

# The beginnings of the USA as a nation: 1776

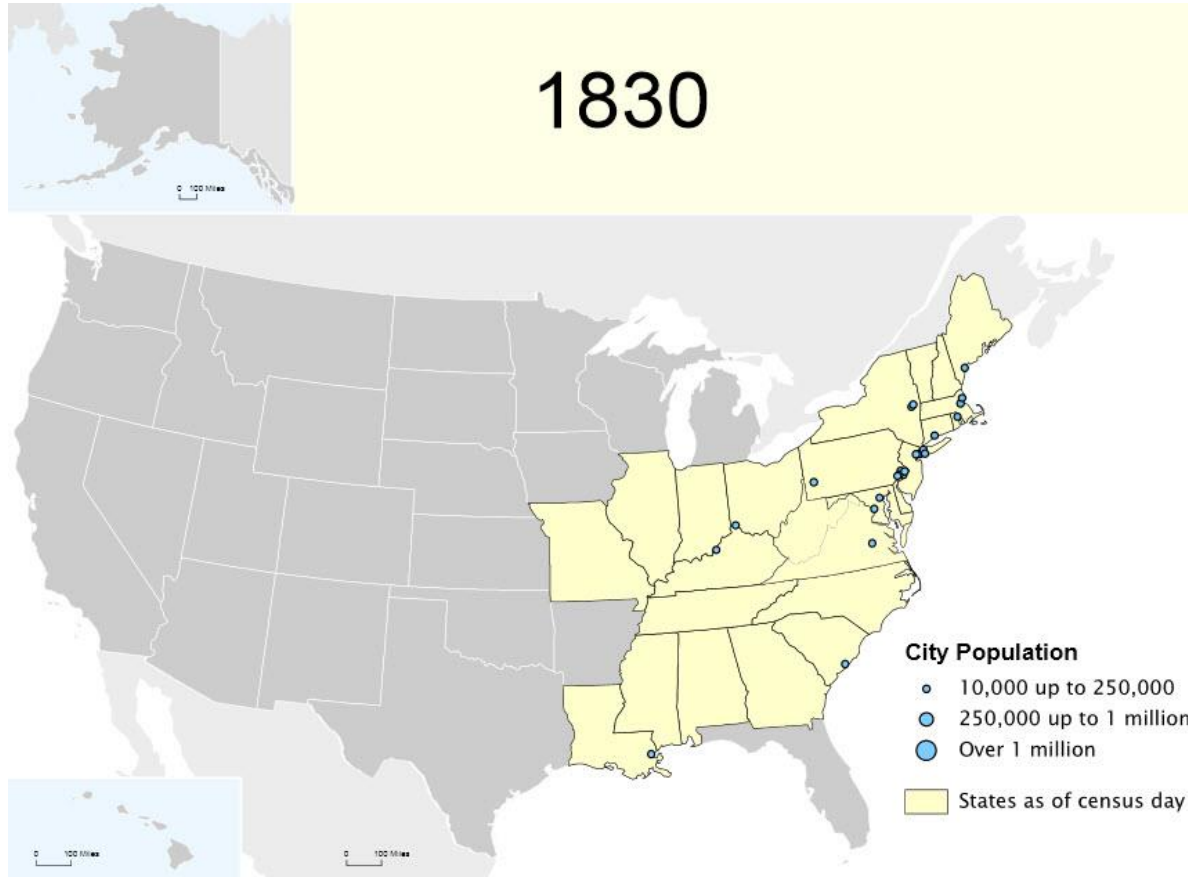


These were Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina and Georgia.

## Background Information

When the USA won the war against British rule on the 4<sup>th</sup> July 1776 and declared itself an independent nation, it was only a fraction of the size it is today. There were only 13 states in the original USA, all on the East coast.

# What was the situation by the 1830s when our course begins?



By the time our course begins, there has already been a push westwards with the USA now having 24 states and occupying more land. This led to the **1830 Indian Removal Act** where the **Cherokee** tribe in particular were made to relocate further west so white Americans could settle on the land they had previously used. This became known as the **Trail of Tears** and 46, 000 died during the relocation.



