Westward Expansion
Westward Expansion Timeline

1803- April 30th- The Louisiana Purchase

1804- May 14th- Lewis and Clark Expedition departs

1825- Erie Canal completed

1830- Indian Removal Act

1836- March 6- Mexican Troops storm the Texans at the Alamo
   April 21- Sam Houston’s troops defeat Santa Anna and make him recognize Texan Independence

1838- U.S. troops remove Cherokee Indians from their land

1842- Settlement of Oregon Territory begins

1848- January- Gold discovered in California

1849- The California Gold Rush
   April 3 - the first Pony Express Ride

1861- The Transcontinental Telegraph completed

1869- The Transcontinental Railroad Completed

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1 depart – to leave
2 storm – to attack
3 settlement – the act or process of moving to a new place
4 telegraph – a communications system that sends messages through electric wires
1. Which of the following occurred first?
   a. U.S. troops removed Cherokee Indians from their land.
   b. The first Pony Express Ride occurred.
   c. Gold was discovered in California.
   d. The Erie Canal was completed.

2. Which of the following occurred last?
   a. The Transcontinental Telegraph was completed.
   b. Mexican troops stormed the Alamo.
   c. The Louisiana Purchase was made.
   d. The Transcontinental Railroad was completed.

3. In 1842,
   a. settlers began moving into Oregon Territory.
   b. gold was discovered.
   c. the fight occurred at the Alamo.
   d. the Louisiana Purchase occurred.

4. In the timeline, it says, “Sam Houston’s troops defeat Santa Anna”. What does the word defeat mean?
   a. It means to beat the other person.
   b. It means to celebrate.
   c. It means to cry about.
   d. It means to run away from.

5. What happened just before the California Gold Rush?
   a. The Erie Canal was completed.
   b. Gold was discovered in California.
   c. Mexican troops took over Texas.
   d. The Transcontinental Telegraph was completed.
6. Which event on the timeline do you think was most important to Westward Expansion and why?
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________

7. How long did it take for the United States to remove the Cherokee Indians from their land after the Indian Removal Act became a law?
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

First, Lewis and Clark explored the west. Then the west was connected to the east through the Transcontinental Telegraph and, __________, the west was connected to the east through the Transcontinental Railroad.
  a. before
  b. because
  c. including
  d. finally

9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below.

People from all over came to California in 1849 to try to find gold.

Who? people
(did) What? ______________________________________________________
When? __________________________________________________________
Why? ___________________________________________________________

10. **Vocabulary Word:** depart: to leave.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: ________________________________
________________________________________________________________
Teacher Guide and Answers

Passage Reading Level: Non-Prose

Featured Text Structure: Sequence – the writer provides an order of events or steps in a process

Passage Summary: This passage is a timeline of events that happened as part of the westward expansion of the United States, from the Louisiana Purchase to the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad.

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6. Which event on the timeline do you think was most important to Westward Expansion and why?

**Suggested answer:** Answers will vary but should include identification of one event and at least one reason to support the choice of that event as the most important.

7. How long did it take for the United States to remove the Cherokee Indians from their land after the Indian Removal Act became a law?

**Suggested answer:** It took eight years for the United States to remove the Cherokee Indians from their land after the Indian Removal Act became a law. The Indian Removal Act became a law in 1830, and the Cherokee Indians were removed from their land in 1838.

8. The question below includes an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

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   b. because  
   c. including  
   d. finally

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People from all over came to California in 1849 to try to find gold.

Who? people  
(did) What? **came to California**  
When? **in 1849**  
Why? **to try to find gold**

10. **Vocabulary Word:** depart: to leave.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: answers may vary.