PowerPoint with Embedded Video Clips and Teacher Notes:

- Throughout the PowerPoints bolded phrases are their to help students determine what to write in their graphic organizer.

- Ask the students to analyze the painting “American Progress” by John Gast. Use the following questions to lead the discussion and if possible use the smartboard to circle the different elements in the painting:
  
  - **What symbols do you notice in the painting?**
  - **What do you think they represent?**
  - **How does this picture represent Manifest Destiny?**

- **Answer:**
  
  - Giant Woman – An angel like Anglo-Saxon feminine figure of “American Progress” with the “star of the empire” on her forehead and long, light, wavy hair leads miners, settlers, and travelers from East to West. As she advances, she suspends telegraph cable. She holds the excess wire in her right hand where she also carries a schoolbook. With her progression, the darkness fades as she ushers in new light.
  
  - Transportation and Technology - Men of various trades move westward by horseback, covered wagon, carriage, steam engine, and ships.
  
  - The Mississippi river flows in the background in the upper right quadrant which represents civilization while in the left of the image represents the wilderness that is untamed, beneath the peaks of snow-topped mountains, wild bison and a bear retreat into the darkness into which the water of a river also flows.
  
  - Progression of Colonization - In the lower right, farmers cultivate the land and there is a stone house with a boundary marked by trees and a split-rail fence. Three men in the central bottom portion walk next to a rider. One man carries a lowered shotgun at the ready and another, wearing a red shirt and smoking a pipe, props a miner’s shovel on his right shoulder.
  
  - Several Native Americans look back as they move accompanied by dogs towards the darkness at the left. A bare-chested male raises a tomahawk and another carries a bow and arrow. A horse draws a travois carrying a mother and a child and another woman walks as a member of the Native tribe, and looking over her left shoulder at the advance of civilization.
Explain all the reasons why Americans started to move westward.

Highlight that manifest destiny only included the Anglo-Saxon race aka white people, minority groups were viewed as inferior or uncivilized and therefore it was the duty of the Anglo-Saxon race to conquer and civilize these groups of people.

Explain that Anglo-Saxon at first referred to the people of Britain and their German ancestors, but later came to be mean people of north-west European Protestant ancestry or WASP (White Anglo-Saxon Protestant) as opposed to the immigrants of the 1880-1920 wave, Catholics and Jews from south and east Europe.

Highlight that the mountain men were at first trappers, then when the trade died out became army scouts, wagon trail guides, or settled on the land.
Oregon Territory

- Presidential candidate James K. Polk campaigned in 1844 on the promise of securing the Oregon Country for the United States even if it meant war.

- **The United States and Britain had jointly controlled Oregon since 1818 and included parts of the current U.S. states of Idaho, Oregon, Washington, Wyoming, and Montana as well as the Canadian province of British Columbia.**

- Polk won, but made a treaty with Britain, setting the boundary between the United States and British Canada at the 49th parallel.

- Explain how the United States would gain the Oregon Territory and officially spread the borders of America from the Atlantic to the Pacific (Manifest Destiny)
Explain that the Santa Fe trail began as a trading route. Trade was primarily conducted with Cheyenne and Arapaho Indians for buffalo robes. Because the fort was the only white settlement on the Santa Fe Trail, it served explorers, adventurers, and the U.S. Army as a place to get needed supplies, wagon repairs, livestock, food, water, rest, and protection from the local tribes.

Explain that the Oregon Trail followed the route of Louis and Clark, then the mountain men who create emigrant trails, and then those trails were widened for wagon traffic. Fort Hall was located at the point where the Oregon and California Trail separated and was owned by the Hudson Bay Company of England.

Highlight that the Santa Fe, Oregon, and California Trail all started from Independence, Missouri.

Explain that the Mormon trail was specific to the religion and that at the end of the trail the Great Salt Lake City was founded by Brigham Young and members of the Mormon Church in 1847. The Mormons were looking for an isolated place to practice their religious beliefs without being persecuted, and they had also been expelled from Missouri and Illinois. Immediately, the settlers began building their church, which was completed 40 years later. The settlers organized a new state, which they called Deseret. Congress denied their petition for statehood and instead created the Utah Territory. Salt lake City (the “Great” was dropped) was named capital of the territory in 1858.
• Explain that the typical gender roles were women washed clothes and acted as the family doctors and men hunted, traded, and dealt with the livestock

• Highlight how much food a person would need to survive and pack for the trip, explain that not only did they need to store all of this food on the wagon, they also needed to pack farm equipment, tools, extra parts if wagon broke down, and furniture if they were lucky.