# The US Government Policy towards the Plains Indians

## Learning Objective

*To know the US Government policy towards the Plains Indians in the 1830s – 1850s and assess the reasons for the changes in policy that occurred.*

## Lesson Outcomes

**To describe the changes in the treatment of the Plains Indians by the US government and recognise the triggers that caused changes in policy. Target 4-5**

**To explain the changes in the treatment of the Plains Indians by the US government and the factors behind them. Target 6**

**To assess and analyse the changes in the treatment of the Plains Indians by the US government and the factors behind them through a narrative account. Target 7+**

# The US Government Policy towards the Plains Indians

**1830s**

**1) President Jackson** signed the **Indian Removal Act** which made approximately 50,000 American Indians living in the Eastern states move to **new lands west of the Mississippi river**. He promised they would never have to give up this new land known as Indian Territory. It was claimed it was for their own protection to move them but thousands died during this forced removal. It became known as the ***Trail of Tears***.

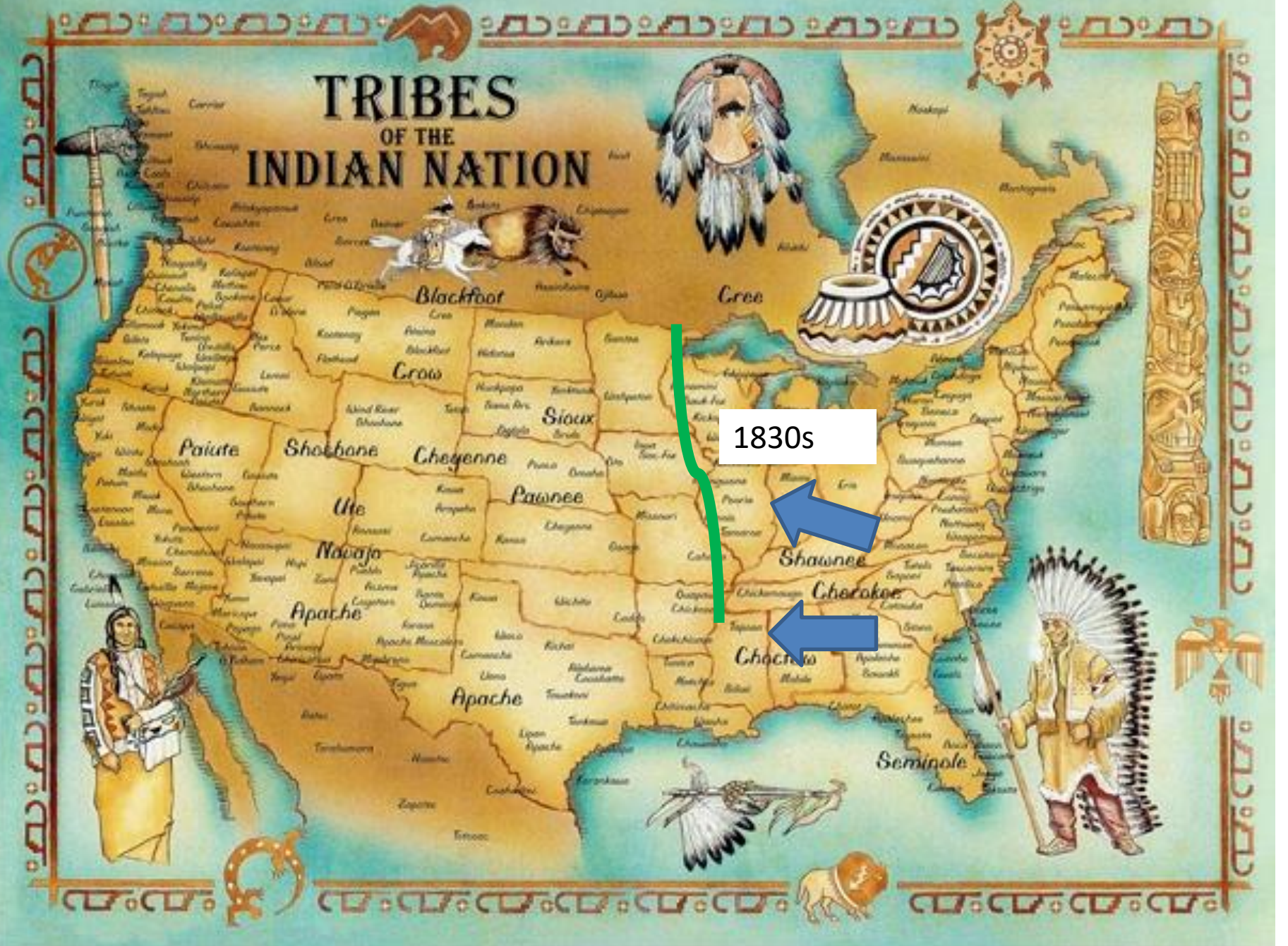
**2) In 1834 a permanent Indian Frontier (border) was set up.**

It also said whites could not settle on Indian land. The US army was to patrol the frontier and there would be a chain of linked US army forts along it.

