

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Westward Expansion - Content Check

Read each question. Then, write your answers in complete sentences.

1. What is Manifest Destiny?
2. Why might a railroad owner and a Native American who lived during the 1800s have different perspectives on the building of the transcontinental railroad?
3. Imagine you are a computer scientist creating a game about westward expansion. Why would it be important for you to read many different types of sources?

# Westward Expansion - Answer Key

Answers may vary.

## **1. What is Manifest Destiny?**

Manifest Destiny was the idea that the U.S. had the right to expand their land ownership as far west as they wanted.

## **2. Why might a railroad owner and a Native American who lived during the 1800s have different perspectives on the building of the transcontinental railroad?**

Railroad owners would have been really excited about westward expansion because they could make a lot of money. Native Americans most likely did not support western expansion because their land was taken away to build the railroads and towns near the tracks.

## **3. Imagine you are a computer scientist creating a game about westward expansion. Why would it be important for you to read many different types of sources.**

Most sources from the 1800s are diaries and journals. These sources only represent a single point of view or perspective. If you only read one source, then you are not seeing all sides of a story. It is important to review sources from people who have different perspectives to have a better understanding of events from the past.