

The New Frontier

The Idea of Progress / Spaces and Exchanges

Séquence proposée par Mélanie David, professeur d'anglais au lycée Monge à Chambéry (Savoie 73)

→ What does it feel to be a pioneer and what is the modern equivalent of the American Frontier?

Intermediate Task

You are a Lewis or Clark.

Write a letter to the President of the USA to tell him you've made it to the West Coast.

Tell him about your trip.

Final Task

You are a member of the Virgin Galactic expedition.

Write an entry in your logbook in which you describe your journey so far and explain your mission, your motivations and your expectations.

- 1. Painting by John Gast: *American Progress***
- 2. Maps: The USA in 1870 / The USA in 1890**
 - Introduction au thème de la séquence (idée de frontière mouvante)
 - Lexique des espaces naturels, de la conquête et de ses effets
 - Les contrastes : *unlike, contrary to, whereas* (lien avec la TI).
- 3. Video: *Lewis and Clark – Great Journey West*: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Aro0FqHGk_g**
 - Impact et enjeux de l'expédition de Lewis and Clark (danger)
 - Present perfect et past perfect
 - Révision de l'expression du but (to)
 - Transition avec la conquête de l'espace
- 4. CE: Letter from Jesse Looney to his brother-in-law, Major James C. Bond (1843). Adapted from: http://www.oregonpioneers.com/JLooney_Letter.htm**
 - Living conditions during the journey
 - Letter (format pour la TI)
 - Différence entre present perfect et prétérit

CO notée: The American West with Francis Parkman: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7UxlK9kQTuA>
- 5. CE : The Guardian, *Space Exploration Volunteers Needed***
<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2009/jul/19/nasa-space-exploration-volunteers>
 - Mobilisation du lexique de l'espace.
 - Lien avec le mythe de la frontière.
 - Motivations pour aller dans l'espace.
 - Idée de l'aller simple.
- 6. BBC video: *Galactic Travel with Richard Branson***
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N_SjGaiuGoU
 - The Race to the Moon (JFK)
 - Révision de l'expression du but (to)
 - Motivations pour aller dans l'espace.
- 7. CO : *Being an Astronaut*:**
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p03mss9f>
 - Lexique de l'exploration spatiale.
 - Motivations pour aller dans l'espace.

1. Painting by John Gast: *American Progress*

2. Maps: The USA in 1870 / The USA in 1890

[Group work]



Doc 1: map of the USA in 1870

Say everything you can about the map. Any idea of the date?

On the left / on the right

Doc 2: Right side of American Progress:

Say everything you can about this painting.

Toolbox:

In the background / in the foreground / in the middle

On the left / on the right

Verb: to hold something



- A harbour in the background.
- Labourers/farmers ploughing the land.
- A woman floating in the middle. She holds a book and looks like an angel.

Split: Two people from each group = 4 students together

- Confront your ideas. Use the map to understand the painting.
- Analyse these specific elements:

the woman movement book cable

- Everybody is going west (stagecoach, train, woman in the middle, covered wagon, etc.)
- The woman (goddess Columbia = personification of the US) is holding a cable which represents the telegraph.
- The book represents the American Constitution or the book of knowledge.



Doc 3: map of the US in 1890:

Compare the dates. Reactions?

- In a century, the size of the US doubled.
- In 1890, the US was twice as big as 100 years later.
- The US territory expanded a lot.
- Americans conquered the West of the US.

Now, connect the map of the US in 1890 with the painting.

- People are going west because they're conquering the western territories.

Imagine what the pioneers found in Western America.

- I guess they met Indians.
- I think they crossed the Rocky Mountains.
- I think they found virgin/untrodden territory.

Let's check!

Doc 4: entire painting:

In groups, analyse the details of the picture and what they represent.

Pay attention to the contrasts.

Talking about CONTRAST:

Contrary to... / Unlike...

... whereas ...



- The eastern part represents civilization **whereas** the western part represents savagery/nature (bison + bear).
- **Unlike** the left part of the painting, the right part is dark.
- **Contrary to** the east coast, the west is a mountainous / mountainous region.

Mini Task:

Date: 1872.

You are an American farmer.

You see a copy of this painting in the local newspaper.

Leave a note to your wife / husband to convince her to go west.

3. CO: Lewis and Clark – Great Journey West: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Aro0FqHGk_g

Reminder: 1804-1806

NO IMAGE:

Part 1 [→ 0:28]

Listen and take notes.