However, by 1834 the land that was supposed to have been for the Plains Indians had already been reduced as new territories were added to the United States.

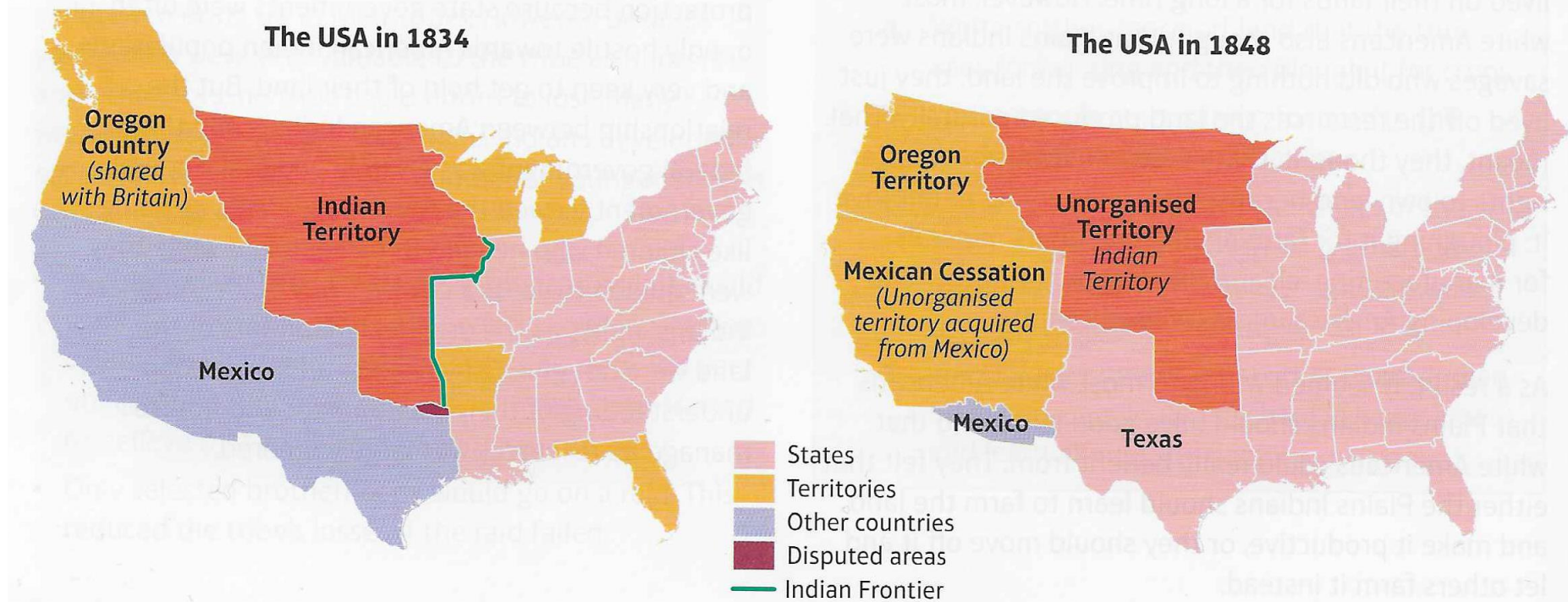
**This set a precedent for the future.....**

# TRIBES OF THE INDIAN NATION



1830s





**In the 1830s, few white Americans believed the land behind the Indian frontier was worth having .** The Plains could not be farmed with methods available at that time and it was dismissed as *'The Great American Desert.'* Consequently few white people wanted to cross into the Plains. However, from the 1840s this began to change:

