

# The Conquest of the West

## The frontier

At the beginning, the American colonies were situated along the Atlantic coast. The [Appalachian Mountains](#) were considered as the natural frontier of the country.

In the 1800's, the Conquest of the West started: the American people developed their country into one of the biggest nations in the world. The frontier was a moving line. It marked the separation between the regions in the East populated by European settlers and the regions in the West where Mexican or French or Spanish settlers lived.

The western regions were gradually incorporated into the United States of America by war, treaty or agreement.



During the 19th century, a lot of European immigrants travelled in wagons to the new territories to find new homes. They were called the pioneers.



## The Gold Rush

In 1848, some people discovered gold in California. The Gold Rush started. Thousands of people left their homes and family to look for the precious metal and get rich.

In just a few months the population of San Francisco jumped from 1,000 inhabitants to 25,000 inhabitants. They were called the pioneers, the first men who left the East to conquer the west.

In 1869, the first railway line was completed. People could now go from the Atlantic Coast to the Pacific Coast by train in 7 days (it used to take 5 months by wagons!)

