

# Westward Expansion Before the Civil War

Timeline Cards



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Chapter 2, Card 2	Dustin Mackay
Chapter 3, Card 1	Tecumseh (1768–1813) (coloured engraving), American School, (19th century) / Private Collection / Peter Newark American Pictures / Bridgeman Images
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Chapter 10, Card 2	California gold rush, Doughty, C.L. (1913–85) / Private Collection / © Look and Learn / Bridgeman Images

ISBN: 978-1-68380-225-9

# Introduction

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**As early as c. 30,000–c. 15,000 BCE, people lived as hunter-gatherers in North America.**



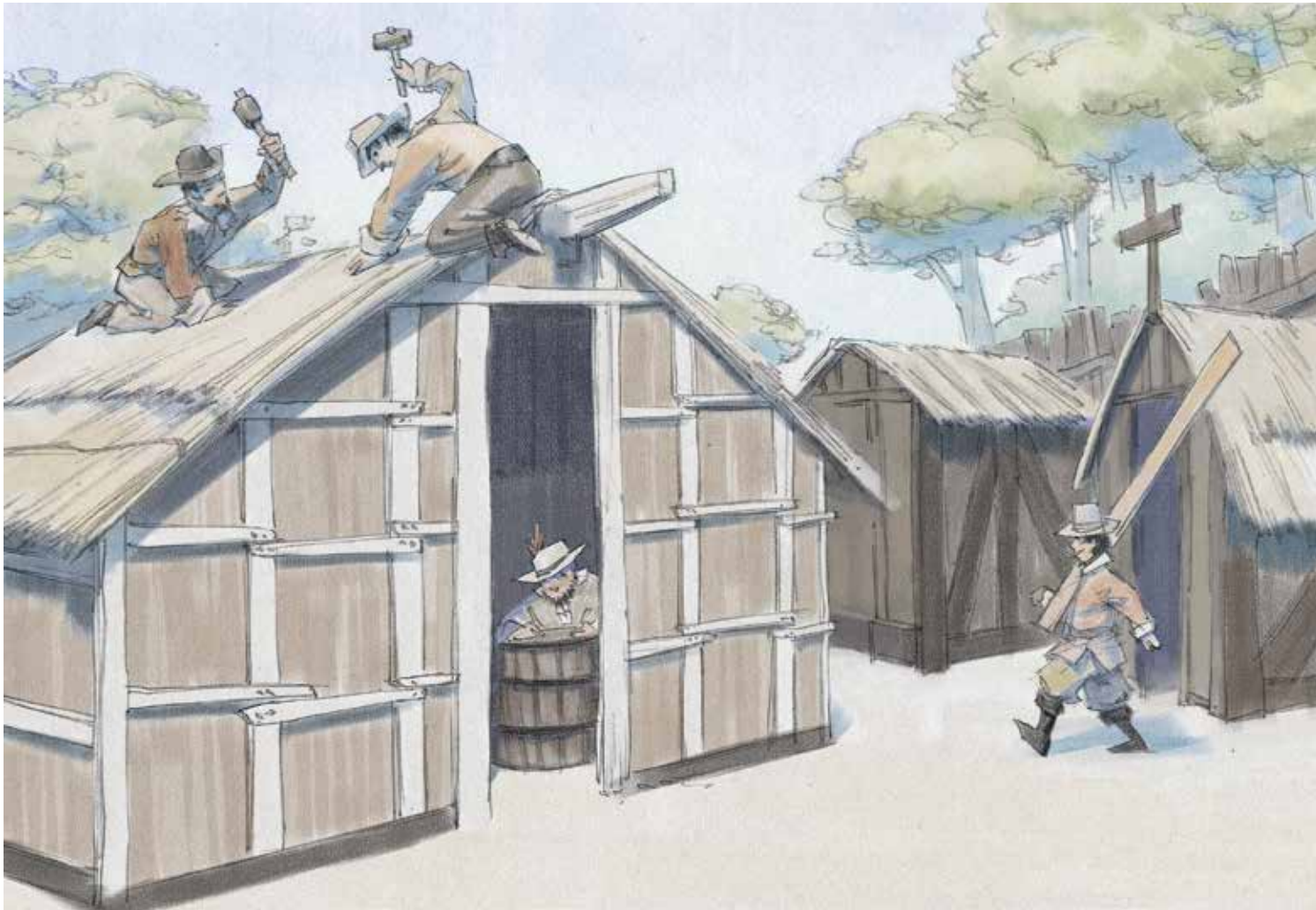
# Introduction



Over a period of thousands of years, as the ice sheets melted, people spread out over the land and settled on it.

# Introduction

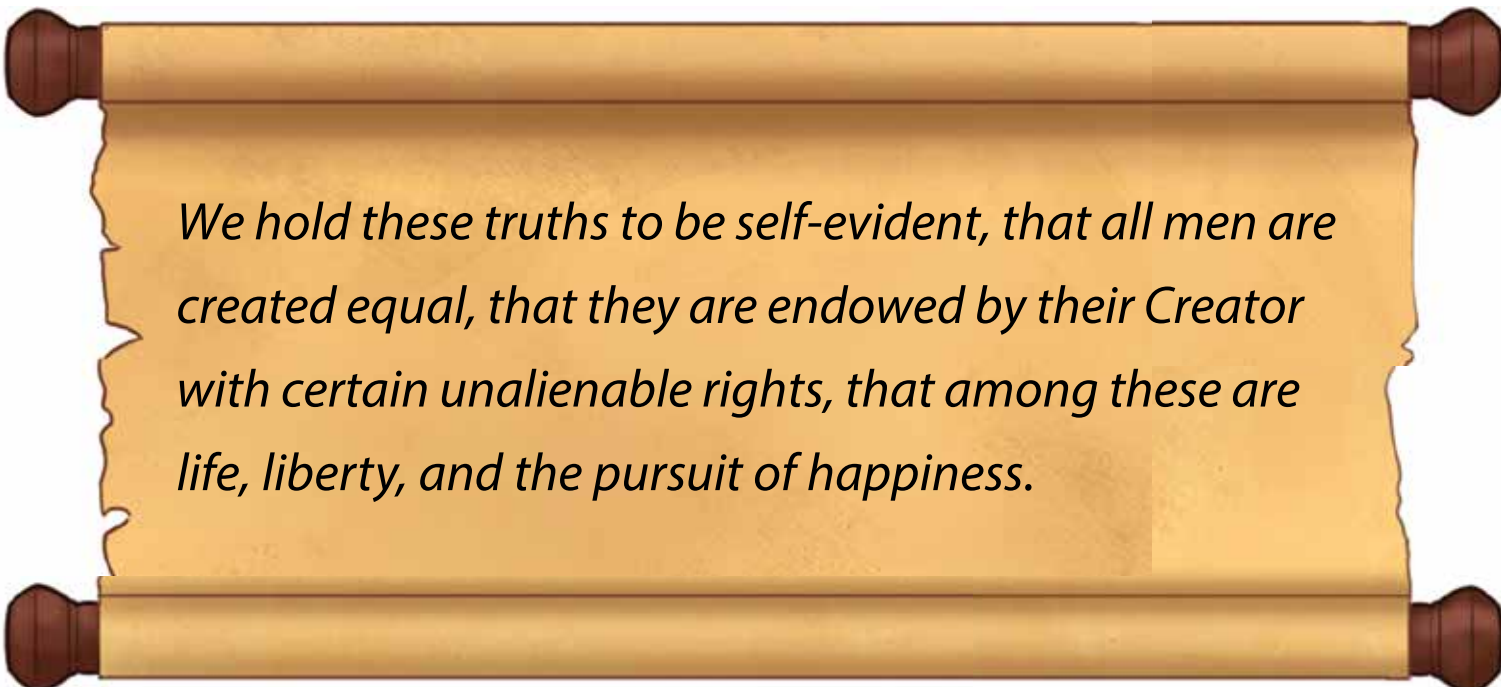
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In 1607 CE, England established its first permanent colony in North America at Jamestown, in what would become Virginia.