**In 1845, Texas became part of the USA.**

**In 1846 the USA gained control over Oregon Territory** (previously had been shared with Britain)

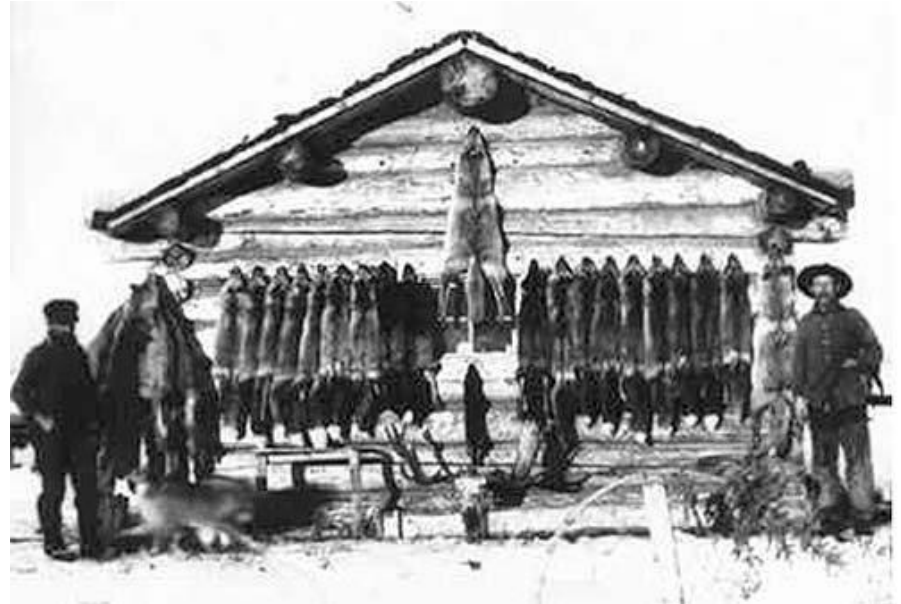
**In 1848, the USA won a war with Mexico and as a result gained a lot more land in the west, including California.**

**All this was going to have major implications for American Indian Policy. Now their territory was in the middle, sandwiched between US land.**

# The US Government Policy towards the Plains Indians

**1840s**

Now the US government wanted its people to move into its new territories in the west. To do this people would have to travel across Plains Indian lands. There were some trails (paths) already established by some adventurers, trappers etc. The government used its army to move the Plains Indians away from these trails to allow white settlers safe passage.







# The US Government Policy towards the Plains Indians

**1851**

The Government passed the **Indian Appropriations Act** . This paid out **government money to move Indians onto reservations\***, whilst taking **other land that the whites wanted**.

It ensured whites and Indians were kept apart (partly to protect the Plains Indians) but the government also hoped reservations would help Indians learn to farm and live like white Americans. It restricted their land and made it harder to have a nomadic lifestyle and hunt.

