

Bellringer: D6

What area during this period (early 1800s) was still shared / disputed by the U.S. and another country?

Open up to p. 356 - 361 to find out more!

U.S. History I

Ch. 12.1 The Oregon Country

As “Manifest Destiny” took hold of people, many moved West! Oregon was one of their destinations.

Goals for Today:

- Analyze the factors that led to the settlement of Oregon, and how we resolved the division of it with Britain.

Rivalry in the Northeast

At this time, the U.S. and Britain shared control of what was then called the **Oregon Country**. Before then, 4 different countries claimed it: The U.S., Britain, Spain and Russia.

As you may remember, the **Adams-Onis Treaty** convinced Spain to give up its claim to the area in 1819, and in 1824, Russia gave up its claim as well.

In 1818, Adams worked out an agreement that left Oregon to be **jointly occupied** by both the U.S. and Britain. When president, Adams wanted to split it at the 49th Parallel, but Britain refused, so it remained jointly controlled.



Oregon Country Map

As you can see here, the area was a hodge-podge of claims:

Spain had lands just to the south, the U.S. just to the SE, Britain to the East and North, and Russia to the NW.

In the end however, Adams' idea to split it at the 49° N Parallel prevailed, becoming official in 1846.



Mountain Men

Meanwhile, white folk had started to settle the area. The first Americans to do so were the **Mountain Men**, who came looking for beaver pelts and other furs they might sell.

Both the British and the Americans created **trading posts** in the area, where trappers could sell their furs and get supplies. One successful American trapper and merchant was [John Jacob Astor](#).

The Mountain Men were anything but weaklings. They survived extreme heat and cold, and walked most everywhere they went, marching hundreds of miles across the west. It was a tough life, but they liked it: [Mountain Men](#)

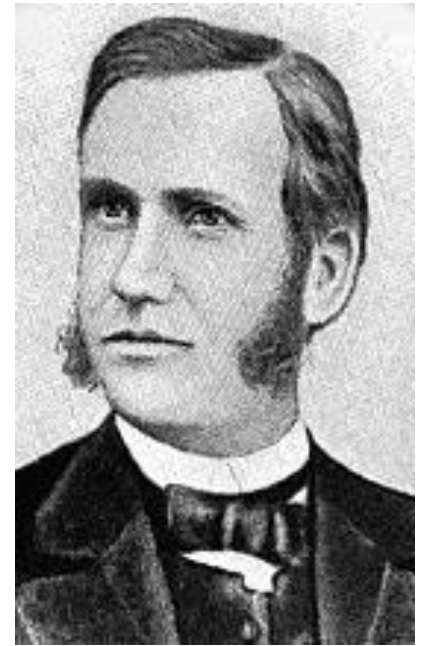


Settling Oregon

Most Americans however ended up settling the Oregon Country in the 1830s, as they heard reports from the Mountain Men that had explored the area, and as the fur trade died off, many of those mountain men became guides for pioneer parties.

The **Whitman Mission** was a group of missionaries led by Dr. **Marcus Whitman** and his wife **Narcissa Whitman**, who intended to convert the local **Cayuse Indians**. [Mission](#)

Sadly, they brought **measles** with them, and the Cayuse blamed the missionaries, killing the Whitmans and 11 others.

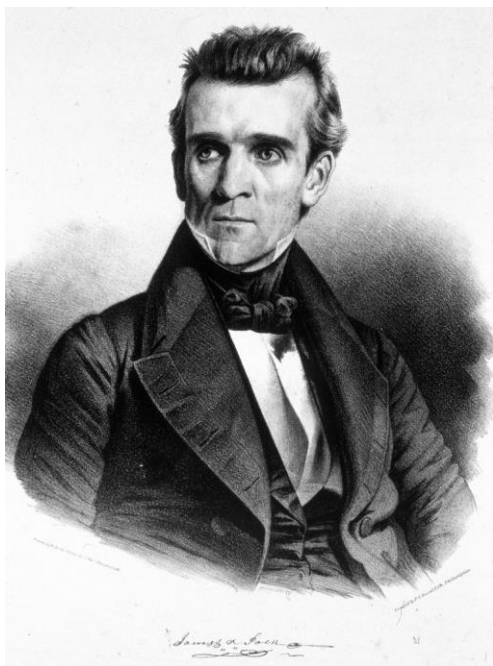


Oregon Trail



Despite the dangers and risks, many thousands of others followed. The trail they blazed, starting in the 1840s, across the American West became known as the [Oregon Trail](#)

Most Americans headed for the fertile **Willamete Valley** in Oregon. The British didn't really immigrate like the Americans did, and soon, the Americans quickly outnumbered the British by 5,000 to 700.



The settlers raised the cry of “**Fifty-four Forty or Fight!**” referring to the far north boundary of the Oregon Country. It impacted the [1844 Election](#), helping get Democrat **James K. Polk** (**11th Pres.**) elected over Whig **Henry Clay**

HW: Check out the Oregon Trail!

To give you a feel for the adventure, check out the old **Oregon Trail Game** that I used to enjoy as a young man!