

TEACHER'S GUIDE

Grades 5 to 12

Freedom and Loss: Wilderness and Industry

America's Quest for Freedom Series

Subject Area: United States History, Social Studies

Synopsis: Examines how the United States was changed by the Louisiana Purchase and by the Industrial Revolution, with emphasis on how individuals found new freedoms and opportunities during this era in American history.

Learning Objectives:

- Objective 1)** Students will be able to discuss the significance of the Louisiana Purchase and the opportunities for land ownership that it provided to White settlers.
- Objective 2)** Students will be able to explain the purpose of the Lewis and Clark expedition and describe the Corps of Discovery's encounters with Native Americans.
- Objective 3)** Students will be able to explain how the Industrial Revolution began in the United States, how it changed the nature of work, and how the textile industry boosted the nation's economy.
- Objective 4)** Students will be able to describe working conditions in the large textile factories of the Industrial Revolution, and discuss how factory work encouraged a new sense of pride and economic freedom in young women.
- Objective 5)** Students will be able to contrast the opportunities and freedoms available to settlers and factory workers.

Pre-Viewing Discussion and Activities:

- 1) What is freedom? What do you need to be free? What is the American dream?
- 2) On a map, point out the original thirteen colonies, the Appalachian Mountains, Kentucky, the Cumberland Gap, and the land acquired in the Louisiana Purchase.
- 3) Vocabulary: trailblazer, American dream, pioneers, settlers, Louisiana Purchase, conquest, goodwill, Continental Divide, industry, textile factories, Industrial Revolution, mills, doffer

Post-Viewing Discussion and Activities:

- 1) Who owned the Louisiana Territory before it was purchased by the United States? Why did Thomas Jefferson buy the land? How did he think it would be used? What obstacles needed to be overcome before his vision could become a reality?
- 2) Thomas Jefferson believed that land equals freedom. Was he correct? Why or why not? Did land ownership offer freedom to everyone in the 19th century?

- 3) How did Native Americans react to the Corps of Discovery? Why do you think the explorers were so well received? What experiences did White pioneers have with Native Americans? What was the cause of the hostility between pioneers and Native Americans?
- 4) Chronicle the events that started the Industrial Revolution in the United States. How did the Industrial Revolution change the nature of work in America? How did the creation of large textile factories improve the nation's economy?
- 5) What types of people became factory workers? Why do you think young women from farms would move to the city to work in a factory? If land equals freedom, as Thomas Jefferson suggested, were these young women sacrificing their freedom? Did factory work have a positive or negative effect on young women? In what ways?

Additional Activities:

- 1) As a class activity, trace the journey of the Corps of Discovery on a map. Assign groups to research the landmarks, habitats, wildlife, and Native American tribes the Corps encountered. Have each group present their findings to the class.
- 2) Ask students to imagine that they are child factory workers in the 19th century. What is their daily schedule? Remind them that doffers worked nearly 14 hours a day. Have a class discussion about the work they do, their activities before and after work, how much money they make, where their money goes, etc.
- 3) Compare freedoms and opportunities available to settlers with those available to factory workers. On the board create a chart with columns for work, family life, economic opportunities, living conditions, and opportunities for women, and rows for settlers and factory workers. As a class, discuss each category and fill in the chart. Afterwards, ask students to choose whether they would prefer to be a settler or a factory worker. Discuss the factors that led to their decisions.

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- Native Americans Before Columbus Series
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