## **The Indian Appropriations Act**

- 1851 legislation
- Placed tribes on reservations
- Designed to “protect” Native Americans from white settlement
- Strict regulation by federal government



Indian chiefs and U.S. officials on the pine Ridge reservation in South Dakota

**\*Reservation = An area of land ‘reserved’ for use by American Indians and managed by the Government**

- 1. Briefly describe two ways government policy towards the Native Americans and their lands changed from the 1830s – 1850s.**
- 2. Give two factors that explain why government policy may have changed in these years.**

**1. Explain how the US Government changed its policy towards the Native American lands (1830s – 1850s) and explain what the decisive factors were in this.**

**1. Explain how government policy changed in these years (1830s-1850s) towards the Native American lands and evaluate what the most significant reasons were for this.**

**1. In the 1830s the government decided to.....**

**By the 1840s.....**

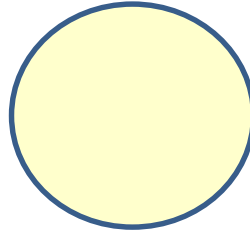
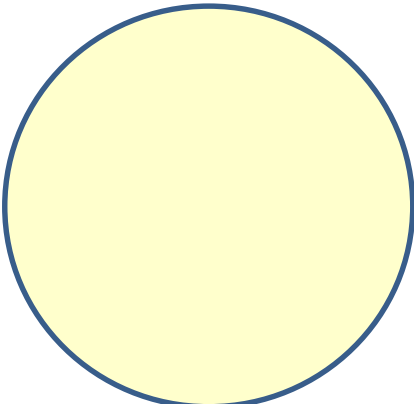
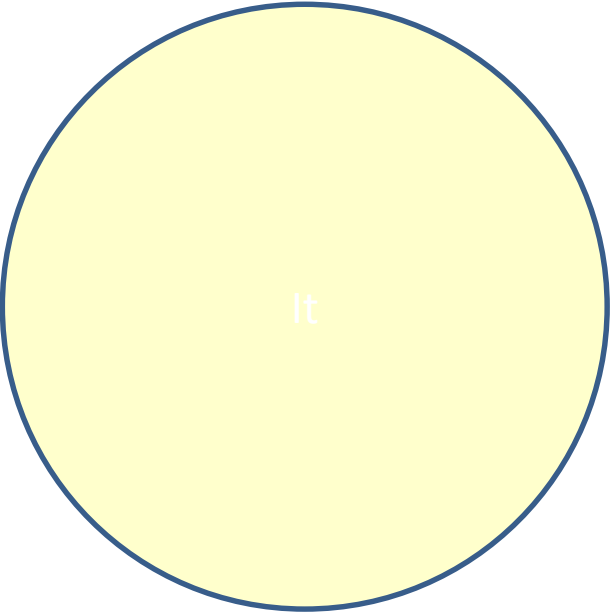
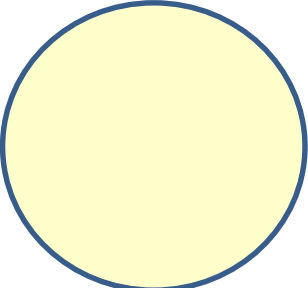
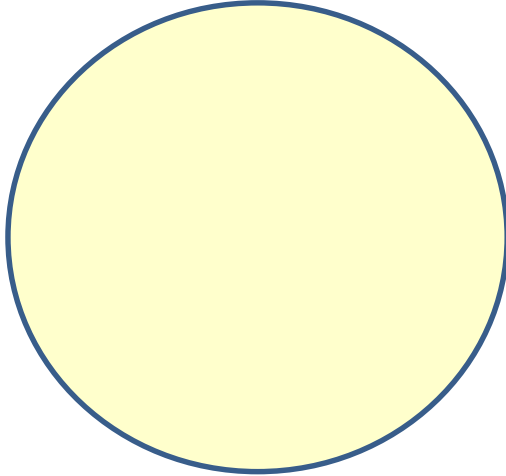
**However by the 1850s the government ...**

