

Oh Columbia!



Manifest Destiny is the term used to describe the mindset of Americans in the early to mid-1800s. During this time, Americans developed a sense of continental entitlement and justified expansion with the notion that Americans had the duty to spread their ideals from “sea to shining sea.”

The angelic being in the image above is Columbia, the female personification of the American spirit during the 1800s. The painting, entitled “*American Progress*,” by John Gast, reflected the American attitude toward expansion and growth during Manifest Destiny. Analyze the painting above. What examples of Manifest Destiny can you point?

- 1. Conestoga Wagons heading west represents the migration of the American people from the eastern United States to the western United States.**
- 2.**
- 3.**
- 4.**

Possible Answers



In the mid 1800's, Manifest Destiny is the term used to describe the mindset of Americans in the early to mid-1800s. During this time, Americans developed a sense of continental entitlement and justified expansion with the notion that Americans had the duty to spread their ideals from "sea to shining sea."

The angelic being in the image below is Columbia, the female personification of the American spirit during the 1800s. The painting, entitled "*American Progress*," by John Gast, reflected the American attitude toward expansion and growth during Manifest Destiny. Analyze the painting above. What examples of Manifest Destiny can you point to in the painting above?

1. Conestoga Wagons heading west represents the migration of the American people from the eastern United States to the western United States.
2. Telegraph Wires carried by Columbia represent bringing progress and technology to the wilderness of the West.
3. Light to Darkness – The contrast between the blue sky in the east and the clouds is the essence of the mindset of Manifest Destiny. It was meant to portray the great "light" from the east being brought to the west.

4. **Divinity – The angelic depiction of Columbia is meant to portray that Manifest Destiny was sanctioned by God or a higher power.**