

6.1

Moving West



As a Young Historian, I will be able to...

- **Summarize the settlement and development of the Spanish borderlands.**
- **Explain the concept of Manifest Destiny and how it influenced westward expansion.**
- **Analyze the causes and challenges of westward migration.**

The Borderlands

New Mexico was the oldest colony in New Spain's Northern frontier

The colonists there formed an alliance with the Pueblo Indians & feared the Comanche & Apaches

Horses & guns revolutionized the tribes, especially the Apaches. Bows were for hunting, guns for war.

Soon, competition for the buffalo herds would lead to wars.

Settlement & War

The Apaches & Comanches would begin attacking New Mexico, raiding the Spanish & Pueblo.

Spanish officials would try to form bonds with the nomadic tribes & paid for defense against the Apaches.

Texas was settled to protect towns & mines to the south in Mexico.

Junipero Serra, a Spanish Franciscan Priest, sought to convert American Indians to Christianity. Successful in California

America Looks West

American **Expansionists**, people who favored territorial growth, began to look west

They pointed to the weaknesses of Mexico's government & argued America needed the land

Manifest Destiny- The belief that God wanted the United States to win ALL of North America

Southerners hoped to create more slave states to strengthen their position in Congress.

American Heads West

Mexican independence & trade with America opened up the region & began the **Santa Fe Trail**, a long trade trail between Mexico & Missouri

American trappers sought beaver pelts in the Rockies & became known as **Mountain Men** and created new routes

Missionaries set out to Walla Walla Oregon to set up an Indian mission on the **Oregon Trail**.

Farmers use this trail to head to Willamette Valley.

New Lands in the West

John C. Fremont set out an expedition across the western country to define the region.

Trails West were difficult & took many months to complete. Many people struggled on the journey

The Donner Party gets stuck in a winter storm in the Sierra Nevada & are forced into cannibalism

Between 1840-1860 about 260,000 Americans crossed the continent.

Mormons & American Indians

The **Mormon** religion is founded by **Joseph Smith** & his followers head west.

Joseph Smith is killed & **Brigham Young** brings them to the Great Salt Lake in Utah.

The American Indians mostly left settlers alone, as long as they continued west.

Treaty of Fort Laramie- Treaty to keep American Indians to territories away from the major trails

Most of the tribes would ignore this in pursuit of buffalo, leading to future conflicts