• Explain that the cotton cover on the wagon was coated with linseed oil to help make it rain resistant, and the cover protected cargo from the weather and the constant dust on the trail. Both ends of the cover usually were tied shut.

• Explain that cholera crept silently, caused by unsanitary conditions: people camped amid garbage left by previous parties, picked up the disease, and then went about spreading it, themselves. People in good spirits in the morning could be in agony by noon and dead by evening. Symptoms started with a stomach ache that grew to intense pain within minutes. Then came diarrhea and vomiting that quickly dehydrated the victim. Within hours the skin was wrinkling and turning blue. If death did not occur within the first 12 to 24 hours, the victim usually recovered.

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**Hardships along the Trail**

**Food Needs:**
- A family of four needed more than 1,000 pounds of food during the trip.
- Each person needed at least 200 pounds of flour, 150 pounds of bacon, 10 pounds of coffee, 20 pounds of sugar, and 10 pounds of salt.
- If they were lucky, they would hunt quail or buffalo.

**Animals**
- Horses were rejected to go on the trail (too expensive to feed and could not live off prairie grass.
- Oxen were the most common and mules (donkey/horse) were the second common.

**Distance Traveled**
- People traveled about 12-15 miles in one day.
- Oxen traveled about 2 miles an hour.

**Death and Disease**
- Nearly one in ten who set off on these trails did not survive.
- The two biggest causes of death were disease and accidents. The disease with the worst reputation was cholera, known as the "unseen destroyer."
Assignment – Annotated Reading
Oregon or Bust!

- Have the students read and annotate *Oregon or Bust!* before they complete the questions. An answer key is provided for you.

- Use the map to highlight that in the early 1800’s; Oregon was a territory that America and Britain shared, Mexico controlled California, Nevada, Colorado, New Mexico, and Arizona. Texas was its own country.

Have students refer to the resource in their book (insert page numbers later)

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Video Clip – Will work without internet access (Length is 02:20)

- Show the clip to get the students attention after the assignment. Use to help the students understand how Texas became a part of the United States and would led to a war between US and Mexico.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cause #1 – Texan Revolution</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• <strong>Texan Revolution</strong> – Fought from 1835 to 1836, American settlers want to breakaway from Mexico and <strong>form the Republic of Texas</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• <strong>Battle of Alamo</strong> – 13 day siege in which the Mexican Army attacked the Alamo Mission in modern day San Antonio. All the defenders of Alamo were killed. This apparent cruelty by the Mexicans angered the Texans and <strong>help them gain support for independence</strong>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• <strong>Battle of San Jacinto</strong> – General Sam Houston attacked a defeated the Mexican army in under the command of General/President Santa Anna in under 18 minutes with only 9 Texans killed, while 630 Mexican soldiers were killed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• <strong>End</strong> – While Santa Anna did not recognize the independence of Texas, he <strong>promised to lobby for that recognition in Mexico</strong>. Many Texans took this promise as a sign that they had gained their independence.</td>
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• Explain that the Texas Revolution was separate from the Mexican American War and occurred ten years before the conflict, but was one of the first causes of conflict between the government of the US and Mexico.
• Explain the highlights of this revolution and how Texas became a republic independent nation.
Video Clip – Will work without internet access (Length is 02:37)

- Highlight the importance of the Alamo and the Texas Revolution.
• Explain why the United States annexation of Texas would lead to war with Mexico.

**Cause #2 - Texas Annexation**

- By March 1845 Congress had already approved the Texas Annexation (claiming it as part of America).
- The Republic of Texas hopes annexation will solve the republic’s financial & military problems.
- Texas becomes the 28th state in December of 1845.
- Mexico reacts by cutting off all diplomatic ties with the U.S. (believing that America is taking land that belongs to Mexico).
Explain that the spark for the Mexican American War will come from a dispute over the boundaries of Mexico and the United States.

