

United States Territorial Expansion (1803-1853) Map Exercise

Group Size: 1-2 Students

Learning Objective: Examine the process of how the United States transformed from a small group of divided colonies hugging the Atlantic coastline into a continental nation.

Introduction: When the United States gained its independence from Great Britain in 1783, the 13 states hugged the Atlantic coastline, and few Americans had explored the lands beyond the Appalachian Mountains. However, between 1803 and 1853, the United States transformed into a continental nation. This map exercise will help you understand this process.

Activity: Create an annotated map that shows the process of how the United States developed into a continental nation between 1803 and 1853.

- I. A map showing the phases of territorial expansion needs to be the hub of this project.
- II. Find a creative and original way to add annotations to the map.
- III. The annotations need to *explain the significance* behind each of the territorial acquisitions. For example, how did the United States acquire the land? From whom did we receive it? Under what circumstances?
- IV. Suggested formats:
 - a. Create a salt dough map that has large margins for the annotations.
 - b. Create a website that has pages for each of the territorial acquisitions.
 - c. Create an interactive slide show that allows viewers to click on a section of the map that will take them to information about how the territory was acquired.

Evaluation Rubric	Excellent (9-10)	Good (7-8)	Acceptable (5-6)	Marginal (3-4)	Unsatisfactory (1-2)
Annotated Map					
1. A map showing the territorial expansion of the United States between 1803 and 1853 is prominently displayed.					
2. An efficient and effective way of providing annotation is provided.					
3. Effective written communication. (Appropriate grammar, punctuation, mechanics and spelling.)					
4. Creativity and originality are evident.					
Content					
5. Information and evidence are accurate, appropriate, and integrated effectively.					
6. Claims and ideas supported by details and examples.					
Thinking					
7. The significance of each territorial expansion is explained.					
8. Analysis/synthesis/evaluation/interpretation is effective and consistent to the theme of how the United States expanded into a continental nation.					