USING INTERACTIVE MAPS TO INTERPRET U.S. TERRITORIAL EXPANSION: 1790–2010

Activity Items
The following item is part of this activity and appears at the end of this student version.

- Item 1: Map of Territorial Acquisitions in the United States

This activity also uses the following online tools:

- Blooming States
  [www.census.gov/dataviz/visualizations/009](http://www.census.gov/dataviz/visualizations/009)
- By the Grid: Population Shift to the West and South
  [www.census.gov/dataviz/visualizations/024](http://www.census.gov/dataviz/visualizations/024)

Student Learning Objectives

- I will be able to read and interpret an interactive data visualization of U.S. population growth.
- I will be able to identify trends in population growth and relate them to westward expansion and Manifest Destiny.
- I will be able to identify more recent population shifts and make inferences about what caused them.
1. Fill in the chart below with your predictions for each prompt. (You will have the opportunity to find the correct answers later in the activity.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name three states that did not exist in 1790.</th>
<th>Name three states that saw population decline in the 19th century (1801-1900).</th>
<th>Name three states that saw population growth in the 20th century (1901-2000).</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>My prediction:</td>
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<td>Correct answer:</td>
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2. Examine **Item 1: Map of Territorial Acquisitions in the United States** and then list at least five areas of land that the United States acquired during the 19th century (1801–1900), including when and from which country.

3. Explain Manifest Destiny. How did this ideology encourage geographic growth?

4. What were the main causes of population growth in the United States during the 19th century?

5. Navigate to the “Blooming States” online tool by typing its URL from the start of this activity into your browser. Use data from this tool, and from the online table accessible at the “Data Table” link below it, to find and write the correct answers in your table in question 1. (When filling out your table’s first column, note that the online tool only has data for states in the years after they gained statehood. Maine and West Virginia are exceptions, because they were part of Massachusetts and Virginia until 1820 and 1863, respectively.)

6. Continue using the “Blooming States” tool to answer the following questions and prompts.
   a. Name four states whose populations were counted in the 1790 Census.
b. Name the decades of peak population growth for Massachusetts, Minnesota, Rhode Island, and Texas.
   - Massachusetts:
   - Minnesota:
   - Rhode Island:
   - Texas:

c. What socioeconomic factors might have contributed to the population growth in the states from question 6b during those decades?

d. Name three states that experienced two consecutive decades of population decline.

e. What socioeconomic factors might have contributed to the population decline in the states from question 6d during those decades?

f. Where is there evidence of westward expansion in the population growth numbers, and how did the United States’ major land acquisitions of the 19th century play into this population growth? Give examples from the data visualization to support your answer.
g. Write a paragraph discussing and comparing two states’ population growth rates during the early to mid-1800s. Be sure to include the decade that the U.S. Census Bureau first collected data for each state (which represents when it became a state) and the decade that each state experienced peak population growth.

7. Examine the other data visualization tool, “By the Grid: Population Shift to the West and South,” by typing its URL at the start of this activity into your browser. Each bar represents the percentage of the population living in areas in the North, South, East, and West. Click the play button or click and drag the marker along the timeline to watch the population shift from 1790 to 2010. What socioeconomic factors may have contributed to the population shifts to the western and southern parts of the United States between the late 20th century and early 21st century (2001 - present)?

8. Write three of your own questions and then answer them using this data tool, as if you were writing an activity for your fellow students.

a.

b.

c.