**Cause #3 - Boundary Dispute**

- Texas and U.S. claim that the Rio Grande marks the southern border of Texas
- Mexican government rejects this idea and argues that the real southern border is the Nueces River
Video Clip – Will work without internet access (Length is 00:32)

- Use to highlight that President Polk wanted to start a war with Mexico in order to gain more territory, with Manifest Destiny being a contributing factor.
• Ask the students how the actions of Polk might indicate his true intentions? Answer: would do anything to secure California for the United States and would do so just in time for the discovery of gold in California.
Highlight how the war begins.
Ask the students whether Polk's statement to Congress was true. Answer: Not if you were Mexican and you believed the area belonged to your country.
Support of the War

- For many Americans the war led to greater national pride (nationalism)
- Many people who supported the war believed it would spread republican values (Manifest Destiny)
- Many southerners supported the war, thinking any territory won would be organized into slave states
- Telegrams allowed for information to quickly provide news to the American public and created a sense of unity.

- Explain that the support of the war was lead by nationalism, manifest destiny, the southern hope that slavery would expand, and the use of the telegram to get “instant” news from the war.
Video Clip – Will work without internet access (Length is 04:18)

- Highlight who Henry David Thoreau was and how he led the opposition to the war.
• Explain that many northern abolitionists feared the success of America in the war would lead to more slavery, since Mexico had outlawed slavery in 1829.
• Tell the story of the Saint Patrick's Battalion to highlight the opposition to the war. The Saint Patrick's Battalion consisted of European immigrants, mostly Irish, who join the US Army, but then deserted or defected to the Mexican Army because they share the common religion of Catholicism.
The War Itself

- The war only lasts for a year and a half.
- The American army invaded California and Northwestern Mexico.
- The American army consisted of volunteers. The Mexican army consisted of conscripts (soldiers force to fight).
- The Mexican army lost many battles from soldiers deserting and from a lack of moral.
- The American army eventually captures Mexico City, which causes the war to end.

• Explain how quickly the war lasted and why the United States was more successful.
• You may want to also explain that many of the men that fought in the Mexican American War fought a alongside men that they would later fight against in the American Civil War and that many of the soldiers would later become generals and commanders in both the Union army and the Confederate Army.
Explain the importance of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. The United States would gain California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, and Wyoming.
• Use to highlight what the United States would gain as part of this war and how what we consider to be the borders of the United States would be almost complete at the end of this war.
California and the Gold Rush

- In 1848 gold was discovered at John Sutter’s sawmill in northern California.
- When the news reached the United States, most considered it a rumor, but President James K. Polk announced the gold discovery in his State of the Union address on December 5, 1848.
- The gold rush was a mass migration of gold miners and people who wanted to make money off the miners to California.
- The migrants who left for California in 1849 were called forty-niners.
- Golden dreams brought people from around the world, but 80 percent of them came from the United States.
- In order to get to California at the time you had 3 options:
  - By land following the California Trail
  - Sailing around the southern tip of South America and then north to California
  - Sailing to the isthmus of Panama, crossing Central America by mule train, and then sailing north to California
- San Francisco, the port nearest the gold fields, grew from 800 people in 1848 to some 25,000 the next year. By 1854 as many as 300,000 people had migrated to California.

- Explain what the gold rush was and while most of the newly arrived were Americans, the Gold Rush also attracted some tens of thousands from Latin America, Europe, Australia, and Asia.
- Explain that it was a particularly violent period for the new settlers of the Wild West. After the initial boom had ended, explicitly anti-foreign and racist attacks, laws and confiscatory taxes sought to drive out foreigners, especially Chinese and Latin American immigrants. The toll on US immigrants was also severe: roughly one in twelve perished due to the extraordinarily high crime rates and the resulting vigilantism.
Reflection Assignment
Manifest Destiny and Westward Expansion

Use your notes to answer the following using complete sentences.

1. List at least two positive and two negative components of Manifest Destiny.
2. What hardships were faced by settlers along the trails leading westward?
3. Was the United States justified in going to war with Mexico?
4. What impact did the Gold Rush have on American society and culture?

Have students refer to the resource in their book (insert page numbers later)

Have the students complete the reflection using their notes to answer the following using complete sentences.

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