

Resources to Support the Teaching of Learning Through Reading: Westward Expansion Grade 5

Digital Documents, Images, Artifacts, Lesson Ideas

Smithsonian Museums

- On this site, there are multiple ways to access information for teaching students about various aspects of the Western Expansion period of American History through images and artifacts. Begin with the main link above, and see also the page, [History Explorer](#), for teacher resources, lesson ideas, and primary sources. Searching “American History” on multiple pages of this website provides many useful resources

Digitaldocsinabox.org

- A [collection of documents and images](#) to support the study of western expansion and its impact on Native Americans

PBS website

- Of special interest is [The New Perspectives on the West](#), with background information and other resources for the documentary series
 - See PEOPLE tab for biographical information
 - See PLACES for information about historic sites in the West as well as natural features of the region that have helped shape Western history. The section features archival maps from the 1860's and 1880's, the later showing the network of railroads that spurred growth in the region following the Civil War.
 - See EVENTS for a list of dates featuring descriptions of key events that took place during these time periods.
 - See RESOURCES--a selection of the memoirs, journals, letters, reports and images

History Colorado website

- Links to museums and historical sites in Colorado, with an online exhibit, and teacher and student resources

Crazy Horse Memorial website

Sacred Land Film Project

- Media and educational materials to deepen public understanding of sacred places, indigenous cultures, and environmental justice

Resources from the Accompanying Writing Unit

- See the online resources on [Heinemann](#) for the unit, *The Lens of History: Research Reports*, the writing unit aligned with this unit. The research resources are plentiful, and you will want to access these early in the reading unit to support your students' research during the reading workshop. In particular, see:
 - Session 3: Online Resources for Westward Expansion Research (including videos on subtopics); although the links on this document do not appear to be live, they are. Click on the web address, and it will bring you to the site. Please preview anything you plan to share with your students.
 - Session 4: Westward Expansion Map
 - Session 6: Westward Expansion Master Timeline

- Session 11: Online Sources for Gathering Primary Document Resources (a list of live links)
- Session 14: Photographs: Pony Express Rider, Transcontinental Railroad/Golden Spike

Texts Suggested in the Unit

- *The Oregon Trail and westward Expansion: A History Perspectives Book* by Kristin Marciniak
- *You Wouldn't Want to Be . . .* series
- *True Book . . .* series
- *The Split History of Westward Expansion in the United States* by Nell Musolf (part of the Perspectives Flip Book series, each of which show an aspect of American history through two perspectives)
- *Who Settled the West?* By Bobbie Kalman
- *The Story of America: Westward Expansion* by Greg Roza
- *Ten Mile Day: And the Building of the Transcontinental Railroad* by Mary Ann Fraser
- *Coolies* by Yin

Additional Sources for Texts

The Comprehension Toolkit

- “Western Roundup” p. 55
- “Riding the Rails to Hope” p. 95 (Pair with *Train to Somewhere* by Eve Bunting)

Toolkit Texts: Short Nonfiction for American History: Westward Expansion

- 60 articles specifically selected on this topic, primary sources, and image bank, and 10 lessons for close reading in history

Cobblestone magazine, particularly if you do not have access to the *Westward Expansion Toolkit*

Texts

- Search Cobblestone magazines for articles related to Native Americans on the Gale Virtual Database found on most public library websites. Find it under 24/7 resources, online resources, or subscription databases on your public library site. You can find the written text of Cobblestone articles that often have an option to be read aloud. Search by topic, genre, or document type within Cobblestone magazine once on Gale. You can also search by date, and by lexile level. You can save these texts to a “My Folder” within the database, then download them to your own Google Drive folder.

Newsela

- Find articles, as well as speeches and primary sources
- You can adjust the difficulty of the text; be sure to read the entire text before downloading and printing for your students to be sure the content is appropriate
- There are articles that you can access with a free account
- Searches to try:
 - American History
 - Native Americans (folders such as *Native American Heritage* and *I Left My Heart at Wounded Knee* can be found)
 - Speeches

- Library: Primary Sources

[Kids Discover](#)

- Similar to *newse/la*; a free account allows access to articles that can be adjusted by lexile level

[Storia](#)