# Introduction

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*We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.*

In 1776, during the American Revolution, the thirteen English colonies declared their independence from Great Britain.



# CHAPTER 1: Daniel Boone



In 1769, after years of searching, Daniel Boone and his companions came upon the Cumberland Gap, which led through the Appalachian Mountains. The trail that later developed through this pass and westward was called the Wilderness Trail.

**Big Question:** What were some of the reasons why so many people wanted to move west?

## CHAPTER 2: Exploring the Louisiana Territory



In 1804, Lewis and Clark set out to explore the Louisiana Territory.

**Big Question:** How might Lewis and Clark's expedition and findings have helped the United States government?



## CHAPTER 2: Exploring the Louisiana Territory



In 1805, Sacagawea joined the Lewis and Clark “Corps of Discovery” to assist in translating and communicating with Native Americans.

**Big Question:** How might Lewis and Clark’s expedition and findings have helped the United States government?

## CHAPTER 3: Native Americans Resist



From 1811–1813, the Shawnee chief Tecumseh tried unsuccessfully to unite Native American nations to battle settlers as they pushed further westward and occupied the lands inhabited by the Native Americans.

**Big Question:** Why was it a struggle for Native Americans to hold onto their land?



## CHAPTER 3: Native Americans Resist

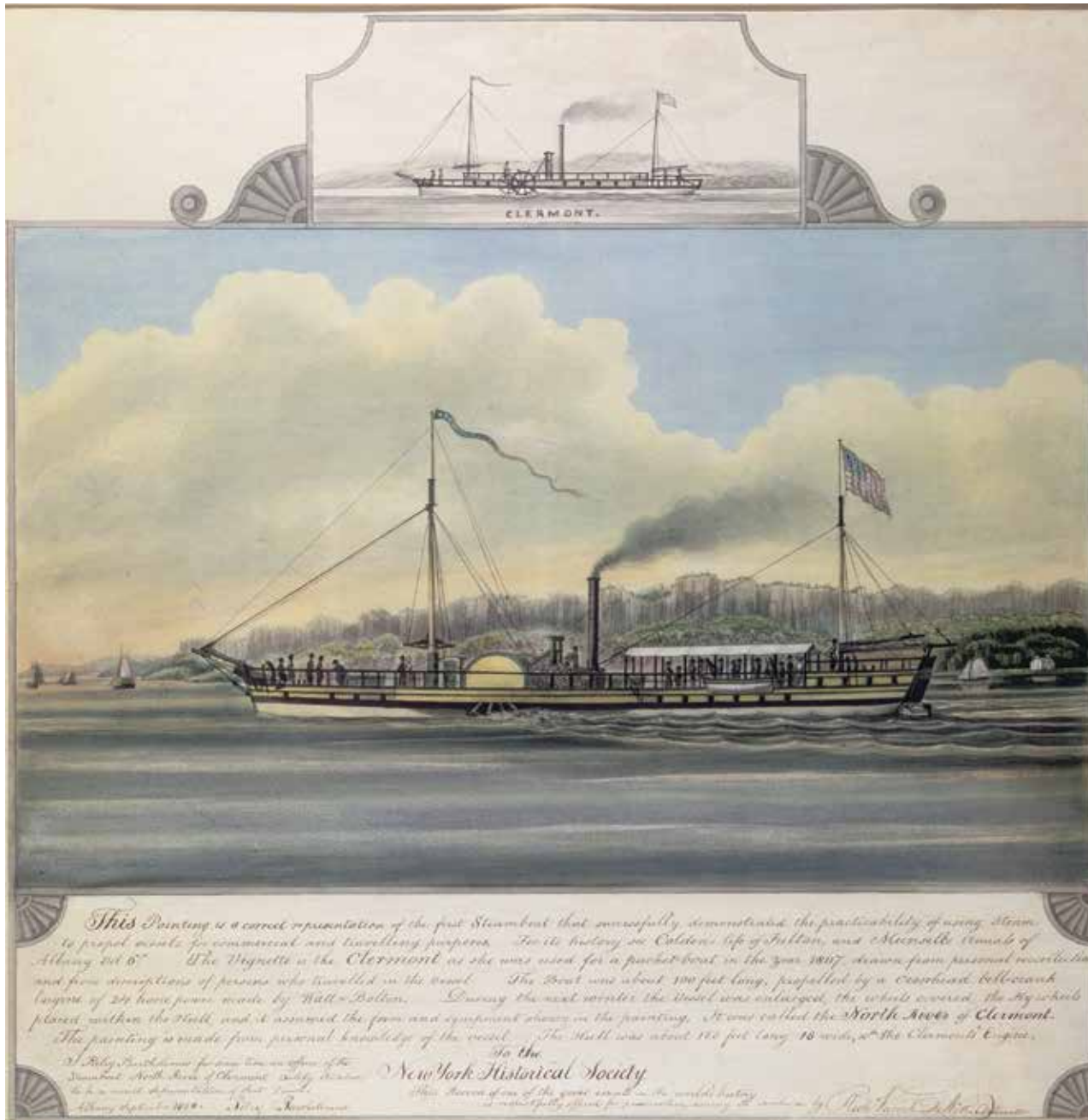


In 1811, the brother of Shawnee chief Tecumseh led a Shawnee attack that started the Battle of Tippecanoe. The Shawnee were defeated by the U.S. Army, sent by Governor Harrison.

**Big Question:** Why was it a struggle for Native Americans to hold onto their land?



## CHAPTER 4: Improvements in Transportation



In 1807, Robert Fulton's steamboat, the *Clermont*, made the trip from New York City to Albany much faster than a horse-drawn wagon could.

### Big Question:

What were the advantages of traveling by steamboat rather than by stagecoach?

