

Pathfinder for Westward Expansion

1. For general background information, use an **encyclopedia**, such as *World Book Encyclopedia* or *New Book of Knowledge*.
2. Generate a set of **keywords** or terms, such as:
 - United States – Territorial Expansion
 - Native Americans – Relocation
 - Mexican War, 1846-1848
 - Lewis and Clark (1804-1806)Also look under the **specific** topics: Lewis & Clark, Sacagewa, Indian Removal Act, Trail of Tears, Zebulon Pike, Oregon Trail, California Trail, Donner Party, Mexican-American War, Transcontinental Railroad, Louisiana Purchase, War of 1812
3. For specific facts, use specialized reference books, such as:
 - Encyclopedia of Multiculturalism
 - History of Women in the United States (Ref 305.4 His)
 - The African American Encyclopedia
 - UXL Westward Expansion Primary Sources (Ref 978 Pen)
 - UXL Westward Expansion Almanac (Ref 978 Pen)
4. For current information search for periodicals a magazine index, such as EBSCO.
5. For general information from LAUSD subscription databases (reliable internet sites), try:
 - ABC-Clio
 - Britannica Online
 - Facts on File
 - Grolier Online
 - World Book Online
6. For current information, also check the **internet**. Remember to evaluate what you find because quality varies greatly from site to site. Some good websites include:
 - <http://www.pbs.org/lewisandclark/>
 - <http://www.lewis-clark.org/>
 - <http://ngeorgia.com/history/nghisttt.html> (North Georgia website on Trail of Tears)
 - <http://www.nps.gov/trte/> (National Park Service's Trail of Tears website)
 - <http://www.sfmuseum.org/hist1/rail.html> (Virtual Museum of the City of San Francisco's Transcontinental Railroad page)
 - http://www.linecamp.com/museums/americanwest/western_clubs/transcontinental_railroad/transcontinental_railroad.html (American West Museum's page on Transcontinental Railroad)
7. For in-depth information, examine **books**. Use your keywords to locate books through the library's catalog. Some good Dewey Decimal Classification Numbers include:

973s	United States -- History
921s	Biographies (under topic's last name)
970.004	Native Americans – Relocation
917.804, 973.4	Lewis & Clark Expedition (1804-1806)
973.6	Mexican War, 1846-1848
978	West (U.S.), West (U.S.) -- Exploration