

**AP US HISTORY**  
**INSTRUCTOR: W. JOHN MCCORMICK**  
**EARLY WESTWARD EXPANSION PROJECT**

Please prepare an essay of no more than five to seven pages answering the following question. The inclusion of a concise thesis statement, organization, clarity and completeness will be considered in grading the content of your paper. Spelling, punctuation and grammar will be considered in grading the structure of your paper. One point out of one-hundred will be deducted for every structural error committed. The two grades will be averaged to determine the final grade for the paper. Double-spaced typing is required. Use no larger than twelve-point font style. Late papers will not be accepted.

**A. REQUIRED QUESTION:**

The American Mountain Man of the 1830's to 1850's has always been a source of fascination to Americans and American historians. Some see him as the supreme example of a free man, perhaps the clearest such example in all of American history. Others, however, argue that he was both frustrated and maladjusted, that his apparent hostility to society was based on a restless pursuit of something he could neither find nor define. **Which version is the more correct and which is the more incorrect? Was the mountain man truly free or frustrated and maladjusted?** Using careful examples from The Big Sky, produce a research/position paper that both explains and defends one of the views listed above.

**B. RESOURCES / RESEARCH IDEAS:**

Mountain Men / Fur Trade:

Jim Bridger

Jim Beckwourth

Daniel Boone

Kit Carson

Davy Crockett

Sam Houston

Jim Bowie

Jedediah Smith

John Jacob Astor

The American Fur Trading Company

The Hudson's Bay Company

Pertinent Historians/Sources:

Frederick Jackson Turner

Charles Wilson Pierson

Ray Allen Billington

Wilbur Jacobs

Charles Beard

James Bennett

American Heritage Magazine

### C. BONUS QUESTION

Since the bombing of the Federal Building in Oklahoma City on April 19, 1995, para-military militia groups and their ideologies have received much scrutiny from the U.S. press. For an additional fifty (50) points answer the following question with respect to the current militia movement in the United States:

Members of militia movements are fast becoming a source of fascination/revulsion to Americans and the American media. Some see them as patriotic freedom fighters (like those of the Revolutionary War period) helping to check the growth of an expanding central government and its "war" on personal property and civil rights. Others see them as frustrated and maladjusted anarchists who pose the most serious threat to the stability of U.S. society yet seen in the twentieth century. **Which version is the more correct and which is the more incorrect? Are members of militia movements truly freedom fighters or are they frustrated and maladjusted extremists fighting for irrational goals?** Using careful examples from newspapers/periodicals produce a research/position paper that both explains and defends one of the views listed above.

Use short quotes and paraphrases to prove your argument. You may use other sources but do not include large block quotes from the author/sources being examined. There is no need for footnotes or bibliography. Page numbers should be cited. This should be done in parenthesis in the text, e.g. (Guthrie, p. 22); (Grolier's Academic American Encyclopedia, p. 76). Please also provide a cover page including title, course number and title, instructor name and your name and date.