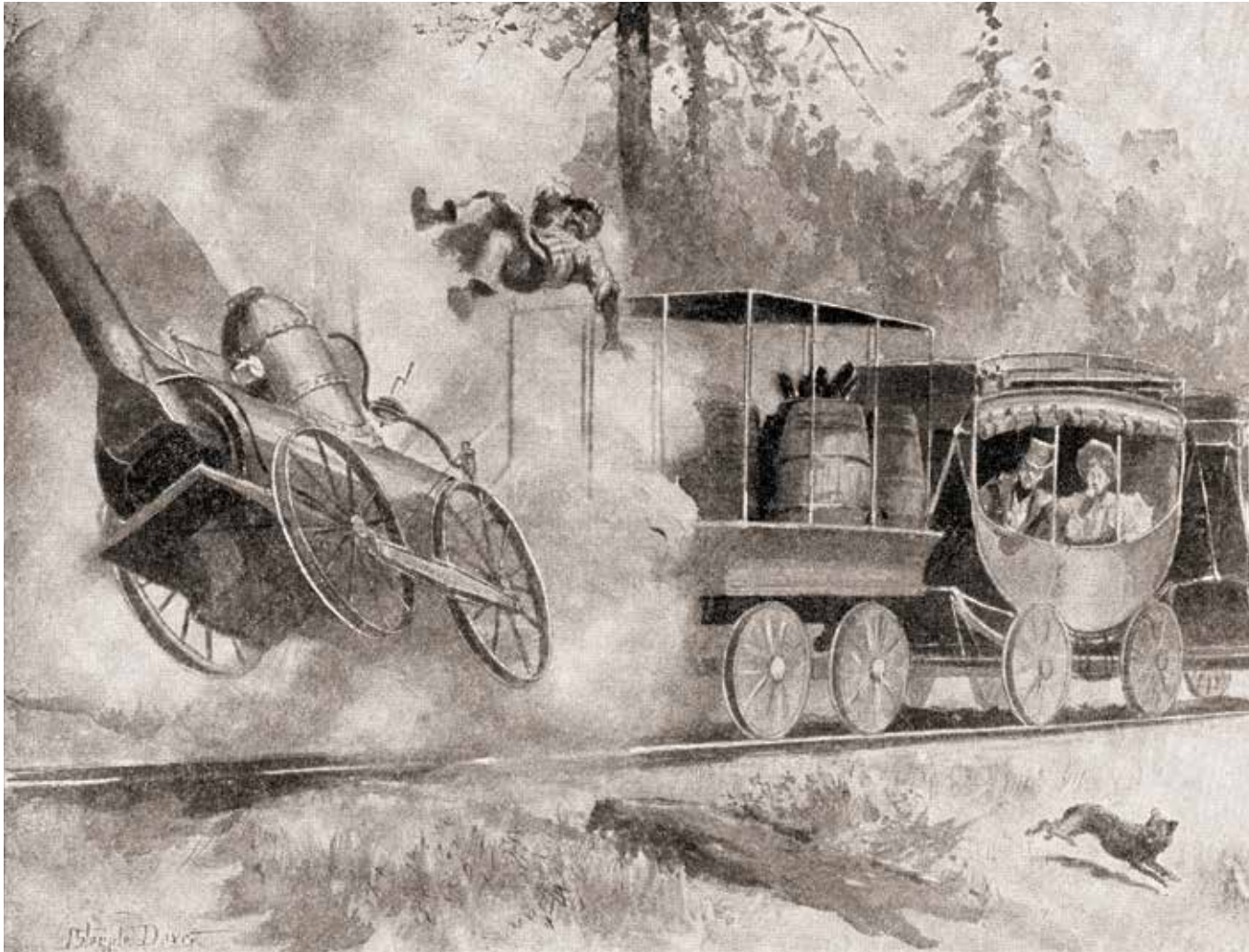
## CHAPTER 5: Canals and Railroads



The opening of the Erie Canal in 1825 led to a significant increase in trade, with much cheaper shipping costs.

