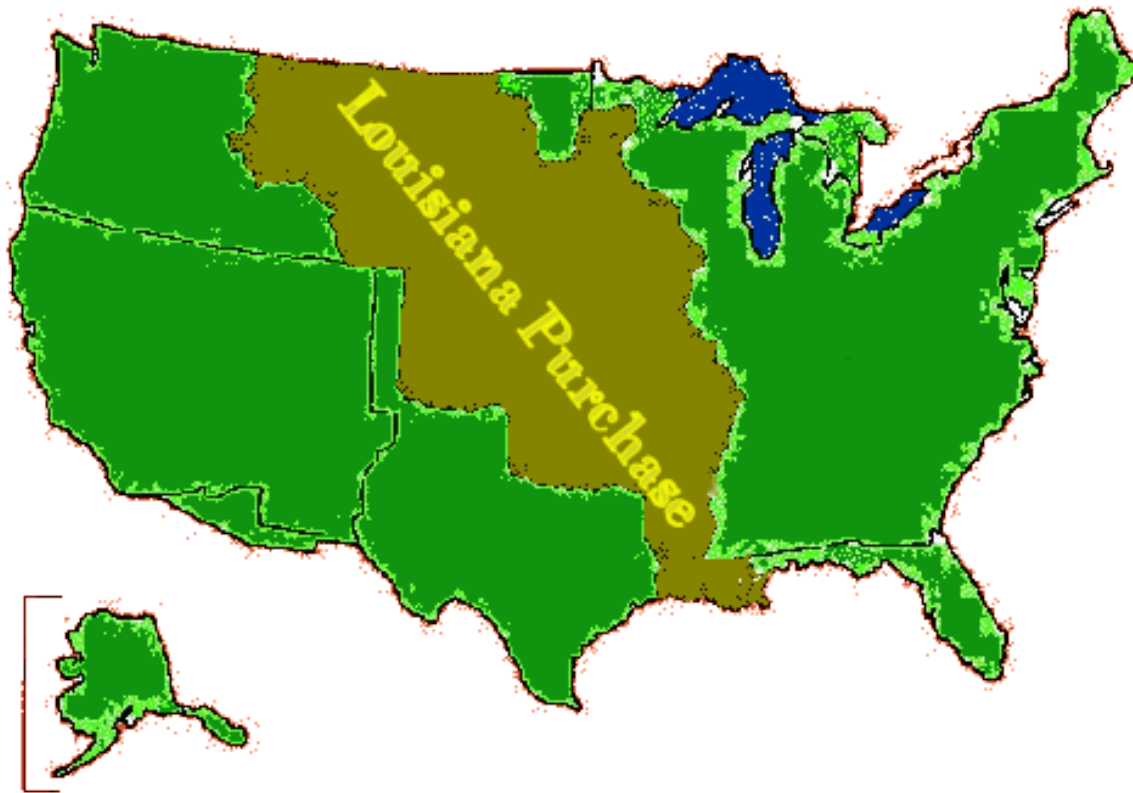
The original 13 colonies were bound on the east by the Atlantic Ocean and on the west by the Appalachian Mountains. The Proclamation of 1763 stated that no colonists could settle west of the Appalachian Mountains, partially to decrease the independence of the colonists, and partially to avoid having to deal with further conflicts between settlers and Native Americans

The Treaty of Paris of 1783 ended the Revolutionary War, making the United States of America an officially recognized independent state and extended the boundary of the U.S. west to the Mississippi River. The French still had control of New Orleans and the Mississippi, but they agreed to let the U.S. use the river as a shipping artery.



Much of the land did not belong to any specific state, and for years to come, different states tried unsuccessfully to claim parts of the new expanse of land as their own.





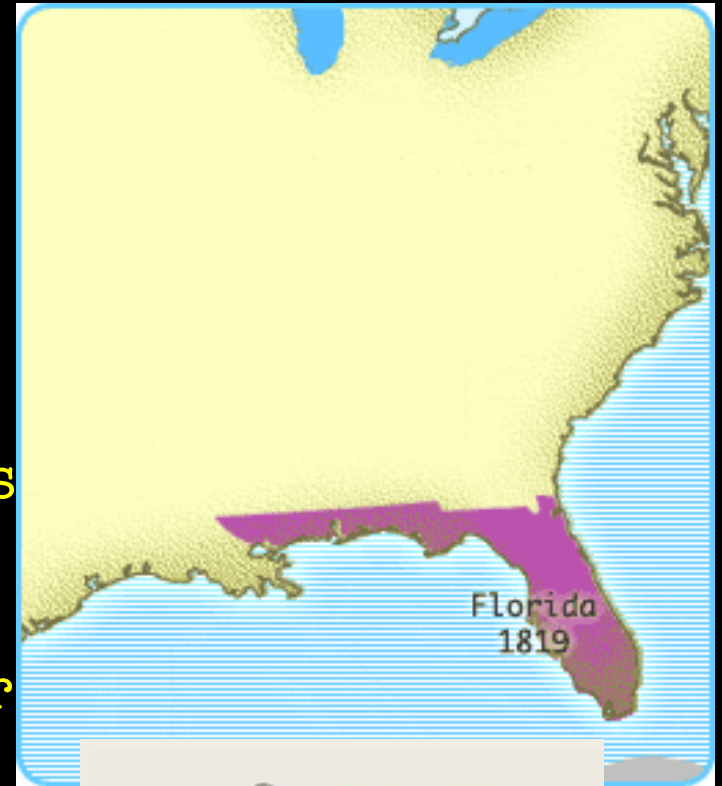
Stretching from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains and from the Gulf of Mexico to the Canadian border, the enormous Louisiana territory was “settled” by the French in the early 18th century. In 1802, France stopped allowing U.S. merchants to use the city of New Orleans, an important commercial city located at the base of the Mississippi River, to ship their goods.

