

# PEOPLE ON THE MOVE TOUR – TEACHER GUIDE



## DESCRIPTION

Discover the forces that expanded a nation through the dreams, challenges and motivations that sparked westward movement and settlement. The results transformed America's landscape, added to its complex history and continue to impact our society.

## THEMATIC CONCEPTS

**The emigrant dreams and motivations that caused western expansion transformed the American landscape, its people and the course of history.**

- Manifest Destiny impacted people's perception of the West.
- Push and pull factors shaped the motivation for moving West.
- Economics brought people together to create a better future for themselves and their families.

## OK ACADEMIC STANDARDS [2025-2026]

### Social Studies Content Standards

- 6.1.4** Describe and analyze the role of geographic factors on events which impact the people and places of the Western Hemisphere...
- 6.3.4** Examine the impact of geography on migration and population distribution.
- A.** Define push factors of migration (e.g., instability, conflict, natural disasters) using historic or contemporary examples.
- B.** Identify and provide examples of pull factors of migration (e.g., economic opportunity, religious freedom, family ties, education).
- 6.6.2** Analyze the benefits and limitations of various economic systems.
- A.** Define the characteristics of traditional, market, and command economic systems.
- 7.7.1** Explain how people organize economic systems to address basic economic questions regarding which goods and services will be produced, how they will be distributed, and who will consume them.
- 7.8.1** Define the concept of region and explain how regions change over time through physical and human processes, such as land use, urban growth, population, natural disasters, and trade.
- 8.6.3** Examine the significant policies of President Thomas Jefferson.
- A.** Describe western expansionist policy through the acquisition of the Louisiana territory...
- 8.9.1** Examine the concept of Manifest Destiny as a motivation and justification for westward movement.
- A.** Define the concept of Manifest Destiny including its belief in the inevitable spread of American institutions (e.g., religion, government, culture)...
- B.** Explain how the idea of Manifest Destiny influenced migration by identifying push and pull factors impacting the settlement of western territories.
- D.** Examine multiple perspectives regarding the justification for westward expansion.
- 8.9.2** Analyze the territorial growth of the United States.
- C.** Compare the motivations and experiences of individuals and groups who seized opportunities of the West, including those engaged in the California Gold Rush, the settlement of Oregon...

## KEY WORDS AND TERMS

**California Trail** – A historic route over 2,000 miles that pioneers followed in the mid-1800s in hopes of finding gold, land and new opportunities.

**Command Economy** – A system in which a central government controls production levels, prices and distribution of goods and services.

**Emigrant** – A person who leaves their home country to settle elsewhere.

**Frontier** – The edge of settled, cultivated land in the United States, beyond which lay unexplored territory, especially during westward expansion.

**Indian Removal Act** – This policy forced relocation of Native American tribes from their ancestral homelands to designated territories west of the Mississippi River.

**Made Beaver (1MB)** – Refers to beaver pelts that fur traders obtained through trapping and processing.

**Manifest Destiny** – The 19th-century doctrine or belief that the expansion of the US throughout the American continents was both justified and inevitable.

**Market Economy** – An economic system where supply and demand determine production and prices, contrasting with command economies.

**Material Culture** – Objects, artifacts and physical items that reflect a society's way of life and values.

**Oregon Trail** – A route used during the U.S. westward migrations, especially in the period from 1840 to 1860, starting in Missouri and ending in Oregon.

**Pull Factors** - Reasons that draw or attract a population to another area or place, including employment, high income, educational opportunities and religious freedom.

**Push Factors** – Reasons that force a population to migrate and leave home, including poverty, lack of social mobility, violence or persecution.

**Traditional Economy** – A system in which goods and services are exchanged directly without using money as a medium of exchange.

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## MUSEUM GALLERIES

**William S. and Ann Atherton Gallery**

**American Cowboy Gallery**

**Joe Grande Museum of the Frontier West**

*Tour may be modified to accommodate group size, time constraints, and/or gallery availability..*

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