

# HMH SOCIAL STUDIES ★ FLORIDA ★



*HMH Field Trips* for

## Google Expeditions

**FOR**

*HMH Social Studies:  
United States History:  
Beginnings to 1877, Florida Edition*

*HMH Social Studies:  
American History: Reconstruction  
to the Present, Florida Edition*





# Experience **HMH Field Trips** with Your Students

As a Google® content partner, HMH® has developed K–12 field trips for Google Expeditions. Using a virtual reality viewer—like Google Cardboard™—and a smartphone, students are swept away into immersive virtual worlds where learning and engagement are maximized. These virtual field trips are 3D, 360-degree panoramas from fascinating locations, directly tied to social studies content!



The **Teacher Guide** provides ideas for incorporating the Expeditions into your lessons, as well as tips on how to guide and customize the experience.

## America Expands West

### Overview

In the 1800s, the United States acquired vast new territories west of the Mississippi River through negotiation, treaty, and war. Major territorial gains during this period included the Louisiana Purchase (1803), Florida Cession (1819), Texas Annexation (1845), Oregon Territory (1846), and Mexican Cession (1848). Following these land acquisitions, the United States stretched all the way to the Pacific Ocean.

As America expanded west geographically, hundreds of thousands of settlers poured into the new territories. Many traveled in wagon trains, making the long and difficult journey West in search of new lands and better opportunities. These early pioneers settled the frontier, building new farms, ranches, railroads, mines, towns, and cities across the West.

In this activity, students will take an Expedition to learn about Western expansion in the 1800s. They will travel to Fort Mandan to learn about Lewis and Clark, visit California to explore the Gold Rush, and visit the people to learn about life on the range. Then, students will work in groups to research one key event or topic from this period and write a short presentation explaining its significance.

### Objectives

In this lesson, students will learn to:

- describe how Western expansion in the 1800s changed the country.
- evaluate the relative influence of various events and developments in the past.
- construct an explanation using reasoning, correct sequence, and relevant details.
- write explanatory text to convey information clearly and accurately.

### Classroom Activity

Two 45-minute class periods

### Teach

1. Guide students view each panel read the efforts to direct student understandings.

2. Lead a short class discussion on the Preamble and the Constitution, and the United States included some Plains.)

3. Ask students, "What effects do you think the Gold Rush had on Western expansion?" (It caused people from around the world to rush to California in hopes of striking it rich and led to the rapid political and economic development of the State of California. Explain that although most migrants didn't strike it rich in the gold fields, many chose to settle in California, which grew tremendously as a result. These early pioneers built new farms, ranches, and businesses in the quickly growing state.)

4. Ask students to raise their hands if they think they would have joined a wagon train to the West in the mid-1800s. Then ask students to raise their hands if they would not have joined one. Tally the results, and call on students to explain how they voted and why. Discuss the responses, emphasizing the challenges that pioneers faced on their journey West, such as long distances, rugged terrain, heavy cargo, food and water shortages, and rough weather. Point out that despite the many challenges, hundreds of thousands of people decided to take a chance and make the journey West.

5. Organize students into groups of three or four. Assign each group a key event or topic from this period to research, such as the Lewis and Clark Expedition, Louisiana Purchase, Oregon Trail, Life on the Range, Texas Revolution, Mexican-American War, Mexican Cession, California Gold Rush, or impact on Native Americans. Have each group research its topic using standard sources such as their textbooks, encyclopedias and reference websites, atlases, and where possible, primary sources. Instruct each group to write a short explanation that includes a relevant visual such as a map or timeline, basic facts and details about their topic, and a clear explanation of the topic's importance in Western expansion.

### Close

Invite each group to briefly share its topic and explanation with the class. Point out that some Americans believed it was the destiny of the United States to spread across North America, an idea known as manifest destiny. Ask students, "What do you think were the key factors or events that led the United States to expand West during the 1800s?" Possible responses: The desire for new farmland and resources, France's decision to sell the Louisiana Territory, the Texas Revolution, the Mexican-American War, the discovery of gold in California, the Homestead Act, etc. Show students a map of the United States around 1800 and compare it with a map from 1900. Ask students to summarize how Western expansion in the 1800s changed the country.

### STUDENTS' EXPLANATIONS SHOULD:

- focus on the topic and support it with explanations and facts.
- include at least one relevant visual.
- be logically, clearly, and accurately.
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## HMH Field Trips Include:

Native American Cultures  
Slavery in America  
America Expands West  
The Gold Rush  
The Civil War  
Immigration and Cities  
World War I  
Women's Suffrage  
The Roaring Twenties  
The Great Depression

World War II  
The Civil Rights Movement  
The Vietnam War  
The Space Race  
Remembering 9/11  
American Landmarks  
The National Mall  
Branches of Government  
America's National Parks  
Celebrating America's Ethnic Diversity



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