“It **has been** called the greatest expedition in American history. Perhaps it **was** also the most dangerous.”

Imagine the topic of the recording.

I guess the document deals with an expedition in western America.

Let's check!

Part 2 [0:28 → end]

“At the time, the outside world **had never seen** the western two-thirds of the North American continent. Two men, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, were chosen **to** lead the first US expedition all the way to the Pacific, **to** catalogue for science the nature of the new land, **to** discover a waterway across it and **to** survive **to** tell of what they **had learned**. Among the hand-picked crew at their side, was a native woman whose name, Sacagawea, would come to echo American history. Their fate would lie in the hands of great nations of people already living in the West. It was an adventure equivalent at the time to a voyage to the moon. L and C's extraordinary exploits would change forever the course of history.”

1st listening: take notes.

2nd Listening: try to fill in the table.

Context:	Aim of the expedition:	Members of the expedition:	Impact of the expedition:
- the outside world had never seen the western two-thirds of the North American continent. - great nations of people already living in the West (= Native Americans)	- to lead the first US expedition all the way to the Pacific - to catalogue for science the nature of the new land - to discover a <u>waterway</u> across it - to survive to tell of what they had learned .	- Meriwether Lewis and William Clark - a native woman whose name, Sacagawea, would come to echo to American history	- It was an adventure equivalent at the time to a voyage to the moon - L and C's extraordinary exploits would change forever the course of history.”

Underline “had never seen” + “had learned”.

What tense is it? → Past Perfect. = have au *prétérit* + *participe passé*.

[Le Past Perfect permet de faire un bilan, un état des lieux à un moment donné du passé.]

Analysis:

Why was the expedition equivalent to a voyage to the moon?

- Because it was **dangerous / risky**.
- There were many **obstacles to overcome** to go west (Rocky Mountains).
- Because the territory was **unknown**.
- They had **no idea of what they would find out/how long it would take**.

Mini-Task

You are Thomas Jefferson, President of the USA.
Write the mission order addressed to Lewis and Clark.
Tell them what you expect from their expedition.
(70 words)

Toolbox:

- S + will have to + BV...
- S + will need to + BV...
- S + is/are expected to + BV...

4. CE: Letter from Jesse Looney to his brother-in-law, Major James C. Bond

Anticipation:

Project "6a – Anticipation".

Say everything you can about the document.

- It is a letter written in 1843 in the Oregon territory.
- The letter was given to Lieutenant Fremont who was returning to the states.

Project "6b- Oregon Territory".

Find the states on the map.

Comprehension:

Find synonyms of the following words in the text:

Synonyms	Words from the text
exhausting	(l.7) tiresome /'taɪəsəm/
a young cow	(l.17) heifer
baby cows	(l.17) calves (plur.) < calf (sing.)
a large group of cows	(l.16) cattle
a small plant / tree	(l.33) shrub
farm animals	(l.12) stock
two or more horses harnessed together to draw a vehicle.	(l.34) teams
wood generally used for construction	(l.13) timber
wild animals hunted for food	(l. 19) game

Group 1: Highlight all the words conveying a **positive image** of the journey/place.

Group 2: Highlight all the words conveying a **negative image** of the journey/place.

Words conveying a positive image of the journey/place.	Words conveying a negative image of the journey/place.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">l.7 the company of emigrants came through safelyl.13 fine valley of land, excellent water, good climate, and the finest kind of <u>timber</u>l.14 a first rate range for stock both winter and summerl.14-15 The Indians are friendly and have plenty of grain and potatoes, and a good many hogs and	<ul style="list-style-type: none">l.7 long <u>tiresome</u> tripl.16 The road = longl.17 Do not attempt to bring <u>calves</u> - you will be in danger of losing their mothersl.19 game = uncertainl.22 we are just about a month too latel.24 sick

<p>cattle.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ l.16 The road is good, much better than we expected ▪ l.25 we are all well. My own health is better than it has been for many years ▪ l.26 country = very healthful ▪ l.32 we got over safely ▪ l.35 well beaten road 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ l.27 sickness ▪ l.28 There were five or six deaths on the road, some by sickness and some by accident ▪ l.30 they might have stolen a horse ▪ l.31 greatest difficulty was in crossing the rivers ▪ l.33 shrub = hard on our teams
<p style="text-align: center;">→ Main advantages:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">They are safe. The resources are numerous. There's grass for the cows The Indians and are nice and they have food. The road is not so bad. They are in good health. The road is flattened.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">→ Main disadvantages :</p> <p style="text-align: center;">You might get tired You might lose your cattle You may starve to death You may be too late to cross the mountains You may get sick / die Indians may steal your horses You may not cross the rivers The road might be in a bad state.</p>

