

Pre-reading

1. During the early periods of expansion, America had the attitude of gaining more land in lots of areas from other countries that held them but it wasn't their home. Louisiana from France and Florida from Spain are too good examples. I think America was really under the impression that the land was already ours and that we were just acquiring it.
 3. The Democrats and Whigs were opposite each other concerning expansion. The Democrats were all for it but the Whigs were against it and they aimed more toward commercial expansion rather than land expansion.
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1. The Whigs couldn't get their agenda pushed through the government as policy for one main reason. The Whigs may have had support in congress and a president, but the president was a lame duck. This severely crippled the Whigs' ability to push through their agenda. Zachary Tyler vetoed several bills that the Whigs had passed through congress. Many top Whigs officials tried to convince Tyler that what they were doing was right but he was very rigid on his principles.
 2. Texas is definitely an area of ambivalence towards expansion in the country. There were several conflicting views on it. Some people didn't care either way and others were all for it. Generally speaking, the South was for it, the North didn't care too much, the Democrats were for it, and the Whigs were against it.
 3. Oregon fever is when in the early 1840's hundreds of restless pioneers went to the Oregon from along the Oregon Trail. Many people moved there all at once. It affected the border dispute because the Americans outnumbered the British that were also there and trying to hold claim. Now America would have more leverage in arguments about where the northern border should be. Many people would risk their lives to go to Oregon most likely because they saw their opportunity to start a new life and purchase land cheaply. It was a way to get themselves and families and future families away from the industrial life in the northeast.
 4. I think that the painting visualizes the idea of manifest destiny and the land of opportunity. It shows a bunch of pioneers seeing the land of opportunity and all its glory and potential.
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 - Lowered tariff
 - Restoration of the independent treasury
 - Acquire California
 - Settling the Oregon dispute
 2. Oregon is another example of ambivalence in the country towards expansion. The southerners didn't really care because it didn't affect them too much and now they had Texas. The president was a southerner so he wasn't too concerned about gaining Oregon but the past presidents were so he felt obligated to do it.
 3. The Mexican war was about 22 months long. The geographic changes were American go all the land from Texas to Oregon and Texas was recognized as a possession of America.
 4. Expansionists were split over the slavery issue. Abolitionists were not necessarily anti-expansion; they just wanted to see that new land didn't become slave holding. The Whig party to a certain degree was probably pro slavery because they were for commercial expansion and they realized that slaves were holding up the southern economy.