

## United States Territorial Expansion (1803-1853) Map Exercise

**Group Size:** 1-2 Students

**Learning Objective:** Examine the process of how and when the United States grew from a small group of divided colonies hugging the east coast of North American to a continental nation that spread from the Atlantic to the Pacific Oceans.

**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 acquired to territory to become 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.

### Checklist

- A map that showing the phases of territorial expansion is part of the central focus of this project.
- Find a creative and original way to add annotations to the map.
- 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? [see page 2]

### Evaluation

When will points be taken off?	What do I have to do (to get a B)?	What can I do extra to earn a higher grade? (An A)
The map is not in color and/or is incomplete. The map is small and not prominently displayed.	A color map that shows the major episodes territorial expansion of the United States between 1783 and 1853 is prominently displayed.	The map was highly enhanced (i.e. salt dough, a large hand-drawn map, or made interactive through the use of technology.)
<input type="checkbox"/> Suggested formats: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Create a salt dough map that has large margins for the annotations.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Create a website that has pages for each of the territorial acquisitions.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 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.</li> </ul>		
The explanations are incomplete and/or not very well developed. Not all of the episodes of territorial expansion have been included.	The annotations need to <i>explain the significance</i> 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 did we get it?	The writing is well-developed, with strong use of supporting details and examples. A deeper historical context of the process of how the US acquired certain major territories (such as the Louisiana Purchase or after the Mexican-American War)
This assignment is sloppy and a lack of care is evident. Titles, subtitles (describing the territories), and dates (years the territory was acquired) are hard to find and read.	The design is neat and readable. Titles, subtitles (describing the territories), and dates (years the territory was acquired) are easy to find and read.	Additional images have been included throughout, and great attention to detail has been paid to the entire project. Major territorial acquisitions are given greater emphasis (but not overpowering).

## United States Territorial Expansion Map Checklist

Answer the following questions for each of the territories list below:

From whom did we get the territory?

When did we get it?

Under what circumstances did we acquire it?

Which States did it eventually become?

**Major Territories Gains** (Explain the significance of these using at least **two** fully developed paragraphs)

- Louisiana Purchase
- Texas Annexation
- Mexican Cession
- Oregon Territory
- East Florida

**Minor Territories Gains** (Explain the significance of these using at least **one** fully developed paragraph)

- West Florida
- British Cession of 1818
- Spanish Cession of 1819
- Gadsden Purchase

**Territorial Loses** (Explain the significance of these using at least **one** fully developed paragraph)

- Land ceded to Britain in 1818