

## INQUIRY: **What factors influenced westward expansion?**

Performance task: List the factors that led to westward expansion. Next to each factor you need to provide evidence from different sources and extend. Your list should have at least six items, cite six sources, and extend.

### Supporting Question 1

#### Featured Source

**Source A:** Unknown author, protest song sung by mill workers, Lowell, Massachusetts, 1836

#### **1836 Lyrics Sung by Protesting Workers at Lowell**

Oh! Isn't it a pity, such a pretty girl as I,  
Should be sent to the factory to pine away and die?  
Oh! I cannot be a slave, I will not be a slave,  
For I'm so fond of liberty,  
That I cannot be a slave.

Harriet Hanson Robinson, *Loom and Spindle or Life among the Early Mill Girls*. New York: T. Y. Crowell, 1898: 83–86. Public domain. Available at the History Matters website: <http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/5714/>.

# Supporting Question 1

## Featured Source

Source B: Image bank: Maps and table showing 19th-century population and population density

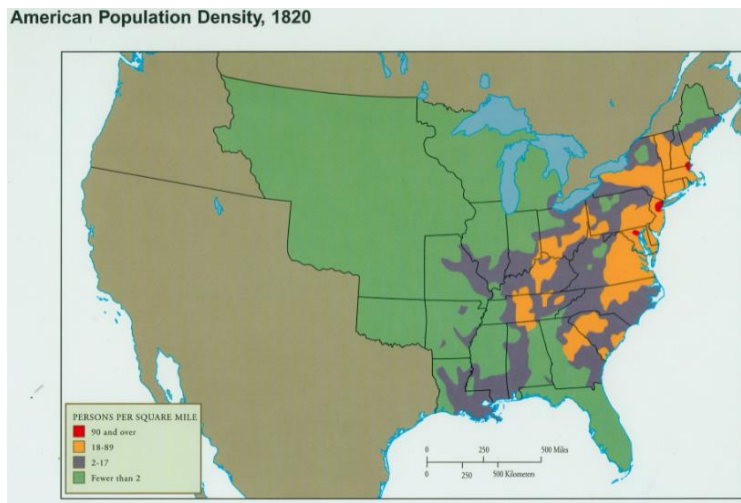


Image 1: United States Population Density, 1820.  
Courtesy of Dr. Gayle Olson-Raymer, Humboldt State University.

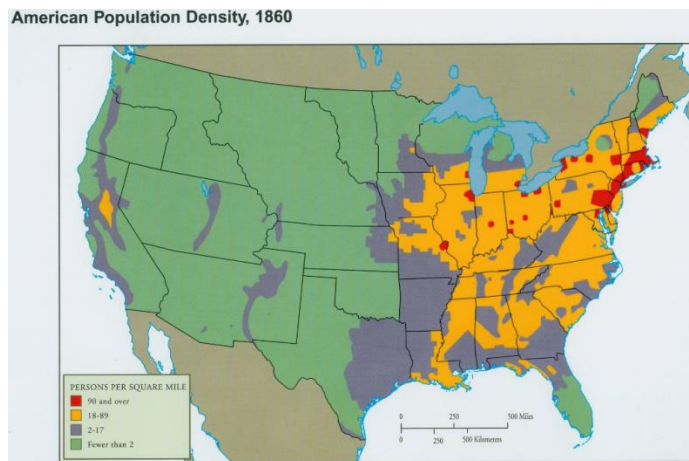


Image 2: United States Population Density, 1860.  
Courtesy of Dr. Gayle Olson-Raymer, Humboldt State University.

AMERICAN POPULATION GROWTH

**Total US Population**

decade	population
1790	3,893,635
1800	5,308,483
1810	7,239,881
1820	9,638,453
1830	12,866,020
1840	17,069,453
1850	23,191,867
1860	31,443,321

Education-Portal.com

Image 3: Total United States Population 1790–1860.  
The Study.com. Used with permission. <http://study.com/cimages/multimages/16/population-chart.jpg>.

## Supporting Question 1

### Featured Source

**Source C:** John O’Sullivan, magazine article about westward expansion, “The Great Nation of Futurity” (excerpts), *The United States Democratic Review*, 1839

*NOTE: The excerpts here are from an article by newspaper columnist John O’Sullivan, who is credited with coining the term “Manifest Destiny.” Although he did not use the term in the article, the basic ideas informing O’Sullivan’s notion of Manifest Destiny are described.*

The American people having derived their origin from many other nations, and the Declaration of National Independence being entirely based on the great principle of human equality, these facts demonstrate at once our disconnected position as regards any other nation...we may confidently assume that our country is destined to be the great nation of futurity....

