

## **STANDARD USI.8b**

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**The student will apply social science skills to understand westward expansion and reform in America from 1801 to 1861 by**  
**b) explaining how geographic and economic factors influenced the westward movement of settlers;**

### **Essential Understandings**

Westward migration was influenced by geography and economic opportunity.

### **Essential Knowledge**

#### **Geographic and economic factors that influenced westward movement**

- Population growth in the eastern states
- Availability of cheap, fertile land
- Economic opportunity, such as gold (California Gold Rush), logging, farming, freedom (for runaway slaves)
- Cheaper and faster modes of transportation, such as rivers and canals (Erie Canal), steamboats
- Knowledge of overland trails (Oregon and Santa Fe)
- Belief in the right of Manifest Destiny—the idea that expansion was for the good of the country and was the right of the country