

Summary: The Country Grows

Pioneers Cross the Appalachians

Daniel Boone was a pioneer. He found the Cumberland Gap in the Appalachian Mountains. This made crossing the mountains much easier. Daniel Boone helped build a road called the Wilderness Road through the gap. Many pioneers traveled through the gap to settle on the frontier in the Ohio River Valley. However, many American Indians already lived there.

The Louisiana Purchase

The French claimed most of the land between the Rocky Mountains and the Mississippi River. They called it Louisiana. The French ruler, Napoleon Bonaparte, sold Louisiana to the United States. This was called the Louisiana Purchase. This purchase doubled the size of the United States.

President Thomas Jefferson wanted to find a water route to the Pacific. He sent Meriwether Lewis and William Clark to explore the west. A Shoshone woman named Sacagawea was their interpreter. They learned that there was no water route to the Pacific. But, they learned how to cross the Rocky Mountains. They learned about wildlife and people.

War of 1812

More settlers moved west. They fought American Indians over land. Americans thought British colonists were giving the Indians weapons. In 1812, the United States declared war against Britain. The War of 1812 ended without a winner. In 1823, President Monroe wrote the Monroe Doctrine. It warned European nations not to start colonies in the Americas.

New states were added after the war. All white men in these states had suffrage. They helped to elect Andrew Jackson President. Jackson wanted more land for settlers. In 1838, the army forced American Indians who lived east of the Mississippi River to move to Oklahoma. Thousands of Cherokee Indians died along the way. This journey was called the Trail of Tears.

Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

pioneer *noun*, one of the first of a certain group to enter or settle a region

frontier *noun*, the edge of a country or settled area

interpreter *noun*, someone who explains what is said in one language to people who speak a different language

doctrine *noun*, an official statement or position

suffrage *noun*, the right to vote

After You Read

REVIEW Why was the Cumberland Gap so important to settlers wanting to cross the Appalachians? Circle the sentence that tells the answer.

REVIEW What did Lewis and Clark learn about the West? Underline the sentences that tell the answer.

REVIEW What was the result of the War of 1812? Draw a box around the sentence that tells you the answer.