The Search for Land, Gold, and a New Life
By Cynthia Clampitt

Summary
In the early 1800s people began to move farther west. Mountain men, who opened the paths that would later be traveled by settlers, followed government explorers. Settlers traveled down the Oregon Trail to find fertile land in Oregon Country. The discovery of gold in California caused a huge rush of people to the West Coast. At about this same time, the Mexican government changed hands several times, and an unstable, debt-ridden military government lost first Texas and then California and the Southwest to the United States. With new land and the promise of building a better future before them, thousands of people had moved to the West by the end of the 1800s.

Before Reading
Building Background
Build background for the book by allowing students to observe the book’s art and predict what some of the topics covered will be. Make sure students are familiar with the key vocabulary and concepts. Encourage students to discuss and share what they may already know about settlement patterns in the United States during the mid-1800s.

Vocabulary
manifest destiny, blaze, mountain men, wagon train, annex, gold rush, prospector, forty-niner

Comprehension Skill: Compare and Contrast
To compare is to tell how two or more things are alike. To contrast is to tell how two or more things are different. Writers may use clue words such as like, similar, as, both, and also to show comparisons. Clue words such as unlike, different, and but show contrasts. As you read, look for comparisons and contrasts about settlement patterns in the United States during the mid-1800s.

During Reading
Think Critically
1. Name two or three things you learned about the lives of the mountain men. (Answers will vary.)
2. What are the main reasons the United States expanded westward? (People wanted to escape poverty, so they wanted land or gold. Many Americans also believed it was the country’s manifest destiny to expand.)
3. How did westward expansion affect some American Indians? (Answers will vary.)
4. Compare and contrast the dreams of those who went to Oregon Country and those who headed for the California gold rush. (The Oregon group wanted to work to build a future. The gold rush group hoped for quick wealth.)

After Reading
Writing
Select a person or topic mentioned in this book, then find additional facts—ones not included in this book—about the person or topic. You may use the library, an encyclopedia, or the Internet for your research. Write two or more paragraphs about what you discover. Write your paragraphs on a separate sheet of paper.

Organize Information
Graphic Organizer: Compare and Contrast Chart
Use the Compare and Contrast chart to compare and contrast four or more facts about settlement patterns in the United States during the mid-1800s.
Name: ____________________________

Compare and contrast four or more facts about settlement patterns in the United States during the mid-1800s.

✔️ Compare and contrast four or more facts about settlement patterns in the United States during the mid-1800s.

✔️ In the “Compare” box, write how the facts are alike.

✔️ In the “Contrast” box, write how the facts are different.

**Compare and Contrast**

**Compare**

---

**Contrast**

---
Search for the New Land is an album by jazz trumpeter Lee Morgan. A set with a group of regular Blue Note sidemen, Search for the New Land was recorded before The Sidewinder was released. Although it was recorded in 1964, the album was shelved for two years, then issued with the original catalogue number 84169. It has been described by jazz commentator Scott Yanow as "one of the finest Lee Morgan records." The album reached #16 on Billboard's "Black Albums" chart and #143 on "Pop Albums". Search for new houses and land & view the latest listings of Gold Coast homes for sale. Build a new house by selecting the home design that suits your block and find the right land estate available for your new home. Find the right fit for a brand new house with an all-inclusive new home package. New houses from a house & land package are the perfect way to bring your new home to life. Our range of new homes and new home builders give you the information you need so that you can chose the right house and land package for your needs. Facebook. Twitter.