

# Manifest Destiny

## Lesson 1 The Oregon Country

### ESSENTIAL QUESTION

*How does geography influence the way people live?*

### GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. *Why did Americans want to control the Oregon Country?*
2. *What is Manifest Destiny?*

### Terms to Know

**joint occupation** people from two countries living in the same region

**mountain man** person who lived in the Rocky Mountains and made his living by trapping animals for their fur

**emigrants** people who leave their country

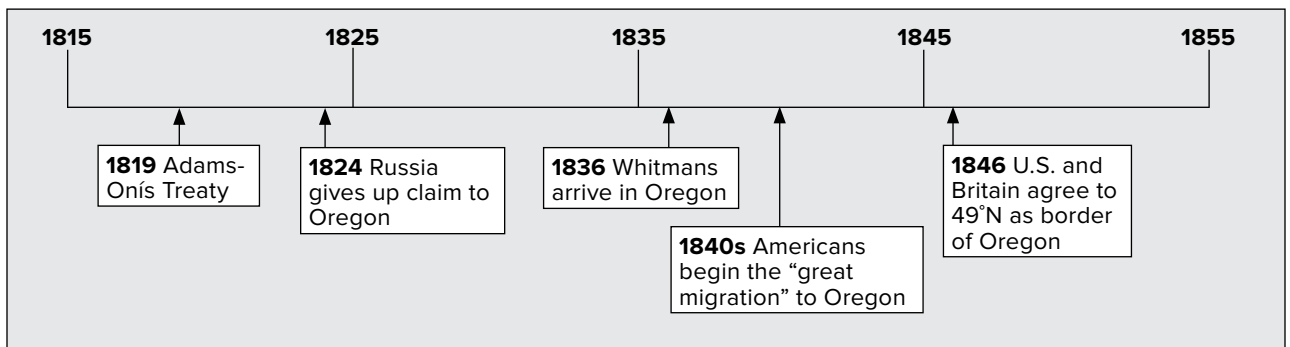
**prairie schooner** cloth-covered wagon that was used by pioneers to travel West in the mid-1800s

**Manifest Destiny** the idea that the United States was meant to spread freedom from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean

### Where in the world?



### When did it happen?



## Manifest Destiny

### Lesson 1 The Oregon Country, *Continued*

#### Rivalry in the Northwest

The Oregon Country covered much more land than today’s state of Oregon. Oregon, Washington, Idaho and parts of Montana and Wyoming were all a part of it.

In the early 1800s, many Native American nations claimed the Oregon Country. Four countries did also. They were the United States, Great Britain, Spain and Russia.

Claims in the Oregon Country	
Country	Reason for Claim
United States	Claimed the land based on Robert Gray’s discovery of the Columbia River in 1792 and on the Lewis and Clark expedition
Great Britain	Claimed the land because it had explored the Columbia River
Spain	Controlled California
Russia	Had settlements south of Alaska and into Oregon

Many Americans wanted to be able to get to the Pacific Ocean. One way to do this would be to control Oregon. In 1819, the United States and Spain signed the Adams-Onís Treaty. With this treaty, Spain gave up its lands in the Oregon Country. Spain’s territory would end at California’s northern border. In 1824, Russia gave up its claims on lands south of Alaska.

The deal with Britain was more complicated. In 1818, John Quincy Adams worked out a solution. The United States and Great Britain agreed to **joint occupation**. This meant that settlers from both countries could live there. When Adams became president in 1825, he suggested a plan for Britain and the United States to divide the land. Britain said no to the plan, so both countries continued on with joint occupation.

The first Americans to live in the Oregon Country were fur traders. These men trapped beaver for their skins. Fur companies bought the skins to sell in the United States and Europe. The fur trappers were called **mountain men**. Mountain men traded with Native Americans. Many adopted Native American ways.

For years, trappers made their living trading furs. They trapped so many beavers that there were few left. Styles began to change, too, and fewer people used fur. Mountain men had to find new ways to make a living.



#### Mark the Text

- Underline the definition of *joint occupation*. Which two countries agreed to joint occupation of Oregon?

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#### Reading Check

- What did America gain from the Adams-Onís Treaty?

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#### Analyzing

- Why did the mountain men give up trapping furs?

