

## Common Assignment 3

# Moving West Summative Response

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## How and Why Did the United States Expand Westward? The 1830s and 1840s *Common Assignment 3*



### Teacher Instructions

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Before having students answer this constructed response, have them work with materials that help them learn about different groups who moved west; varied motives for that move; and impacts on varied groups, both migrants and those already living in the region.

Some possible materials include:

- [“America: The Story of Us” “Westward” Episode](#) 
- [“TCI History Alive! The United States through Industrialism”—Unit 5, Section 16: “Life in the West” minidramas](#)  (Please note that these materials require purchase.)

**How and Why Did the United States Expand Westward?**  
**The 1830s and 1840s** *Common Assignment 3*

### Summative Response Rubric

<b>Score 4</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• You complete all parts of the question and communicate ideas clearly.</li><li>• You demonstrate in-depth understanding of the relevant concepts and ideas.</li><li>• Where appropriate, you offer insightful interpretations or extensions.</li><li>• You accurately use various content vocabulary.</li></ul>
<b>Score 3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• You complete most parts of the question and communicate clearly.</li><li>• You demonstrate an understanding of major concepts even though you overlook or misunderstand some less important ideas or details.</li><li>• You accurately use content vocabulary.</li></ul>
<b>Score 2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• You complete some parts of the question and communicate those components clearly.</li><li>• You demonstrate that there are gaps in your conceptual understanding.</li><li>• You use little content vocabulary.</li></ul>
<b>Score 1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• You show minimal understanding of the question.</li><li>• You address only a small portion of the question.</li><li>• You use no content vocabulary.</li></ul>
<b>Score 0</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Your answer is totally incorrect or irrelevant.</li></ul>



## Moving West Summative Response

During the first half of the 19th century, the United States expanded across the North American continent. Some of the territory was won by the United States through conflict, and some was won through compromise. Regardless of how the land was added to the United States, many groups were affected by this expansion.



Source: Robert A. Divine et al., *America: Past and Present*, Scott, Foresman (adapted)

Write a well-developed response that addresses the following:

**Part A:** Explain, in detail, how the United States acquired two territories.

**Part B:** Choose two groups that were affected by westward expansion and describe the impact of expansion on these groups.