

## The First Measured Century

Lesson Plan 1, Handout 1:

### **The Demise of the Great American Frontier: *Westward Spread of American population from 1790 to 1900***

#### **Activity**

1. Read Frederick Jackson Turner's essay, "The Significance of the Frontier in American History."
2. If available, visit The First Measured Century website: [www.pbs.org/fmc](http://www.pbs.org/fmc) and read interviews with experts from "The Closing of the Frontier" segment. You may also review the program transcript for this segment and information in the Timeline.
3. List and summarize 5 reasons why the concept of the frontier was important in shaping an American character.

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