1803 – 1890

Put the Events in Order

Name _____ Date _____

These 10 events from the Westward Expansion timeline are out of order. Write a number from 1 to 10 in each box, from the earliest event (1) to the latest (10).

☐ **Gold Discovered in California**
Gold is found at Sutter's Mill, drawing fortune-seekers west.

☐ **The Frontier Closes**
The Census reports that the western frontier line has essentially disappeared.

☐ **Homestead Act**
The government offers settlers free western land if they farm it.

☐ **The Oregon Trail**
Nearly 1,000 settlers set out from Independence, Missouri, in the first big wagon train to Oregon, the Great Migration.

☐ **Texas Independence**
Texas wins its independence from Mexico and later joins the United States.

☐ **Transcontinental Railroad**
The railroad is completed, connecting the country from coast to coast.

☐ **Erie Canal Opens**
A canal links the East Coast to the Great Lakes, speeding travel west.

☐ **California Gold Rush**
The "Forty-Niners" rush to California hoping to strike it rich.

☐ **Louisiana Purchase**
The U.S. buys a vast area of land from France, doubling the size of the country.

☐ **Lewis and Clark Expedition**
Lewis and Clark set out to explore and map the new western lands.

1803 – 1890

Put the Events in Order: Answer Key

1803 — 1. Louisiana Purchase

1804 — 2. Lewis and Clark Expedition

1825 — 3. Erie Canal Opens

1836 — 4. Texas Independence

1843 — 5. The Oregon Trail

1848 — 6. Gold Discovered in California

1849 — 7. California Gold Rush

1862 — 8. Homestead Act

1869 — 9. Transcontinental Railroad

1890 — 10. The Frontier Closes



FOR TEACHERS

The Westward Expansion Teaching Pack, $7. A two-week unit: lesson slides with guided notes, illustrated readings, maps, primary sources, activities, a quiz and answer keys.

printablescholar.com/printable-maps/lewis-and-clark-map

See the pack →