The expansive future is our arena, and for our history. We are entering on its untrodden space, with the truths of God in our minds, beneficent objects in our hearts, and with a clear conscience unsullied by the past. We are the nation of human progress, and who will, what can, set limits to our onward march? Providence is with us, and no earthly power can....

All this will be our future history, to establish on earth the moral dignity and salvation of man —the immutable truth and beneficence of God. For this blessed mission to the nations of the world, which are shut out from the life-giving light of truth, has America been chosen; . Who, then, can doubt that our country is destined to be *the great nation* of futurity?

From "The Great Nation of Futurity," *The United States Democratic Review* 6, no. 23 (1839): 426–430. Public domain. The complete article can be found online at the Making of America website, Cornell University Library:

<http://cdl.library.cornell.edu/cgi-bin/moa/moa-cgi?notisid=AGD1642-0006-46>.

# Supporting Question 1

Featured Source

Source D: Map of United States territorial acquisitions from 1783 to the present, no date



Territorial acquisitions of the United States from 1783 to the present.  
Created by US Department of the Interior & US Geological Survey. Public domain.  
[http://nationalmap.gov/small\\_scale/printable/territorialacquisition.html](http://nationalmap.gov/small_scale/printable/territorialacquisition.html).

## Supporting Question 1

### Featured Source

**Source E:** James K. Polk, speech that announced the discovery of gold in California, "Fourth Annual Message" (excerpts), December 5, 1848

It was known that mines of the precious metals existed to a considerable extent in California at the time of its acquisition. Recent discoveries render it probable that these mines are more extensive and valuable than was anticipated. The accounts of the abundance of gold in that territory are of such an extraordinary character as would scarcely command belief were they not corroborated by the authentic reports of officers in the public service who have visited the mineral district and derived the facts which they detail from personal observation....

The effects produced by the discovery of these rich mineral deposits and the success which has attended the labors of those who have resorted to them have produced a surprising change in the state of affairs in California. Labor commands a most exorbitant price, and all other pursuits but that of searching for the precious metals are abandoned. Nearly the whole of the male population of the country have gone to the gold districts. Ships arriving on the coast are deserted by their crews and their voyages suspended for want of sailors. Our commanding officer there entertains apprehensions that soldiers cannot be kept in the public service without a large increase of pay. Desertions in his command have become frequent, and he recommends that those who shall withstand the strong temptation and remain faithful should be rewarded.

This abundance of gold and the all-engrossing pursuit of it have already caused in California an unprecedented rise in the price of all the necessaries of life.

That we may the more speedily and fully avail ourselves of the undeveloped wealth of these mines, it is deemed of vast importance that a branch of the Mint of the United States be authorized to be established at your present session in California....

The vast importance and commercial advantages of California have heretofore remained undeveloped by the Government of the country of which it constituted a part. Now that this fine province is a part of our country, all the States of the Union, some more immediately and directly than others, are deeply interested in the speedy development of its wealth and resources. No section of our country is more interested or will be more benefited than the commercial, navigating, and manufacturing interests of the Eastern States. Our planting and farming interests in every part of the Union will be greatly benefited by it. As our commerce and navigation are enlarged and extended, our exports of agricultural products and of manufactures will be increased, and in the new markets thus opened they can not fail to command remunerating and profitable prices.

Public domain. Available from Gerhard Peters and John T. Woolley, *The American Presidency Project*.  
<http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/?pid=29489>.

