

Welcome Work

What does the word “destiny” mean to you? What other words do you associate with its meaning?

Essential Question

How did Manifest Destiny help Americans justify their desire to extend the US to the Pacific?

What is (was)
Manifest Destiny?

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First – what is a “destiny”? What does it mean to be “destined” to do something?

Destiny - something that is to happen (or has happened) to a particular person or thing

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Second – what does "manifest" mean? If something is "manifest" it means it is clear or obvious to the eye.

Manifest means "it's a no-brainer."

So, American's believed that they were "destined" to do something – and that whatever that something *was* was a "no brainer." They believed it was obvious, that everyone should know about it!

So --- what was it?

Manifest Destiny

the belief that the United States had a “God-given” right to expand across the entire continent. The expansion of the U.S. was both justified due to their superior culture and inevitable.

It was clear. It was obvious. **It was destined to happen.**

The United States in 1816 . . . 1850 . . . and 1872



This expansion is due to Manifest Destiny.

Manifest Destiny Reading Stations

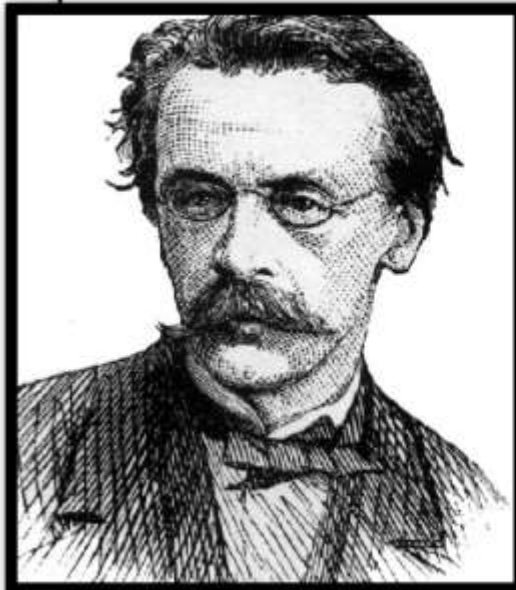
- ❑ Today you will work in groups to complete the Stations worksheets.
- ❑ You will have 10 minutes each rotation.

S O U R C E

#1

John O'Sullivan, "The Great Nation of Futurity," 1839.

...our national birth was the beginning of a new history, the formation and progress of an untried political system, which separates us from the past and connects us with the future only; and so far as regards the entire development of the natural rights of man, in moral, political, and national life, we may confidently assume that our country is destined to be the great nation of futurity.... Yes, we are the nation of progress, of individual freedom, of universal enfranchisement...we must carry onward to the fulfillment of our mission -- to the principle of our organization -- to bring freedom of conscience, freedom of person, freedom of trade and business pursuits, universality of freedom and



equality... All this will be our future history, to establish on earth the moral dignity and salvation of man -- the immutable truth and beneficence of God. America been chosen; and her high example shall smite unto death the tyranny of kings, hierarchs, and oligarchs, and carry the glad tidings of peace and good will...Who, then, can doubt that our country is destined to be the great nation of futurity?

John O'Sullivan, "Annexation," 1845.

It is time now for opposition to the Annexation of Texas to cease . . . It is time for the common duty of Patriotism to the Country to succeed;—or if this claim will not be recognized, it is at least time for common sense to acquiesce with decent grace . . .

Texas is now ours. Already, before these words are written, her Convention has undoubtedly ratified the acceptance, by her Congress, of our invitation into the Union. . . . It is time then that all should cease to treat her as alien...



She is no longer to us a mere geographical space—a certain combination of coast, plain, mountain, valley, forest and stream. She is no longer to us a mere country on the map... [Further tension will lead to] interested parties to thwarting our policy and hampering our power, limiting our greatness and checking the fulfillment of our manifest destiny to overspread the continent allotted by Providence for the free development of our yearly multiplying millions. This we have seen done by England, our old rival and enemy...

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#3

John O'Sullivan on California, 1845.

California will, probably, next fall away from the loose adhesion which, in such a country as Mexico, holds a remote province in a kind of dependence . . . Imbecile and distracted, Mexico never can exert any real government authority over such a country. . . . The Anglo-Saxon foot is already on [California's] borders. Already the advance guard of the irresistible army of Anglo-Saxon emigration has begun to pour down upon it, armed with the plough and the rifle, and marking its trail with schools and colleges, courts and representative halls, mills and meeting-houses. A population

will soon be in actual occupation of California, over which it will be idle for Mexico to dream of dominion.

They will necessarily become independent. All this without the agency of our government, without responsibility of our people—in the natural flow of events And they will have a right to independence—to self-government . . .





Is Manifest Destiny depicted as a positive or negative thing? Evidence?

