

"American Progress"

After examining this picture, answer the following questions in your Historian's Journal.

1. What symbolizes progress in this painting?
2. Why is the left portion of the painting darker than the right?
3. What does Manifest Destiny mean?



Manifest Destiny and Westward Expansion

Manifest Destiny



Territorial Growth to 1853

Mormon Trail

Why they left:

- Mormons followed a deeply rooted American tradition – the quest for religious freedom.

Destination

- Salt Lake Valley

Significance

- Later, Utah becomes a state – which is where we live today!



Oregon Trail

Why they left:

- Searching for opportunities with new land

Destination

- Oregon Valley area

Significance

- Staying with the theme of Manifest Destiny, America eventually acquires this territory



California Trail

Why they left:

- Gold and other precious metals had been found in California and the surrounding regions

Destination

- California region

Significance

- Many Americans begin to settle these areas, which leads to California becoming a U.S. territory and then state.



Texans

Why they left:

- Persuaded by Mexican Government with land grants and ten-year exemption from paying taxes.

Destination

- Texas

Significance

- Americans who settled in Texas ultimately gain independence for Texas, resulting in the annexation of Texas to America.



The Alamo

- Sam Houston is elected as military commander of Texans
- Santa Anna wants to stop the rebellion so he puts together 6,000 troops and arrives in San Antonio, where the Texan Rebels are.
- Texas Rebels are holed up in an abandoned Catholic mission called The Alamo
- Fighting begins, Texans held off Mexicans for 13 days
- Santa Anna decides to storm The Alamo, he defeats the Texan Rebels

The Battle of San Jacinto

- Sam Houston has lost many soldiers, so he decides to just bide his time and wait for Santa Anna to make a mistake
- Santa Anna's mistake is made, when the Mexicans camp at a river side, thinking that Houston will not attack until the next day
- Houston surprise attacks Santa Anna in the Mexican camp
- Texans kill hundreds of Mexicans, capture 700 (including Santa Anna)
- Only 9 Texans are killed and 34 are wounded