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**Westward Expansion Brain Pop Notes**

**1803**-The government bought a huge amount of land from France. This land was called The Louisiana Territory.

**1845**-Gained Texas

**1846**-signed a treaty with Britain for the Pacific Northwest (Oregon Territory)

**1848**-took control of the Southwest after the Mexican American War

The population grew throughout the time that people moved westward:

**There were 5 million Americans in 1800 but by 1850 there were 23 million.**

**Manifest destiny**-the belief that the U.S. had a special mission to spread democracy and civilization across the continent

At first, most of the land was wilderness. Most of the original settlers were trappers and mountain men. They helped set up first western forts and trading posts. Native Americans taught them safe routes across the deserts and over the mountains. This knowledge helped the U.S. citizens to make maps of various trails across the continent.

The new areas were NOT states at first. At first they were territories. Each territory had their own government. They were still controlled by Congress. They had to have a certain number of people to become states. There were deals that settlers could accept such as:

1) Move on to a small piece of land

2) Farm it yourself

= land for free (called homesteading)

**California Gold Rush of 1849**:

Some rushed west to pursue riches!

Many Mormons traveled west to the Utah area to avoid/escape persecution.

**Pioneers followed MANY DIFFERENT routes!** One of the most famous was the Oregon Trail.

To keep safe pioneers traveled in wagon trains. Many people filled these wagons with all of their possessions. This meant they walked alongside the wagons on their journeys. Forts provided supplies and help, but it was still very dangerous.

**The pioneers’ arrival in the west caused much harm to the Native American’s way of life. They forced many of the Native Americans to move off of their land so that settlers could move into it.** ☹

**Reservations**- special areas that Native Americans were forced to move to and live on. It was not a fair situation.

**Transcontinental Railroad**- completed in 1869. Anyone could reach the West coast within a few days to a week by taking a train.

**By 1890, most of the land had been settled. Most of the land had become states. The days of the frontier were no more!**