




BLACK ROCK DESERT
HIGH ROCK CANYON
EMIGRANT TRAILS



NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

What was going on in the United States?

- 1845- The United States annexed Texas, which means, to include the territory in the country. In this year, the manifest destiny was also first seen in a magazine. The manifest destiny was a doctrine that states that the United States had the right and duty to expand across the whole country.
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- www.rmpbs.org
- 1846- The Oregon Treaty was signed and fixed the U.S. – Canadian border at the 49th parallel. This allowed the U.S. to acquire the Oregon Territory.
 - 1846-1848- Mexican War: U.S. declared war on Mexico in effort to gain California and other territories in the southwest. The war ended with the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. Mexico recognized the Rio Grande as the new boundary with Texas and for \$15 million dollars, Mexico agreed to cede their territory that included present day California, Nevada, Utah, most of New Mexico and Arizona, and parts of Colorado and Wyoming.
 - 1848- Gold is discovered at Sutter's Mill in California.
 - 1849- Gold rush and large scale emigration to the new territories begin. Over 80,000 emigrants would head out west during this year alone. Here are some reasons why:
 - The soil of the New England hillsides was incapable of producing grain in competition with the cheap and fertile soil of the west.
 - The lack of roads and canals in the Carolina's and Virginia also induced emigration. They also suffered from the political dominance of the tidewater planters.
 - The streets on the eastern seaboard were crowded with traveling workers and the mid-day skies were blackened by coal smoke. The change had occurred so rapidly that early settlers began to experience nostalgia for the simpler life they had led before.

Possible Questions:

- Can you think of any other reasons that the emigrants would head out west?
- Do you think that Manifest Destiny is fair to the Native Americans?

**Information gathered from www.infoplease.com

