

Reform and Expansion

Part Two



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*.





As more trails were mapped across the West, thousands undertook the dull and often dangerous journey to the Pacific.

Most people traveled on foot alongside covered wagons that held their supplies and a few possessions.

Settlers and traders traveled in groups for safety. On the trail, accidents or illness often proved fatal.



Why did people often bypass the plains and risk crossing mountains and deserts?





The cost of the railways



While building the transcontinental railroad, Union Pacific and Central Pacific paid their workers only \$1 (\$18 in today's dollars) a day to dig tunnels by hand and lay heavy tracks.



Meanwhile, they charged the government twice the cost of construction. Both companies failed to share their profits with stockholders.

However, they also revolutionized the country. Americans could now travel from coast to coast for \$40 in just ten days.

Do you think the benefits of the railroad make up for the companies actions?



Who owns the land?

However, as settlers increasingly moved westward into new U.S. territories, they encountered native peoples already living on the land.

Most Americans believed that these tribes should move further west of the U.S.'s new borders into so-called **Indian Territory**.



When the Cherokee people were forced to migrate, much of their population died on the journey. This migration was named by the Cherokee as the **Trail of Tears**.



Some people worried that Native Americans would perish if they remained in the east due to alcoholism, poverty and disease.

However, racism was a major factor in Native American displacement.

Many believed that native peoples were uncivilized and dangerous.

Missionaries hoped to travel to Indian Territory to convert and educate native children and adults.



The ethics of expansion



Comparison



