

## AIM: Why did people move west?

The following article is by American columnist John O’Sullivan. John O’ Sullivan was an influential writer for the popular news publication, *Democratic Review*. His article, “Manifest Destiny” appeared in 1839 encouraging people to migrate west.

### “Manifest Destiny”

Our country is destined to be the great nation of the future. America is destined for better deeds. It is our unparalleled glory that we embark on an expansive future for our history. We are entering in untrodden space, with the blessing of God in our minds. We are the nation of human progress, and who can stop us?

The far-reaching expansive future will be the era of American greatness. No country has ever been formed in the history of the world the way ours was. Our nation is destined to manifest the greatest country ever created, blessed by God with the open prairies, flowing rivers, and protective mountains.

God has blessed us with the divine principles of equality and justice for all. We must fulfill our mission — to expand these principles of freedom across the entire continent- from sea to shining sea. For this blessed mission America has been chosen; and her high example shall spread beyond our borders to peoples and places around the world. Who, then, can doubt that our country is destined to be *the great nation* of the future?

## Reading like a Historian- S.O.A.P.

### Source:

- Who created the document?
- What do you know about them?

### Occasion:

- What is the date?
- What is happening at the time? (conflicts, events etc.)

### Audience:

- For who was the document created? (Who is it written for?)

### Purpose:

- Why was the document created? (persuade, inform, defend a point of view etc.)
- What is the main idea? Evaluate the words the author uses to support their idea.

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American painter John Gast painted “American Progress” in 1872 for an American western travel guide encouraging people to move west and pursue manifest destiny.

*American Progress*

By John Gast, 1872



### **Reading like a Historian: S.C.A.M.**

#### **Symbols:**

What symbols are used in the cartoon?

#### **Captions:**

- What does the text say?
- What issues are represented?

#### **Actions:**

- What are the interactions between people or objects?

#### **Message:**

- What is the overall main idea of the image?

## AIM: Why did people move west?

Horace Greely, U.S. Congressmen in the House of Representatives, wrote a letter to his friend, R.L. Sanderson, on November 15, 1871 encouraging Sanderson to move West.

R.L. Sanderson,  
Duxbury, MA

New York, Nov. 15, 1871.

Dear Sir:

So many people ask me what they shall do; so few tell me what they can do. Yet this is the pivot wherein all must turn.

I believe that each of us who has his place to make should go where men are wanted, and where employment is not bestowed (given) as alms (favors). Of course, I say to all who are in want of work, Go West!

But what can you do? and how can your family help you? Your mother, I infer, is to be counted out as an effective worker. But what of the rest? And you – can you chop? Can you plow? Can you mow? Can you cut up Indian corn? I reckon not. And in the west it is hard to find such work as you have been accustomed to. The conditions of living are very rude (hard) there.

On the whole I say, stay where you are; do as well as you can; and devote every spare hour to making yourself familiar with the conditions and dexterity required for the efficient conservation of out-door industry in a new country. Having mastered these, gather up your family and Go West!

Yours, Horace Greeley

### Reading like a Historian- S.O.A.P.

<b><u>Source:</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Who created the document?</li><li>What do you know about them?</li></ul>	<b><u>Occasion:</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>What is the date?</li><li>What is happening at the time? (conflicts, events etc.)</li></ul>
<b><u>Audience:</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>For who was the document created? (Who is it written for?)</li></ul>	<b><u>Purpose:</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Why was the document created? (persuade, inform, defend a point of view etc.)</li><li>What is the main idea? Evaluate the words the author uses to support their idea.</li></ul>

**Identify and describe a similarity or difference between all 3 documents.**