

**Growth and Expansion**

**Lesson 2 Moving West**

**ESSENTIAL QUESTION**

*How does geography influence the way people live?*

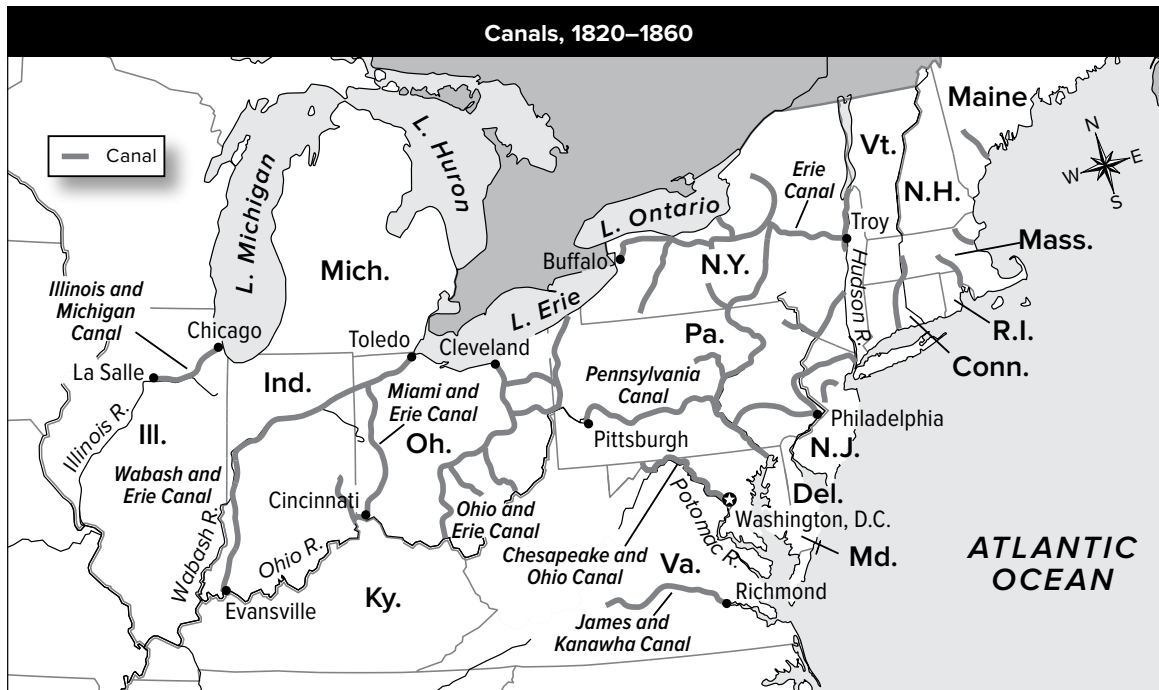
**GUIDING QUESTIONS**

1. *What helped increase the movement of people and goods?*
2. *Why did Americans tend to settle near rivers?*

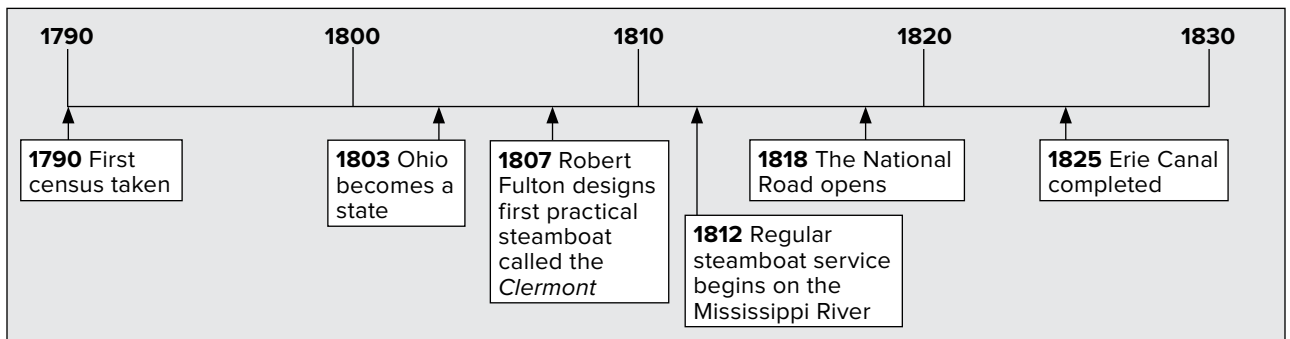
**Terms to Know**

- census** the official count of the population
- turnpike** a road on which tolls are collected
- canal** waterway made by people
- lock** a separate compartment in which water levels rise and fall in order to raise or lower boats on a canal

**Where in the world?**



**When did it happen?**



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## Growth and Expansion

### Lesson 2 Moving West, *Continued*

#### Headed West

In 1790 the first **census** was taken. A census is an official count of the population. The census found that nearly 4 million people lived in the United States. Most Americans lived east of the Appalachian Mountains. That pattern soon changed. More settlers headed west.