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**Manifest Destiny**

**Lesson 1** The Oregon Country, *Continued*



**Making Inferences**

4. Why were the Whitmans killed?

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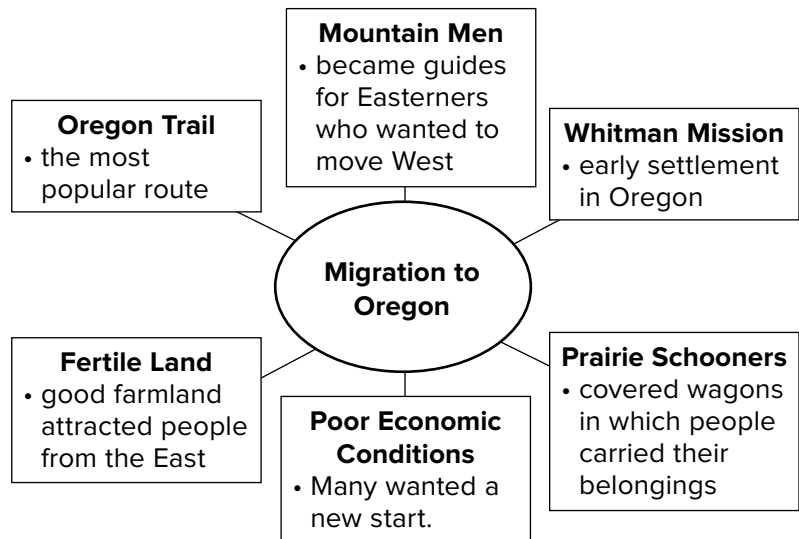
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Some became farmers. Others used their knowledge of the region and became guides. Jim Bridger and Kit Carson were two mountain men who became guides.

Guides helped settlers who were moving west to the Oregon Country. They created new routes that led from the east to the west. The best-known route was the Oregon Trail. Guides created other important routes. One was the California Trail and another was the Santa Fe trail.

**Oregon and Manifest Destiny**

Americans began to settle all over the Oregon country in the 1830s.



Dr. Marcus Whitman and his wife Narcissa were among the first settlers. They built a mission among the Cayuse people in 1836. The Cayuse are Native Americans who lived near what is now Walla Walla, Washington. The Whitmans wanted to convert the Cayuse to Christianity. They also wanted to provide medical care.

New settlers came to the mission. They did not know it, but they carried the disease, measles. The Cayuse had no defenses against measles, and the disease spread. Many children died of measles. The Cayuse blamed the Whitmans for the deaths. In November 1847, the Cayuse attacked the mission. They killed the Whitmans and 11 others.

Settlers kept coming to Oregon. Reports of fertile land attracted many of them. Others faced economic hard times and wanted a fresh start. These pioneers were called **emigrants**.



**Defining**

5. What is an *emigrant*?

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**Manifest Destiny**

**Lesson 1** The Oregon Country, *Continued*

Emigrants are people who leave their home country for another place. To reach Oregon, they had to travel about 2,000 difficult miles. They packed everything they owned in covered wagons. These wagons were called **prairie schooners**. From a distance, they looked like a ship called a schooner. Even though it was a very hard trip, thousands of people started for Oregon.

In the early 1800s, many Americans thought the nation had a special role to play in the world. Many Americans thought they should spread freedom by settling the whole country, all the way to the Pacific Ocean. In the 1840s, newspaper editor John O’Sullivan called this mission “**Manifest Destiny**.”

Many Americans thought the United States should take over all of Oregon. James K. Polk ran for president in 1844. He believed in Manifest Destiny. His campaign slogan was “Fifty-four Forty or Fight!” This names a line of latitude (54 degrees, 40 minutes North of the equator). This was where they wanted America’s northern border in Oregon to be.

The British did not agree to this. The border was finally set at 49°N (49 degrees North of the Equator). James K. Polk won the election because of his support for Manifest Destiny.

////////// Glue Foldable here //////////

**Check for Understanding**

**List the four nations that claimed the Oregon Country.**

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**List three reasons Americans moved to Oregon.**

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 **Describing**

6. “Manifest Destiny” was America’s special mission. Describe it.

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 **Reading Check**

7. What views did Polk present in the 1844 election campaign?

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8. Place a two-tab Foldable along the dotted line to cover Check for Understanding. Write *Migration to Oregon* on the anchor tab. Label the left tab *West: Oregon Country* and the right tab *East: Manifest Destiny*. Draw an arrow from east to west across both tabs. Write what you remember about each and the migration to Oregon. Use the Foldable to help answer Check for Understanding.