**Two factors that explain why government policy changed are...**

**1. Government policy towards the Plains Indians changed in several ways across these decades. Firstly in 1830 it was decided....Later...This changed once again in the 1850s as...  
Several factors explain this change...**

**1. Government policy towards the Plains Indians changed in several ways across these decades. Firstly in 1830 it was decided....Later...This changed once again in the 1850s as...  
Several factors explain this change...The most significant reason was....as....**

# Consequences of US Policy towards the Plains Indians and their Land 1830s – 1850s



# Consequences of US Policy towards the Plains Indians and their Land 1830s – 1850s

The idea of a 'permanent' Indian land weakened by settlers now wanting to cross their lands to reach the west coast.

It set a precedent of moving the Indians off of land white settlers saw as useful or valuable, using troops (force) to do so.

Living on Reservations (reserved land) reduced the Plains Indians ability to hunt and move freely.

The government hoped the reservations might make Indians live more like white people.

Plains Indians independence diminished.

# Migration and Early Settlement 1830s – 1840s: Why did some Move West?

## Learning Objective

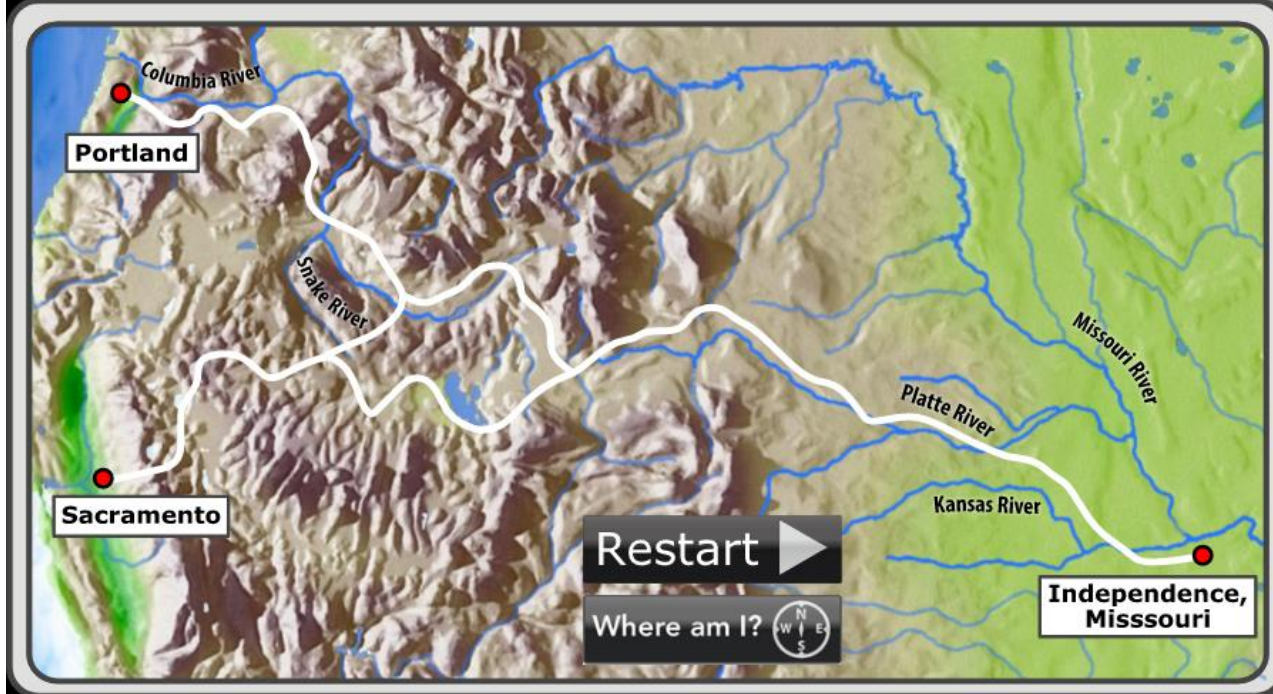
*To understand the motivating factors behind some white Americans deciding to 'head West' and settle in the new territories on the West coast.*