Daniel Boone was an explorer. He was one of the early pioneers who went west. In 1769 he explored a Native American trail that crossed the Appalachian Mountains. It was called Warriors' Path. The path went through a break in the mountains called the Cumberland Gap. Beyond the path was the place that is now Kentucky.

Boone got 30 workers. They widened Warrior's Path and cleared rocks from the Cumberland Gap. They cut down trees in Kentucky. They marked the trail. The road was given a new name, the Wilderness Road. More than 100,000 people traveled on this road between 1775 and 1790.

Traveling west was not easy without roads. The United States needed roads. Roads were the way to move people and goods inland. Some companies built **turnpikes**. Travelers paid tolls, or fees, to use the turnpikes. This helped pay for building them.

Ohio became a state in 1803. The new state asked the federal government to build a road to connect it to the East. In 1806 Congress voted to give money to build a national road to the West.

Building started on the National Road in 1811. The route followed the path of a road George Washington had built in 1754.

The War of 1812 broke out, and the road was not built during that time. The first section of the National Road opened in 1818. The road went from Maryland to what is now West Virginia.

Traveling by wagon and horse on roads was rough and bumpy. Traveling on the rivers was quicker and more comfortable. It was also easier to carry large loads on boats and barges than in wagons.

There were some big problems with river travel, however. First, most large rivers in the northeast region flow from the north to the south. People and goods mostly traveled from east to west. Second, traveling upstream (south to north) was against the river current. Travel was slow.

#### Locating

1. Where did most people in the United States live in 1790?

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#### Predicting

2. How do you think the National Road affected the population of Ohio?

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## Growth and Expansion

### Lesson 2 Moving West, *Continued*



3. Place a one-tab Foldable along the dotted line to cover the text that begins with “Thousands of workers built the Erie Canal.” Write the title *Locks and Canals* on the anchor tab. Define *lock* and define *canal*. Use the back of the tab to describe how the building of locks and canals affected the growth and economy of the United States.

 **Reading Check**

4. Which regions were connected by the Erie Canal?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Travel by land	Travel by river
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roads were rough and bumpy</li> <li>• It was hard to carry large loads</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Travel was more comfortable</li> <li>• More goods could be carried on a boat</li> <li>• Rivers could not move people east to west</li> <li>• Traveling against the river current was hard and slow</li> </ul>

Robert Fulton developed a steamship with a powerful engine. He called it the *Clermont*. It could travel upstream. In 1807 the *Clermont* traveled north on the Hudson River. It traveled from New York City to the city of Albany in 32 hours. That was a 150-mile trip (241 km). A ship using only sails would have taken four days to make the trip.

The use of steamboats changed river travel. Steamboats made transportation easier and more comfortable. Shipping goods by steamboat became cheaper and faster. Steamboats also helped river cities, such as St. Louis and Cincinnati, grow. By 1850 there were 700 steamboats carrying goods and passengers.

Steamboats improved river transportation. However, steamboats could not link the eastern and western parts of the country. De Witt Clinton and other officials made a plan to link New York City with the Great Lakes region. They would build a **canal** across the state of New York. A canal is a waterway built by people.

////////// Glue Foldable here //////////

Thousands of workers built the Erie Canal. Many were Irish immigrants. They built a series of **locks** along the canal. Locks are a way to raise or lower water levels.

The Erie Canal opened in 1825. The governor of New York boarded a barge in Buffalo, New York. He traveled eastward on the canal to Albany. Then he sailed down the Hudson River to New York City. Crowds cheered as officials poured water from Lake Erie into the Atlantic Ocean.

At first, there were no steamboats allowed on the Erie Canal. Their powerful engines could damage the canal. In the 1840s, canals were made stronger to allow steamboats to travel on them. Many other canals were built. By 1850, the United States had more than 3,600 miles (5,794 km) of canals. Canals lowered the cost of shipping goods. They linked parts of

## Growth and Expansion

### Lesson 2 Moving West, *Continued*

the United States. They helped towns and cities along their routes grow larger.

### The Move West Continues

The United States added four new states between 1791 and 1803. The states were Vermont, Kentucky, Tennessee and Ohio.

Between 1816 and 1821, Indiana, Illinois, Mississippi, Alabama, and Missouri became states. By 1820 there were 2.4 million people west of the Appalachian Mountains.

Pioneers moved west to find a better life. Most pioneer families settled along the big rivers and canals. They could more easily ship their crops and goods to markets. People usually settled with others from their original home state.

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#### Check for Understanding

List three people who helped make travel to the West easier. Explain what they did.

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Explain how America in 1790 was different from America in 1820.

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#### ✓ Reading Check

5. How did improved transportation affect the economy and the growth of cities?

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#### ✓ Reading Check

6. How did rivers and canals affect where settlers lived?

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7. Place a two-tab Foldable to cover Check for Understanding. Write *Moving West* on the anchor tab. Label the right tab *East* and the left tab *West*. Draw an arrow across the tabs from right to left. List why people might have wanted to leave the East and list ways they traveled to the West. Use the Foldable to help answer Check for Understanding.