**Big Question:** What drove the need for better forms of transportation?

## CHAPTER 5: Canals and Railroads

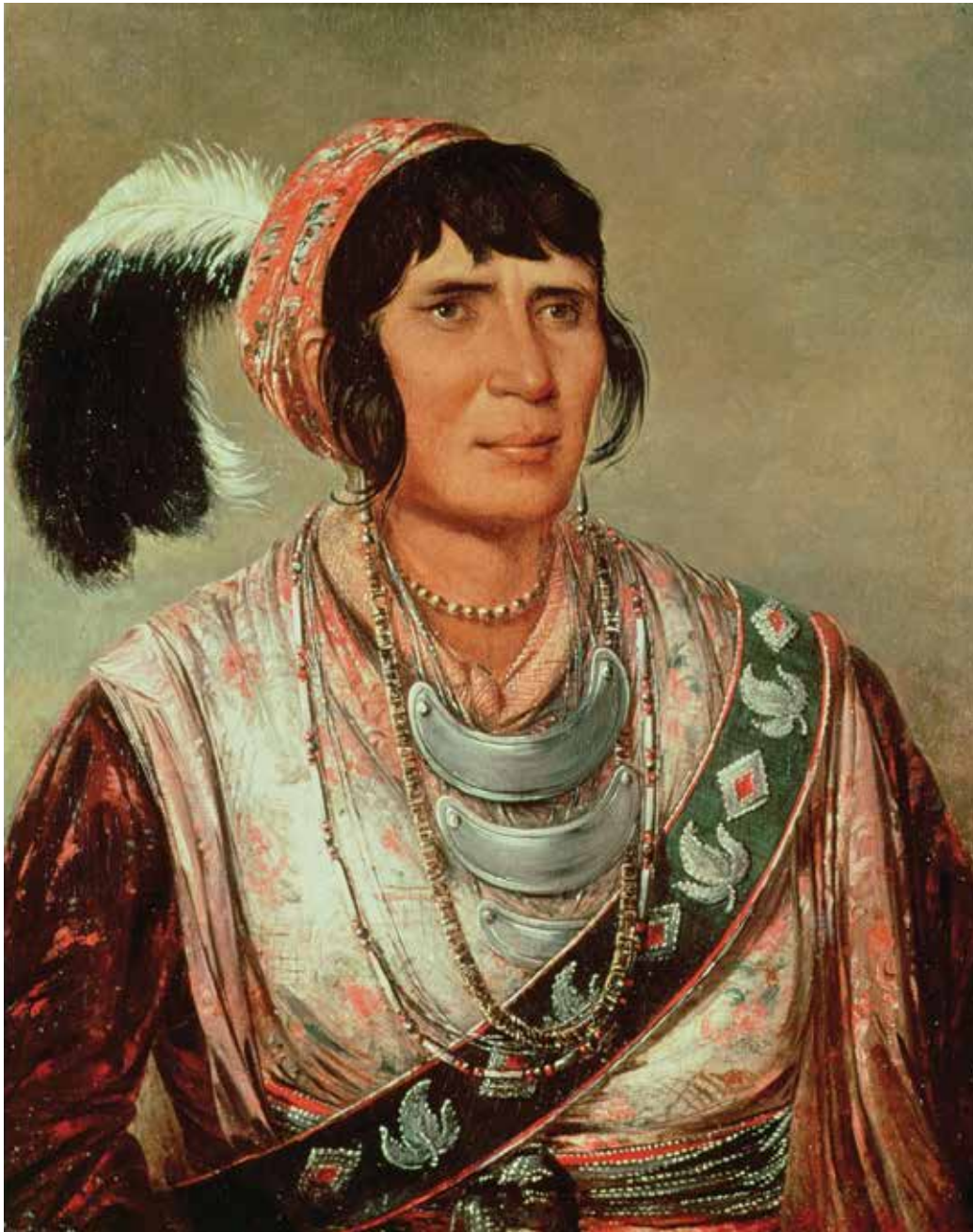


Though early railroad travel was sometimes a challenge, travel by rail became increasingly popular during the 1830s–1840s, thanks to the decrease in travel time.

**Big Question:** What drove the need for better forms of transportation?



## CHAPTER 6: Land, Land, and More Land



In 1836, Osceola, an influential leader in the Seminole tribe, led the resistance against advances by the U.S. Army in Florida. He was taken prisoner in 1837 and died a year later.

**Big Question:** What was Manifest Destiny?

## CHAPTER 6: Land, Land, and More Land

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From 1838–1839, thousands of Native Americans died as they were forced to walk to western Indian Territory along the Trail of Tears.

**Big Question:** What was Manifest Destiny?



# CHAPTER 7: Texas Joins the Union



In 1836, Mexican general Santa Anna led an attack against the Texas rebels who sought shelter in the Alamo, an abandoned Spanish mission. All of the Alamo's defenders were killed.