## Supporting Question 1

Featured Source

Source F: Image bank: The California gold rush

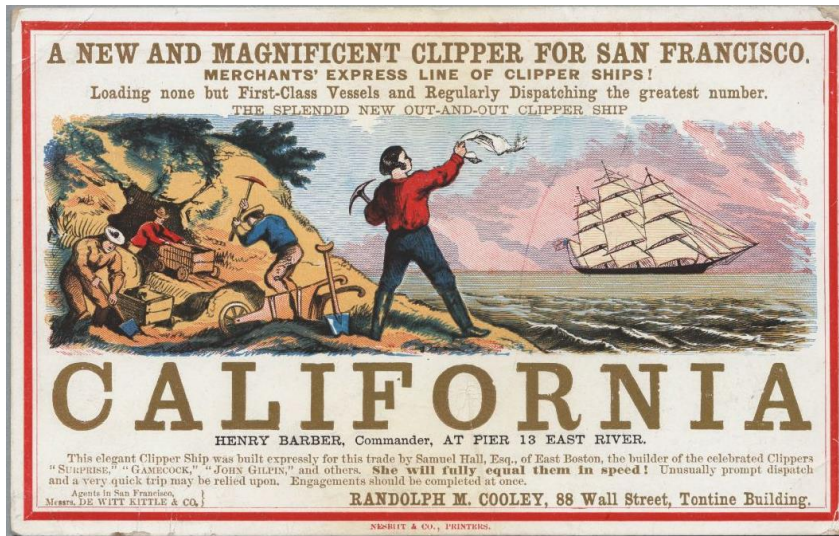


Image 1: Artist unknown, advertisement for traveling to California by clipper ship, c1840s.

Clipper ship advertisement, engraving by G.F. Nesbitt & Co., printer. Courtesy of UC Berkeley, Bancroft Library.

<http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf1r29p10v/?layout=metadata>.

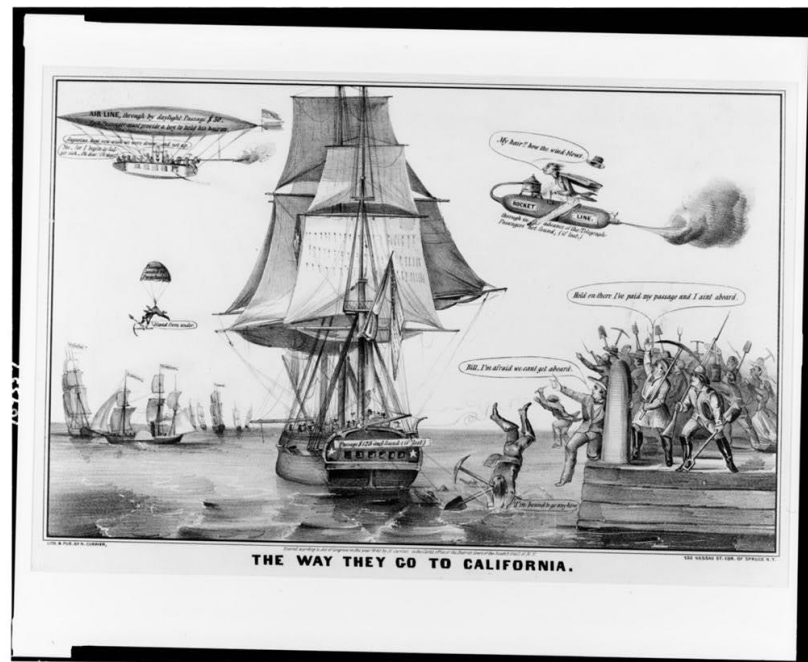


Image 2: N. Currier, lithograph about the Gold Rush, *The Way They Go to California*, 1849.

"The Way They Go to California," lithograph by N. Currier. Public domain. Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, LC-DIG-pga-05072. <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/91481165/>.



## Supporting Question 1

### Featured Source

**Source G:** United States Congress, law providing free land for citizens of the United States in western territories, Homestead Act (excerpts), 1862

AN ACT to secure homesteads to actual settlers on the public domain. Be it enacted, That any person who is the head of a family, or who has arrived at the age of twenty-one years, and is a citizen of the United States, or who shall have filed his declaration of intention to become such, as required by the naturalization laws of the United States, and who has never borne arms against the United States Government or given aid and comfort to its enemies, shall, from and after the first of January, eighteen hundred and sixty-three, be entitled to enter one quarter-section or a less quantity of unappropriated public lands, upon which said person may have filed a pre-emption claim....Provided, that any person owning or residing on land may, under the provision of the act, enter other land lying contiguous to his or her said land, which shall not, with the land already owned and occupied, exceed in the aggregate one hundred and sixty acres.

United States *Statutes at Large*, Vol. XII, 1862, pp. 392-394 (12 Stat. 392). Public domain.

[http://www.smithsoniansource.org/content/dbq5/westwardexpansion/impact\\_westward\\_expansion.pdf](http://www.smithsoniansource.org/content/dbq5/westwardexpansion/impact_westward_expansion.pdf).



INQUIRY: **What factors influenced westward expansion?**

Performance task: List the factors that led to westward expansion (white Americans moving west). Next to each factor you need to provide evidence from different sources and extend. Your list should have at least six items, cite six sources, and extend.

Factor that led to westward expansion	Source quote or paraphrase (evidence)	How what the source shows led to westward expansion (extending)
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		