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Week 3 Reflection Narrative Paper

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Frederick Jackson Turner's frontier thesis talks about how the American frontier had a huge impact on the individualism and democracy of America. He argues that America's frontier shaped the national character and created a unique American identity. He feels that the existence of an American frontier had shaped America and introduced certain qualities in its democracy but as the frontier disappeared so did these qualities.

America's core values were that of liberty, self governance and individualism and moving into the empty land certainly reflected all of these qualities. Moving west into the empty land presented an opportunity for people to escape the economic and social constraints of cities on the east and start a new life. This is a symbol of American ingenuity and perseverance as moving onto the "empty land" represented an opportunity to create a new way of living in an untamed wilderness.

I don't feel like there are any frontiers left on Earth but there are still many frontiers left in the world. Space is a huge frontier that we have barely dipped our feet in.

I agree with Turner's idea that people living on the frontier had a huge impact on America's core values. The notion of a "frontier" has certain benefits. Frontier's opportunities for individual freedom, self-reliance, and adventure. On the other hand, life on the frontier can also be difficult and dangerous, with challenges such as harsh climates, limited resources, and lawlessness. I would personally not want to live on the frontier as it can be a challenging and harsh place to live in.

References:

Opie, J. (1998). *Nature's Nation: An Environmental History of the United States*.
Download *Nature's Nation: An Environmental History of the United States*
. Cengage Learning. Chapter 4 and 5 (pp. 114-185).