## Lesson Outcomes

**To describe the reasons why some people headed west and identify some push and pull factors involved. Target 4-5**

**To explain the reasons why some people wanted to head west and identify the push, pull and enabling factors involved. Target 6**

**To assess and analyse the reasons why people went west and make a judgement about which reason(s) were most significant and see the links between them. Target 7+**



The Oregon Trail was the first established route to travel from East to West. Later a second branch split to California. This trail or path were first found by explorers and fur trappers. They were hazardous and involved negotiating a way through two separate mountain ranges. The route was over 3000 miles and had to be completed before winter but could not be started until April as there had to be fresh grass for the animals pulling the wagons to eat. Oxen were strong, hardy and the best animal to pull the wagons but they were slow! 3km per hour was the pace of Oxen pulling heavily loaded wagons.



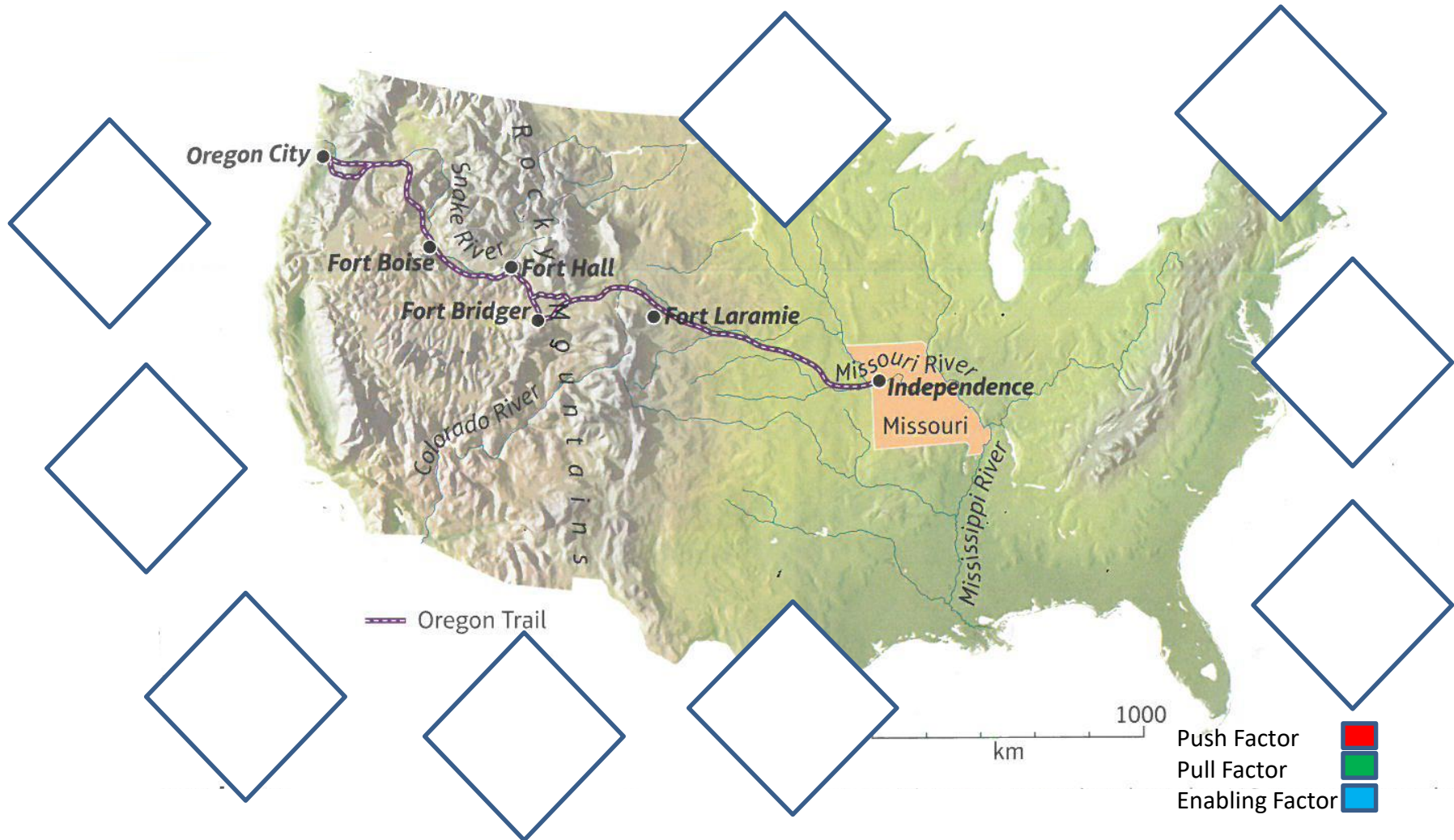


Why would people  
want to do this????!!



All supplies (both for the journey and for anything you might need for when you get there had to be taken as did a range of people with a range of necessary skills (carpenters, hunters, fishermen, etc)

# Migration and Early Settlement 1830s – 1840s: Why did some head West?



**The  
Possibility  
of Land**

The early explorers and trappers who had gone west reported free land and a sunny climate in California ideal for fruit growing.

**Economic  
Depression**

In 1837 the USA was hit by economic depression. In the East, banks collapsed and savings were lost. Business struggled and people lost jobs. High unemployment drove some out to seek a new life out West.

**Collapse in  
crop prices**

Farmers in the east struggled to make ends meet as the economic situation meant wheat and corn prices fell. This made Oregon and California seem more attractive.

**Manifest  
Destiny**

For many Americans, it was their God given duty to spread their civilisation and democracy across all of the continent.

**Negotiation with  
Britain**

After 1846, Oregon became territory of the United States which made it more attractive and accessible to settlers

**Gold!**

In 1848 gold was discovered in California. People were arriving from around the world. The population of California went from 15,000 to 250,000 in 4 years

**Victory over  
Mexico**

California became part of the United States in 1848 after winning a war against Mexico and taking territory from them.

**Government  
Encouragement**

In 1842 the US Government passed a law that allowed settlers to stake a claim of 160 acres and after living there for 14 months, to buy it for just \$1.25 an acre

**Establishment of a  
trail (path/route).**

The early trappers and adventurers had found paths through the Rocky mountains. They acted as guides for the early settlers travelling west

**The Possibility of Land**  
The early explorers and

**PULL**

reported free land and a sunny climate in California ideal for fruit growing.

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**ENABLING**

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**PUSH**

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**Negotiation with Britain**  
After 1846, the Oregon Trail made it more attractive and accessible to settlers.

**ENABLING**

**Gold!**  
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**PULL**

**Establishment of a trail (path/route).**  
The early trappers and adventurers acted as guides for the early settlers travelling west.

