



TOPIC:
GRADE LEVEL:
TIME:

American History
Secondary
One Class Period

WESTWARD HO

OBJECTIVE: The student will review reasons for western expansion in the past and forecast reasons why people are presently moving to western states.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

1. One copy of the Student Activity Sheet for each class member-
OPTIONAL- as students can make their own.
2. Maps and data regarding western expansion if available.

PROCEDURE:

1. Review with the students several reasons for people moving west during the expansion period in American History.
2. Distribute Student Activity Sheets and/or read the instructions orally.
3. Allow sufficient time for completion of the activity.
4. Have students volunteer to read questions they have written and elicit reasonable answers from other class members.
5. Assign students to write a news article based on information that would be generated through interviews of people moving west, past and/or present.
6. Collect the papers for teacher evaluation, and/or have the articles shared in the classroom if time allows.



EYE WITNESS REPORTING

Pretend that you are an eastern newspaper reporter sent to Independence, Missouri by your editor. You are to write a series of news articles about why people are moving west. The people you interview will be very busy and in a hurry. The questions you ask must be few and to the point.

Write ten questions you will ask to help you discover the main reasons people have decided to move west.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____



If you had the same newspaper assignment today how many of the above questions would still apply? Rewrite the ten questions below so that they could be used in modern interviews.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____