

America Becomes a World Power

Part One



Part One

Part Two

Part Three

Thematic Icons



Economics



Geography



Historical concepts



Government

Icons



Flash activity (these activities are not editable)



Teacher notes included in the Notes page

For more instructions, see the *User Guide*.



Timeline



For most of the time until the end of the 19th century, the U.S. was quite isolated in terms of **international relations**.

Geographically speaking, the U.S. was separated from the major **colonial** powers of Europe. Politically speaking, it had been more focused on internal affairs; as a young nation, there was much to do in settling the frontier and industrializing.



That all began to change in the latter part of the 19th century.

What do you know about U.S. involvement in current international affairs? Is it involved?





As an industrializing nation, the United States was pushing the boundaries in technologies and innovation. The nation began thinking about new markets for the extra goods and trade became increasingly important.



One key target market was the Far East, particularly Japan. With powerful steam ships, Commodore **Mathew Perry** left Norfolk, Virginia in 1852 and took the eastern route to Japan, past the Cape of Good Hope, India, and China.





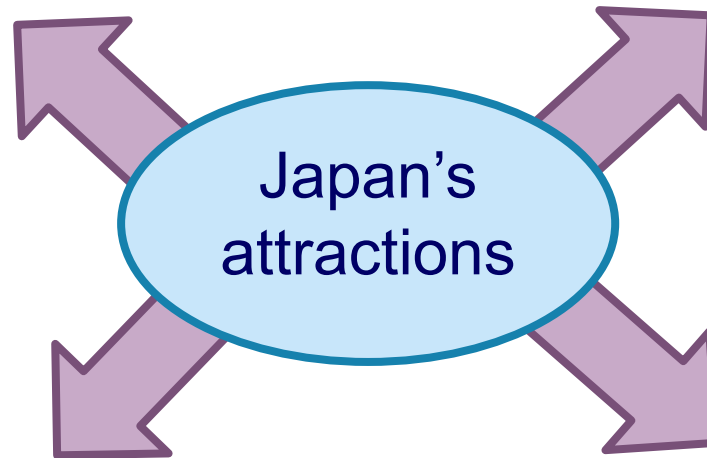
Targeting Japan



There were various reasons for President **Millard Fillmore** to target Japan as a new market.

Protect sailors from cruel treatment by the Japanese

A new and wealthy market for trading extra goods



Opportunities to trade in China and other places en route

Chance to create a coaling station for refuelling ships



Perry's voyage to Japan





East meets West



Although the U.S. was successful in opening Japan to trade, the Civil War and then Reconstruction caused the U.S. to focus on **internal affairs** for a while.

Nevertheless, wheels had been set in motion, and the U.S. had proven itself to be capable of applying significant military pressure abroad, in order to gain access and favorable trade negotiations.



This happened increasingly with its changed outlook towards the rest of the world in the latter part of the 20th century.





The Monroe Doctrine



The basis for U.S. foreign policy was the **Monroe Doctrine**, a declaration made by President James Monroe in 1823.



It stated that the American continents are free and not subject to European power.

It also stated that any attempt by European powers to stretch their influence into the western hemisphere would be considered dangerous.



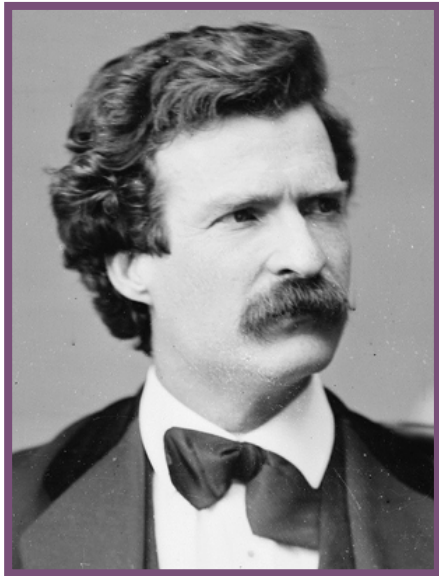
How has the Monroe Doctrine been applied over time?



Justifications for expansion



Some Americans were appalled by the idea of expansion and took up an **anti-imperialist** position. Had the U.S. itself not recently been liberated from a colonial power that taxed it and controlled it without representation?



“I have read carefully the treaty of Paris, and I have seen that we do not intend to free, but to subjugate the people of the Philippines. We have gone there to conquer, not to redeem.”

How does Mark Twain feel about the United States' expansion into the Philippines?



