T-Chart

Geographic and Economic Factors

In this simple activity, students **classify representative pictures** for the Western Expansion by either geographic or economic factors.

**Important:** Don’t forget to have students write a paragraph for each factor, putting the information into their own words.

Additionally, have students write a single paragraph that brings together information both types of factors – geographic and economic, as well as the visuals at the top (i.e., map and Manifest Destiny symbol).

Social Studies I.8b.10 Distinguish between geographic and economic factors.

Have students cut and paste the component parts into a t-chart. Have them use a piece of colored paper to help make the content stand out.
Westward Expansion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geographic Factors</th>
<th>Economic Factors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image1.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image2.png" alt="Image" /></td>
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<tr>
<td><img src="image3.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image4.png" alt="Image" /></td>
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<td><img src="image5.png" alt="Image" /></td>
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<tr>
<td><img src="image9.png" alt="Image" /></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

A **geographic factor** is something that has to do with location and the make up of the land. Geographic factors that supported Westward Expansion included land, the Erie Canal, the overland trails, and rivers (such as the Mississippi).

An **economic factor** is something that has to do with money, or the economy of things. People moved west during the Westward Expansion in hopes of making a better life. They could earn money for their families by farming on the fertile lands, ranching, logging, and even digging for gold.

Social Studies I.8b.10  Distinguish between geographic and economic factors.
Why Pioneers Moved to the West – T Chart (Student Sheet)

What to do: Cut the visuals from this page, including the labels, and use them to construct a T-Chart. On the left-side of the chart, place Geographic Factors. On the right-side of the chart, place Economic Factors. After you place the factors, write a short paragraph that summarizes the information about each factor.

- Logging
- Gold
- Farming
- Trails
- Rivers
- Erie Canal
- Freedom
- Fertile Land

Westward Expansion