

SSUSH8 – Explore the relationship between slavery, growing north-south divisions, and westward expansion that led to the outbreak of the Civil War.

In the decades before the Civil War, three distinct regions developed in the United States: the North, the South, and the West. Sharp divisions emerged between the economies and culture of the North and South. In the West, settlers from both the North and South merged to create a distinct way of life. The expansion into the West was not without conflict- both political and physical. These cultural and economic clashes ultimately led to the outbreak of Civil War in the United States.

a. Explain the impact of the **Missouri Compromise** on the admission of states from the Louisiana Territory.

Key terms	Missouri Compromise	Henry Clay	36,30
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What was the debate in Congress dealing with, when Missouri applied for admission to the Union?2. Who had the most power in Congress in 1819? (free or slave states, explain)3. Why were Northern Senators hesitant to admit Missouri into the Union? (2)4. What was the South's concern in the debate over Missouri?5. What was Maine before becoming a state?6. What was Henry Clay's role in the debate?7. What were the provisions of the Missouri Compromise? (3)8. The debate over admitting Missouri to the Union, showed that "the seeds of _____ were beginning to sprout."9. The Missouri Compromise was effective in keeping the balance between _____ and _____ states.			

The Louisiana Territory encompassed a wide swath of land in the middle of the North American continent. Thomas Jefferson purchased the land from France in 1803. By mid-century, the population in portions of the territory had increased dramatically and their next step was to apply for statehood through the United States Congress. Missouri was one such territory, primed for acceptance as a full and equal state. At the time of its application, however, there was already a balanced number of free and slave states. The sectional divisions of the nation were demonstrated in the hard fought negotiations over whether Missouri would enter the Union as a slave or free state.

The admission of Missouri as a new state is an excellent illustration of how Congress sought to maintain a "perfect equilibrium" between the number of free and slave states. In 1819, right before Missouri applied for admission to the United States, there were 11 free states and 11 slave states. The balance was politically important. The North had a larger population, which gave that region an advantage through the proportional representation of the House of Representatives. The Senate, however, was evenly balanced between free and slave states because each state had equal representation in that chamber. For a bill to become a law, it had to be passed by both bodies of the legislature. Therefore, the balanced Senate prevented either region of the country from mandating policy concerning the contentious slavery issue.

Slavery was already a common practice in the Missouri territory that was applying to become a state, which concerned the Northern Senators. If Missouri came into the United States as a slave state, it would tip the balance of the Senate in favor of the South. Another issue that concerned the North about Missouri's application for statehood was the fact that it was the first territory from the region of the Louisiana Purchase that was prepared to enter the Union as a state. Missouri's slave status would set a precedent for future states forming from that area. The South also worried about attempts by Northern Senators to limit slavery within the new state. Debate over Missouri's admission was heated in the Congress and lasted for months.

Henry Clay, a leading Congressman from Kentucky, is credited with putting together a compromise that resolved the issue. A key component of his plan hinged on the fact that Maine had also petitioned the Senate for admission to the Union. Maine had previously been part of Massachusetts and was slated to become a separate state. Clay's Missouri Compromise included the following provisions. First, Maine and Missouri would both enter the Union. Maine would enter as a free state and Missouri would enter as a

slave state, thus preserving the balance in the Senate. Second, the rest of the Louisiana Territory would be subject to a geographic division at the 36° 30′ line of latitude (Missouri's southern border). Slavery would be prohibited north of the line, except in Missouri. Slavery would remain untouched south of the line. The Missouri Compromise passed both bodies of Congress and James Monroe signed it into law in March 1820. The seeds of sectionalism were beginning to sprout.

b. Examine **James K. Polk's** presidency in the fulfillment of **Manifest Destiny** including the Texas annexation and Oregon

Key Terms	James K. Polk	Manifest Destiny	Texas	Oregon
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1. What territories were added to the US during Polk's Presidency?
2. What was Manifest Destiny?
3. What were 3 factors in more people moving out west?
4. Why were Northerners opposed to the annexation of Texas?
5. Based on the election of James K Polk, how did Americans feel about expansion?
6. What country did Mexico have to fight for their Independence?
7. How did the U.S. gain the Oregon territory?

James K. Polk became the eleventh President of the United States after winning a close election in 1844. Once in office, Polk added to the nation's western lands by annexing Texas and part of Oregon. Many Americans believed that expansion across the continent was the destiny of the United States. Others worried that the bold acquisition of land would lead to war. The actions of James K. Polk during his presidency did both- he added territory to the United States and fought a war with Mexico over expansion.

