Name: _____ Date: _____

Westward Expansion

Label each of the land areas acquired by the U.S. in its journey through Westward Expansion on the map shown. Answer each question using information from the article.



1. How did the Oregon Territory become part of the United States?

2. How did the New Mexico Territory become part of the United States?

3. How did the United States acquire the area known as the Louisiana Purchase?

4. How did the area known as Texas become part of the United States?

5. What did the Homestead Act do for the United States citizens?

6. Why did the United States government want people to move out west?

7. What had to happen to a territory in order for it to become a state?

8. True or False? The U.S. purchased the Louisiana Territory from England.

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Name: _____ Date: _____

Westward Expansion in the United States

Read the passage [illegible] answer the questions that follow.

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By 1847, nearly the entire United States mainland belonged to the U.S. government. The final piece of land was acquired in 1848 when the U.S. took over the remaining land in the New Mexico Territory after the Mexican American War.

Once the land acquisitions were complete, the United States government had to encourage settlers to move into the frontier territories. Cities were overcrowded, and there was no room for more people. Many people were afraid to move out west. Citizens were not sure if they would be able to make the journey and start new lives in uncharted territory.

To get people to move, the U.S. government passed the Homestead Act. This act provided free land to any citizen willing to move out west and farm the land for five years. The act allowed many people to build homes and own property when they had never had that option before.

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