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# GO WEST!

## How the West was won

### STUDENTS' GUIDE TO THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

#### Defeating the Empire

After the Revolutionary War, Britain gave up<sup>1</sup> all land west of the Mississippi River. This was a time of expansion, with many people moving west. In 1803, the US bought Louisiana territory from the French, which doubled the size of the country. Thirteen states came out of the land the US bought from Napoleon.

#### There and hopefully back again

The famous Lewis and Clark expedition began in 1804. The explorers<sup>2</sup>, along with 45 men, left St. Louis, Missouri, on a mission to explore the northwest, from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean. The journey there and back took about two and a half years by boat and horseback<sup>3</sup>.

#### The Empire strikes back

In 1812, the US and Britain fought again, this time over British attempts to restrict<sup>4</sup> US trade. The US suffered many defeats, including the burning of the nation's capital, Washington DC, in 1814. The war ended in 1815. The war united the US again, politicians began to work together and it renewed the American spirit of expansion.

#### A time of sorrow

This was also a very bad time for the Native American population. Many of them fought on the side of the British during the War of 1812, because the British promised them a neutral Indian zone. The Indian Removal Act in 1830 gave the government the power to move Native Americans to the west, in the "Indian colonization zone". Some tribes<sup>5</sup> moved on their own, but many refused and fighting broke out. By 1840, tens of thousands of Native Americans had been driven off<sup>6</sup> of their land in the southeastern states and forced to move across the Mississippi to Indian territory.



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#### Gold, gold, gold!

The discovery of gold in California in 1849 sent thousands of miners<sup>7</sup> west. The population of California grew from about 1,000 to 100,000 in about one year. To accommodate<sup>8</sup> all these people, small towns were created with shops, saloons and other businesses. San Francisco became the central big city for the miners. **Jacy Meyer** (USA)

#### VOCABULARY

<sup>1</sup> to give sth up – vzdát se něčeho  
<sup>2</sup> explorer [ik'splɔ:rə] – průzkumník

<sup>3</sup> horseback ['hɔ:sbæk] – na koni  
<sup>4</sup> to restrict [ri'strɪkt] – omezit  
<sup>5</sup> tribe [traɪb] – kmen  
<sup>6</sup> drive off [draɪv] – vyhnat

<sup>7</sup> miner ['maɪnə] – horník  
<sup>8</sup> to accommodate [ə'kɒmədeɪt] – ubytovat