

American move westward

Name

Instructor

Course

Date

The book, “*America move westward*’ informs us about the development that occurred and led to the expansion of America. Americans needed land due to the increase in population from the high number of immigrants (Dilisio, 2008). There was a dire need for farming and the book clearly shows us that Americans were the first to plant corn, wheat, beans and cotton in the Mexican land what the Spanish didn’t do. As a result there was coexistence after a long period of time that constituted hostility among the invaders and the inhabitants.

In the early 1800, the only mode of communication was mainly through messengers, who were used to send a message or news from one place to another. Sometimes news from one part of the country didn’t reach the other part due to the limitations of speed that the messengers portrayed. In the 1844, there was an invention of a new method of communication that made work of communication easier, the telegraph (Dilisio, 2008). The newly discovered telegraph sent messages from one location to another via signals through wires. Samuel Morse was the inventor of a code for sending the messages through the machine.

Many Americans began moving to west by the 1840’s (Farr, 1977). Most of them were looking for gold and farmland so as to produce food that would be used in exchange for other goods and services. The road transport and other infrastructure development were so poor. There were only two routes to use when travelling, one was to use a boat or canoe and sail along the tip of South America and the other was to travel by the railroad until its end and continue the journey in wagons pulled by horses or oxen. The modes of transport were expensive and time consuming.

The Santa Fe Trail was an important route linking the West and the east long before it became famous as the wagon trail from independence, Missouri, to Santa Fe then to Mexico.

This was the main mode of transport that was commonly used as a trade route for almost 59 years, but it had not been used since the Spanish conquest of Mexico in 1521 (Dilisio, 2008). In 1609, after James town was settled by the English, the capital of New Mexico was moved from a little town on the Rio Grande to Santa Fe.

President Polk wanted the United States to expand its territories and rule Oregon, Texas and California. He persuaded more Americans to move and shift to the Oregon and take full control of the land. There was a Texas Revolution in the year 1835 after realizing that the Texas was soon to be acquired and they demanded that they become separate from Mexico which was finally signed between the two presidents (Dilisio, 2008). After a long struggle though, Santa Anna surrendered since he was not strong enough to defend the state and it became free. Texas became free after many people had killed and many leaders had disagreed.

Reflection statement

The article gave insights on how the Americans managed to move to expand the territories and the results. The reading gave me the opportunity to continue with further inquiries into problems related to the moving of America westwards. The type of note taking that works best with me is the marking and underlining of a text since I am able to digest the main points accurately as I read.

References

Dilisio, R. (2008). *American Advance: Westward from the French & Indian War*. New York:

iUniverse.

Farr, N. C. (1977). *Americans Move Westward, 1800-1850*. New York: Aps Pub.