

Westward Expansion

Now that you've observed the *American Progress* painting, describe what you see in the painting by answering the questions in the chart on a piece of paper or in the space provided.

ART ANALYSIS QUESTIONS	MY ANSWERS
What types of different people do you see?	
What are the different people doing?	
What are the different types of transportation you see?	
What kinds of animals do you see?	
What else do you see in the environment (plants, bodies of water, other landforms, etc.)?	
What direction (north, south, east, or west) are the different types of people, animals, and transportation moving? Why do you think they are moving in this direction?	
What does your eye focus on in this painting? Why?	
What two items is the woman dressed in white holding? Why do you think she is holding these particular items?	
What colors (light or dark) does the artist use on the right-hand side of the painting? Why do you think the artist uses these colors?	
What colors (light or dark) does the artist use on the left-hand side of the painting? Why do you think the artist uses these colors?	
What else do you notice in the painting?	

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Art tells stories. Make a hypothesis (educated guess) about what story you think the artist, John Gast, is trying to tell through his *American Progress* painting. Write your hypothesis on a piece of paper or in the space below.

My Hypothesis

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Now that you have learned more about the story that John Gast is telling through *American Progress* from the caption label, think about whose voices (opinions, beliefs, point of view, etc.) are being heard or not heard in this story. Write your answers to the questions in the chart on a piece of paper or in the space below.

QUESTIONS	ANSWER EXAMPLES	MY ANSWERS
<p>Whose voices are being heard in the story that <i>American Progress</i> is telling?</p> <p>Explain your answer.</p>	<p>Children Explorers Farmers Fur trappers Gold seekers Men Mexicans Native Americans Settlers Women Other</p>	
<p>Whose voices are not being heard in the story that <i>American Progress</i> is telling?</p> <p>Explain your answer.</p>	<p>Children Explorers Farmers Fur trappers Gold seekers Men Mexicans Native Americans Settlers Women Other</p>	
<p>What is something new that you learned about Westward Expansion by analyzing <i>American Progress</i>?</p>		

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Let your voice be heard by telling your family's American West story. Ask a family member about how and why your family ended up in the American West. The Autry Museum defines the American West as everything west of the Mississippi River. Then write the answers to the questions in the chart on a piece of paper or in the space below.

QUESTIONS	ANSWER EXAMPLES	MY ANSWERS
Which family member(s) first moved to the American West?	Aunt Dad Grandfather Grandmother Mother Uncle You Other	
When did our family move to the American West?	General date Specific date	
Where did our family move from? Where did our family move to?	City Country State Town	
Why did our family move to the American West?	Better life Better weather Job opportunity Leaving conflict Less expensive To be by family Other	
How did our family move to the American West?	Airplane Automobile Boat Bus Train Walk Other	
What challenges did our family experience from moving? What successes did our family experience from moving?		

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Share your family's American West story through art. Based on the answers from PART 7, create a drawing or painting that shares your family's American West story. Include a title for your art. Create your art on a piece of paper or in the space below.

Title:



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Write a caption label that gives detailed information about your piece of art using the caption label format below. You can also look at the *American Progress* caption label to help you write your own caption label. Then explain what your painting or drawing is about on a piece of paper or in the space below.

Caption Label Format

Title of your art

Date the art was created

Your name

Materials used to create the art

Include a summary explaining the art.

My Caption Label