**ENABLING**

# Migration and Early Settlement 1830s – 1840s: Why did some head West?

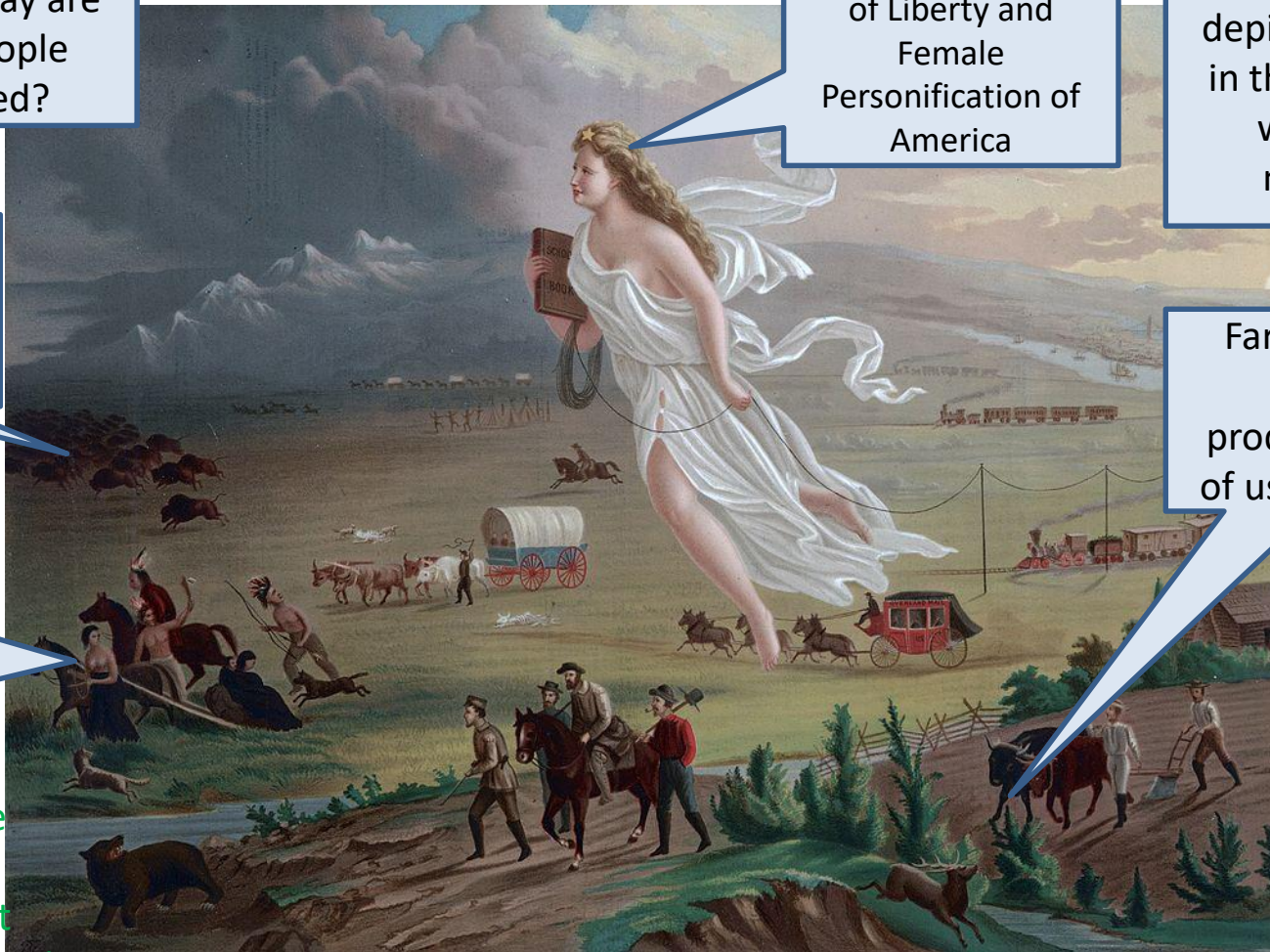
Which way are the people headed?

Columbia, Goddess of Liberty and Female Personification of America

Look at the depiction of light in the painting – what's the message?

Farmers – the 'decent, productive' way of using the land

Explain the reason why you think the painting was made with reference to some of the details.



?

?

Describe the scene you see in the painting. Include at least three things and why you think the artist included them.

Evaluate the message and purpose of the painting with reference to the details contained within it.

**Which one of the factors you have learnt about today does this picture represent?**

# Exam Question (8 marks)

- Write a narrative account analysing the ways in which the US government policy towards Plains Indians developed in the period 1835-51.
- You may use the following in your answer:
  - The Permanent Indian Frontier (1834)
  - The Indian Appropriation Act (1851)

You must also use information of your own.

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# Exam Question (8 marks)

- Write a narrative account analysing why Americans went West in the years 1836 – 1849. You may use the following in your answer:
  - The Oregon Trail from 1836
  - The Californian Gold Rush 1849
  - You must also use information of your own.





You will need to write an organised answer, putting events into the correct chronological order (get revising those timelines!). You need to show how each event is connected to and led to the next event. You will need to explain **THREE** events in your narrative.

Analytical narratives are **NOT** stories.

The analytical narrative, as well as linking events, also makes clear what followed on from them and what difference they made.

The use of process words and phrases show that something was happening and therefore suggest the impact.

Practice selecting key events, sequencing them and linking them into a process that explains an outcome.

Key phrases/words  
for a historical  
narrative to  
demonstrate links:

- therefore
- because of this...
- thus...
- in order to...
- as a consequence...
- hence...
- this led to...
- combined with...
- as a result...

Process words:

- began
- became
- developed
- changed
- realised
- ended
- intensified
  - grew
  - followed
  - worsened
  - improved
  - increased
  - reinforced
  - encouraged
- deteriorated
  - despite

**1. In the 1830s the government  
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**By the 1840s.....**

**However by the 1850s the  
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**Two reasons why the American  
government changed what they said  
were.....**