**Name……………………………………Block……………..Date………….**

**Why did people move west?**

****Throughout the nineteenth century, thousands fled from the East to the West of America, motivated for different reasons. The West became the place you could find your fortune, escape persecution and gain freedom.

In search of good, cheap farm land, the Oregon Pioneers travelled west in hope of a new, happier life. Rumors of the West and how beautiful and great it was spread throughout the towns of the East and so the huge trek west became something of a necessity. The trek west was hard and hundreds died due to starvation, the extreme weather conditions, attacks by the nomadic Indians, or one of the many diseases that were common at the time.

Figure – SCAN CODE - Manifest destiny and westward expansion in one gif

Persecution was a large issue in nineteenth century America. Many religious groups were disliked. The Mormons, a Christian group of people who believed in polygamy, were pushed out of the towns they once lived in. In 1846 Brigham Young, a Mormon leader, led a group of Mormons to the west to escape the persecution.

The many groups of people that fled west were spurred to do so by the US Government. Trying to fulfill their belief of the **Manifest Destiny**, (the idea that Americans should settle and govern all the land from the Atlantic to the Pacific), they introduced many acts and laws so that the whole of America could be claimed by them. The US Government benefited as more people travelled west. Manifest Destiny was gradually being fulfilled.

T CHART

Push Factors Pull Factors