Highlight all the different places mentioned in the text.
Is Jesse Looney's journey clear?
Project map [6c]



Grammar [team work]

Group 1:

(ll.11-12): "About half of them **have traded off** their stock at Walla Walla, 25 miles below here, and are going by water [...]. I **have stopped** here in the Walla Walla Valley to spend the winter in order to save my stock."

Group 2:

(ll.25-26): "My own health is better than it **has been** for many years, and as far as I **have seen** this country I think it very healthful."

Focus on these sentences. Find the tense used by Jesse Looney:

Present perfect.

Explain why he used this tense (French allowed):

Au moment où il parle, voilà la situation / voilà où on en est. On ne parle pas de quelque chose de daté / révolu.
Bilan au moment où il parle (*for many years ; as far as*).

Intermediate Task

You are a Lewis/Clark. You write a letter to the President of the USA to tell him you've made it to the West Coast. Tell him about your trip.
(150 words)

5. CO type Bac: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7UxIK9kQTuA> :

Title: *The American West with Francis Parkman.*

“It’s a striking landscape and **strangely beautiful**. If only for its **vast extent**. It’s solitude; it’s wilderness. Here you live by the **strength of your arm and the courage of your heart** and the very shadow of civilisation lies a hundred leagues behind you.”

In **1846**, **a young American writer** made a journey into the wilds of **Wyoming** in search of the **Plains Indian**. His name was Francis Parkman.

“I was pretty well used to travel, the birch **canoe** was as familiar to me as a **steam boat**, and I was as **restless** as any young man. But that wasn’t the only I undertook the journey. I wanted to **make some inquiries into the character of the remote Indian nations**. I’d been curious about them since childhood and having failed to satisfy that curiosity by reading, I resolved to see them for myself.”

By the 1840s, white Americans had settled only the eastern half of the present USA, Parkman had left civilisation behind him. He’d crossed into the great American wilderness, following the **Oregon Trail**, a route taken by early white explorers into the Wild West.

3 écoutes entrecoupées de 2 pauses d’une minute.

10 minutes de restitution en français.

6. Guardian article: *Space Exploration Volunteers Wanted*

Remarque de l’équipe éditoriale du site académique d’anglais

La démarche adoptée ci-dessous est axée sur des questions testant la capacité des élèves à entraîner leurs stratégies de lecture considérées comme déjà acquises grâce au travail effectué en amont durant l’année scolaire. Dans le cas où la séquence serait proposée en début d’année scolaire, une approche davantage axée sur l’entraînement aux stratégies de décodage sera mise en place (repérages de formes suivis de déduction de sens).

Anticipation:

Project Caption. Guess what the document is about.

Comprehension: [worksheet]

Find the words in the text corresponding to the following definitions:

- a person trained to travel in a spacecraft (l.4) :
- the universe (l.5):
- a celestial body moving in an orbit around a star (l.5) :
- a fixed luminous point in the night sky, like the sun (l.5):
- the American Space agency (l.6) :
- a vehicule used to travel in space (l.11) :
- a person who offers to take part (l.10) :
- to walk on (l.15) :
- the natural satellite of our planet (l.13) :
- our planet (l.14) :
- a small position on the moon (l.20) :
- a trip (l.21) :
- the optical instrument to see distant things (l.23) :

Identify what the following words refer to:

- “it” (line 1):
- “the phrase” (line 2):
- “them” (line 7):
- “they” (line 8):
- “you” (line 10):

Explain « a one-way ticket» with a sentence from the text:

Make sense...

The noun “shortage” (line 10) comes from the adjective

So a “shortage” means “when you have/do not have a lot of something” (*cross out the wrong answer*).

