

Era 4: Expansion and Reform (1801-1861)

The new American republic prior to the Civil War experienced dramatic territorial expansion, immigration, economic growth, and industrialization. The increasing complexity of American society, the growth of regionalism, and the cross-currents of change that are often bewildering require the development of several major themes to enable students to sort their way through the six decades that brought the United States to the eve of the Civil War. • One theme is the vast territorial expansion between 1800 and 1861, as restless Americans pushed westward across the Appalachians, then across the Mississippi, and finally on to the Pacific Ocean. • A second theme confronts the economic development of the expanding American republic--a complex and fascinating process that on the one hand created the sinews of national identity but on the other hand fueled growing regional tensions. • A third theme interwoven with the two themes above can be organized around the extension, restriction, and reorganization of political democracy after 1800. • Connected to all of the above is the theme of reform, for the rapid transformation and expansion of the American economy brought forth one of the greatest bursts of reformism in American history.

	Standard 1: United States territorial expansion between 1801 and 1861, and how it affected relations with external powers and Native Americans.
	Standard 1A: The student understands the international background and consequences of the Louisiana Purchase, the War of 1812, and the Monroe Doctrine.
	Standard 1B: The student understands federal and state Indian policy and the strategies for survival forged by Native Americans.
	Standard 1C: The student understands the ideology of Manifest Destiny, the nation's expansion to the Northwest, and the Mexican-American War.
	Standard 2: How the industrial revolution, increasing immigration, the rapid expansion of slavery, and the westward movement changed the lives of Americans and led toward regional tensions.
	Standard 2A: The student understands how the factory system and the transportation and market revolutions shaped regional patterns of economic development.
	Standard 2B: The student understands the first era of American urbanization.
	Standard 2C: The student understands how antebellum immigration changed American society.
	Standard 2D: The student understands the rapid growth of "the peculiar institution" after 1800 and the varied experiences of African Americans under slavery.
	Standard 2E: The student understands the settlement of the West.
	Standard 3: The extension, restriction, and reorganization of political democracy after 1800.
	Standard 3A: The student understands the changing character of American political life in "the age of the common man."
	Standard 3B: The student understands how the debates over slavery influenced politics and sectionalism.
	Standard 4: The sources and character of cultural, religious, and social reform movements in the antebellum period.
	Standard 4A: The student understands the abolitionist movement.
	Standard 4B: The student understands how Americans strived to reform society and create a distinct culture.
	Standard 4C: The student understands changing gender roles and the ideas and activities of women reformers.

Adapted from:
The National Center for History in the Schools National Standards