

US1,8b

Westward migration was influenced by geography and economic opportunity.

Geographic and economic factors that influenced westward movement

Population growth in the eastern states

Availability of cheap, fertile land

Economic opportunity, e.g. gold (California Gold Rush), logging, farming, freedom (for runaway slaves)

Cheaper and faster transportation, e.g. rivers and canals (Erie Canal), steamboats

Knowledge of overland trails (Oregon and Santa Fe)

Belief in the right of Manifest Destiny (the idea that expansion was for the good of the country and was the right of the country)

The student will demonstrate knowledge of westward expansion and reform from 1801 to 1865 by
b) identifying the geographic and economic factors that influenced the westward movement of settlers.