President Thomas Jefferson was extremely concerned about this and sent an ambassador to negotiate a deal to purchase a small amount of territory, even as small as the eastern half of New Orleans. But France was on the brink of war with Britain, and having trouble controlling a slave uprising on the island of Haiti. They needed money, and they were worried about having to protect such a vast territory from Britain. They offered the U.S. all 830,000,000 square miles of the territory to the U.S. for a mere \$15,000,000. This single transaction, made in 1803, doubled the size of the United States for about 4 cents per acre!

*\* Perspective check: Did France have the right to sell the land?*

## FLORIDA 1819

The acquisition of Florida was a power-play by the United States government. The border between Florida (a colony of Spain) and the U.S. was disputed for a long period of time, and Spain had little control over what happened there. **Slaves from American plantations would often escape to Florida, and Native Americans would often attack Americans living near the border.** Eventually Andrew Jackson (a future American president) led military campaigns to defeat and remove different Native American tribes of Florida, even though it was Spanish territory. It was clear that the U.S. and Spain would either have to fight or negotiate a deal for Florida. Negotiations were the chosen path and **Spain ceded Florida to the United States.**





Mexico won independence from Spain in 1821, and Texas was a part of Mexico. A group of American settlers were given permission to settle in Texas by the Mexican government, and American immigrants flooded in, bringing many slaves with them. The Mexican government attempted to limit the influx of American immigrants, but they kept pouring in. Furthermore, Mexico outlawed slavery in 1828, but the American settlers in Texas continued to hold slaves.

Fighting broke out, and after securing a shaky victory the settlers declared **Texas an independent republic in 1836**. In 1845 Texas asked to become a part of the **United States**.

Opinion in the U.S. was divided between those who wished to expand slavery and those who did not.



The U.S. ultimately decided to annex Texas in 1845, even though the Mexican government considered it an act of war. Many believe the decision to annex Texas was in part to provoke the Mexican government.

The first Europeans to settle in Oregon country were Spanish, French, and English. By the early 1800s Britain and the United States agreed to “joint occupation,” meaning that both British and Americans could settle there. Soon the Americans largely outnumbered the British, and many Americans were anxious to secure the territory, especially president James Polk. Britain agreed to negotiate, and the territory was eventually split at the 49th parallel, the current boundary between the U.S. and Canada (which at that time was British territory). The acquisition of the Oregon territory spanned from the Pacific Ocean to the Rocky Mountains and included what is now Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and parts of Montana and Wyoming.



Beaver pelts



Almost immediately after the U.S. annexed Texas, a dispute over the boundary between the U.S. and Mexico began. American troops were ordered to march to the Rio Grande, even though they knew it was contested territory. When fighting broke out near Matamoros, Mexico the American army launched an all-out war. In 1848 the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo officially ended the war. Included in the terms of the treaty the United states purchased almost half of Mexico's territory. The treaty also stated that Mexicans who remained in the state would be permitted to become U. S. citizens, and that they would be allowed to keep their



property. However, the treaty was never fully honored. Mexican-Americans were stripped of nearly 20 million acres of their land by American business-men, ranchers and railroad companies, as well as by the U.S. Department of the Interior and Department of Agriculture.



The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo had described the U.S.-Mexico boundary vaguely, and following the Mexican-American War, the United States and Mexico continued to dispute the border between the two countries. The addition of new American territories granted by the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo was driving western development, and there were rival plans to build railroads to the west coast. One plan called for routing a rail line through disputed Mexican territory south of the Gila River. In 1853 President Franklin Pierce sent James Gadsden to negotiate with Mexico. Gadsden was president of the South Carolina Railroad and a former military officer who had been involved in the forcible removal of Seminole Indians in Florida.



The Mexican government was in desperate need of money, and it agreed to sell a small strip of land along the U.S.-Mexico border to the United States for \$10 million. The railroad project was delayed by the Civil War, but eventually the Southern Pacific Railroad built a line to California that crossed the territory. The Gadsden Purchase included land in present-day Arizona and New Mexico.



