

Manifest Destiny

TOPIC SUMMARY

The expansion during the mid-1800s left a lasting imprint on the United States. As explorers and settlers continued to move west, people began to believe that the United States was destined to spread from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean. In 1836 Americans and Tejanos declared Texas a republic, independent of Mexico. In 1845 Texas became a state of the United States. A year later, as a result of an American victory, war broke out between Texas and Mexico. In the end, Mexico was forced to give up claims to Texas and sell California and New Mexico to the United States. The discovery of gold in California in 1849 attracted people from all over the world. Meanwhile, Brigham Young led the largest single migration of Americans to present-day Utah.

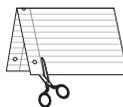
FOLDABLES
Study Organizer

Organizing Information Make this Foldable to help organize what students learn about the expansion of the United States.

Step 1 Fold four sheets of paper in half from top to bottom. Cut each paper in half along the folds.



Step 2 Fold each piece of paper in half from top to bottom again.



Step 3 On each folded paper, make a cut 1 inch from the side on the top flap.



Step 4 Place the folded papers one on top of the other, and staple the sections together.



Reading and Writing

Note dates and events about new territories in Oregon, Texas, New Mexico, California, and Utah.

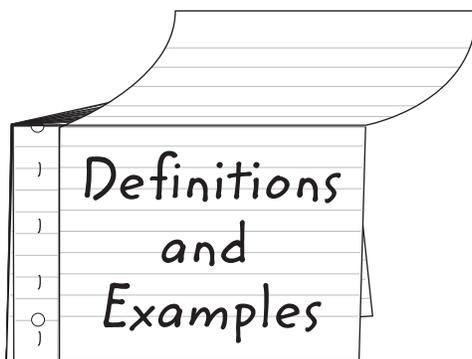
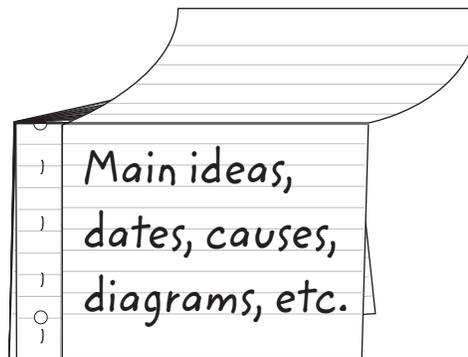
TOIC ACTIVITY IDEAS

Analyzing

Have students create the Study Foldable above, including the Reading and Writing activity. Have students use their finished Foldables to answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper: Why did Americans settle in territories outside the United States? How did white Americans justify taking land from Native Americans and Mexico? What might have occurred had opponents of Manifest Destiny been in the White House? After students have answered the questions individually, have them form small groups to discuss their answers.

• **SEQUENCING**

• With this Foldable, students can create multiple sections and use them as a time line. On the front tab of each section, ask students to sequentially record a date and a key event relating to Manifest Destiny. Under the tabs, record main ideas, events, diagrams, maps, and any other information related to the date and the event. Ask for volunteers to share all the information about one of their events with the class.



• **DEFINING**

• Students can record terms they need to learn on the front of each tab and definitions and examples under the tabs. Organize students into pairs and have them quiz one another on the materials in their Foldables.