Americans have always looked westward. As the coastal plains filled, colonists arriving from Europe sought unclaimed land in the backcountry of each colony. After the French and Indian War, settlers crossed the Appalachians and entered the Tennessee and Ohio River Basins. After the American Revolution, settlers began to fill the Ohio Valley and moved out into western Georgia and Alabama. The Louisiana Purchase in 1803 doubled the size of America's land holdings and brought new opportunities to move westward into the Mississippi River Valley. Florida, the last piece of foreign held territory in the east was acquired in 1819 from Spain. By 1850, Americans had settled California, Oregon, and Washington on the Pacific coast. The process of settlement took 150 years to reach the Appalachians, 50 years to reach the Mississippi River and another 30 years to settle the Pacific states. In 230 years, Americans had come to dominate the continent. Americans believed such rapid expansion must have been a result of divine favor referred to as Manifest Destiny.

Manifest Destiny was a phrase coined to describe the belief that America was to expand and settle the entire continent of North America. The phrase originated in 1845 when John L. O'Sullivan, a newspaper editor, wrote that it was America's "Manifest destiny to overspread the continent allotted by Providence for the free development of our yearly multiplying millions."

The center of population growth in the years after the War of 1812 was in the future states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and northern Kentucky. **In this region three factors encouraged families in the eastern states to move into the Midwest.** First, American Indians were removed from the region. Second, land speculators acquired large tracts of land and were eager to sell. Third, as the national infrastructure moved westward it was easier to migrate west. Although interest rates on land were high, so were grain prices throughout the 1830s and 1840s. Fertile soil and the development of better plows and harvesters allowed farmers to produce large crop yields, which increased the allure of westward expansion.

Westward expansion was a pivotal issue in the 1844 Presidential election. Texas was not a state at the time and was a region heavily entrenched in slavery. Many Northerners were opposed to the annexation of Texas due to the slavery issue and its political implications. The Democratic Party struggled with the issue and was divided over which candidate to nominate to be their party's representative in the election. Former President Martin Van Buren of New York was opposed to annexation. The Southern members of the Democratic Party supported John C. Calhoun of South Carolina for the nomination. Calhoun was in favor of slavery and the immediate annexation of Texas. The nominating convention was at an impasse between the two Democrats until the Party finally nominated **James K. Polk** from Tennessee. He was a true expansionist who believed in Manifest Destiny and wanted to annex Texas and take claim of

Oregon and California. His campaign slogan, "Fifty-four Forty or Fight!" was a reference to the latitudinal boundary between the Oregon Territory and Russian held Alaska. Polk's opponent in the election was the famous Whig candidate, Henry Clay of Kentucky. Clay's position on annexation of Texas was uncertain, as he preferred to promote his American System agenda of internal improvements rather than weigh in on the expansion issue. As a result, the New York wing of the Whig Party abandoned Clay and instead supported the anti-slavery Liberty Party in the election. The 36 New York Electoral College votes proved decisive in James K. Polk's 170-105 victory.

The Democratic victory in 1844 was thought to be a signal from the public that annexation of Texas was the desire of the people. **Texas** was annexed and when Polk took office it was up to him to deal with Mexico's reaction to the American claim to land they viewed as their own. Polk also faced a decision about how to fulfill the campaign promise of acquiring Oregon that was also claimed by Great Britain. Since 1818, Great Britain and the United States had essentially shared claim to **Oregon** through a treaty that was signed between the two nations calling for joint occupation. It was likely that Polk would have to fight Mexico to resolve the southern border dispute in Texas and also fight Great Britain to secure claim to the Oregon territory. Fighting Great Britain for a third time was the least appealing option. Mexico had recently won its independence from Spain in 1821 after hundreds of years of occupation. Given Mexico's new status and uncertain leadership, Britain would be the less desirable opponent in a conflict over expansion.

Polk ultimately negotiated with Great Britain concerning Oregon in an attempt to avoid armed conflict over the region. Instead of acquiring the entire Oregon territory to the 54° 40' line, a compromise was reached. The Oregon territory would be divided and the northern section would remain in Great Britain's possession and the southern section would be annexed by the United States. The Senate ratified the Oregon Treaty in 1846, the same year the United States went to war with Mexico over Texas. Polk had fulfilled the Manifest Destiny of the United States to span the North American continent from the Atlantic to the Pacific coastlines.