**Big Question:** What was the main reason the Texans and the Mexicans went to war against each other?



## CHAPTER 7: Texas Joins the Union

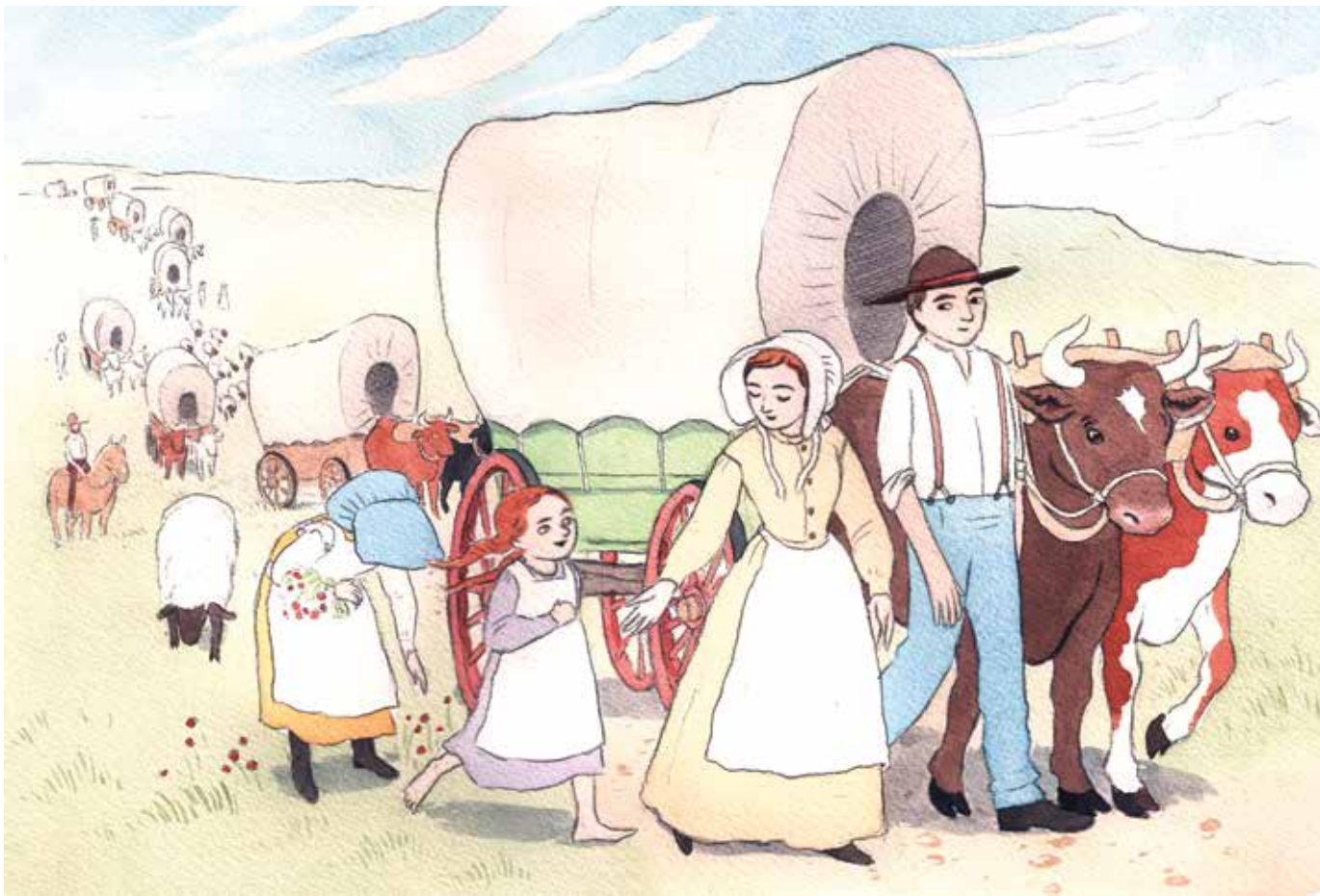
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In 1836, Texans declared their independence from Mexico. However, it was not until General Sam Houston defeated General Santa Anna and his troops at the Battle of San Jacinto months later that Mexico promised to withdraw its army.

**Big Question:** What was the main reason the Texans and the Mexicans went to war against each other?

## CHAPTER 8: Oregon



During the 1840s–1850s, wagon trains on the Oregon Trail snaked their way across the landscape.

**Big Question:** Why did settlers set off for Oregon, and what was different about the way they moved west along the Oregon Trail?

# CHAPTER 9: War with Mexico

## Westward Expansion by 1853



In 1846–1847, America waged war with Mexico to take over Mexican land, including most of present-day California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, and large parts of present-day Wyoming, New Mexico, and Colorado.

**Big Question:** Why did President Polk seek to gain land that belonged to Mexico?



## CHAPTER 10: Settling the Far West



The Mormons moved west to escape religious persecution. In 1847, they founded the “City of Saints” in Utah, known today as Salt Lake City.

**Big Question:** How do the experiences of the Mormons who moved west compare with those of the people who flocked to California?

## CHAPTER 10: Settling the Far West



Many people went to California during the gold rush of 1848–1849.

**Big Question:** How do the experiences of the Mormons who moved west compare with those of the people who flocked to California?