Now explain with your own words ‘no shortage of volunteers’:

Give a title to the different paragraphs and justify with a quote:

The final frontier	An attractive	History of space	Commercial vision	Description of the
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	project	exploration		mission
“a mission to explore distant planets and stars – and never return” “on-way tickets”	“The prospect of... would not deter people from applying” “no shortage of volunteer”	“May 1961, JFK” → “man on the moon” “1969, Apollo 11” + Neil Armstrong + Buzz Aldrin	“for economic benefit”	“trip from a luna outpost” “2 to 3 years” “a journey of six to nine months each way” “a year-long mission on the surface”

Mini Task:

Send your application to take part in a trip to Mars organized by Virgin Galactic Airline.
(70 words)

7. Video: Galactic travel with Richard Branson

Listen and take notes:

Three groups: 1 – Voiceover 2 – Sir Richard Branson 3 – Future Passengers

This is a party for a very select group of people. In two years they are scheduled to be the 1st passengers on a galactic airline. After planes and trains, Sir Richard Branson is branching out into spaceships with the launch of Virgin Galactic

“You know we’ve been taking quite a big gamble on... huh... you know... talking about a couple hundred million dollars of investment on the basis that we think we can create a space company.

It’s a commercial enterprise, a journey into the unknown. But that hasn’t stopped the company from taking millions in deposits.

“I decided that I wanted to play, I decided “let’s get onboard”, write the check, and get at the front of the line because at my age I can’t afford to get back in the middle of the line.

“It’s a privilege to be founders and to open up a new frontier to make something possible that wasn’t possible before.”

“You know we have to get a lot of people to fly into space to make that a commercial success but nothing is guaranteed in life unless you actually give it a go, you won’t know.”

So how does Branson intend to do what the might of NASA never could: make space travel available to everyone?

// [1:28]

Screenshot: “Space is Virgin territory”

Discuss this image in your groups (3 students per group).

→ virgin / Virgin Galactic territory!

Any idea who decided to send people onto the moon?

Show 8b if necessary

→ JF Kennedy

Three groups: 1 – Voiceover 2 – JFK 3 – Rusty Schweickart

“I believe that this nation should commit itself to achieving a goal before this decade is out of landing a man on the moon and return him safely to the Earth.”

The history of space travel is littered with promises but during a glorious period in the 1960s some of those promises became a reality. No idea seemed too outrageous, anything seemed possible. Paving the way for the rest of us were astronauts like Rusty Schweickart.

“Nobody has flown into space and come back without realising that they are a model for people on the ground, especially for kids. They just put themselves right in your place, just like that, it’s just automatic. There’s something deep, in the human being, in our nature that wants to experience things like this, that wants to go into unusual environments, that wants to move out to explore, to understand the unknown.”

Recap:

Sir Richard Branson is ...

His company aims at...

To be on board, the volunteers have to...

JF Kennedy was the first...

Astronaut Rusty Schweickart paved the way for...

According to him, human beings...

8. CO: *Being an Astronaut*

Source: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p03mss9f>

“I ‘think you’ll agree Helen. There’s a tendency to glamorize life in space. So if you don’t mind, can I ask you: what’s the worst thing about being an astronaut?”

“Oh the worst thing... what can it be? There are so many lovely things, it’s hard to say. What’s is the worst thing? It probably is the five hours you spend **strapped** in the same position, in the same spacesuit sweating buckets of **sweat** inside it and just feeling hot and gradually more and more uncomfortable.”

“So what’s the best thing?”

“Oh... the best thing... Hard for me to say. I think there are three best things. It’s a combination of that floating around, you know, that freedom of feeling **weightless**. It’s the crew, the **team** work, just knowing that those are the people that are going to keep you safe. It’s the people that you’re with. And of course, the views out of the window. Spectacular, whether you’re looking back at the Earth or out at the stars.”

“I mean, that view when you’re out in orbit, so you see the curvature of the planet.”

“It’s far enough you’re right to see that **curvature** and looking away from the Earth, gradually as your eyes get used to that darkness because your pupils dilate and the stars start to appear and the more you look the more stars you can see. It just feels as if they go and on forever.” // [1:15]

- Step 1: Work individually
- Step 2: **Join** the other members of your group and **share** what you heard.
- Step 3: **Split** and exchange what you heard.
Group 3 → group 2 → group 1
- Step 4: Recap. One sentence per group:

Recap:

1. The worst thing in space is probably ... because...
2. However, it is **worth the trip**. First, ...
3. Moreover, it’s incredible to be with a crew because...
4. Finally, the view is spectacular. Indeed...