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The American West

The story of the American West has exerted a powerful influence over the psyche of the modern world, helping to fashion senses of national identity as well as permeating literary and cinematic culture.

Tales of frontier life, of Native Americans and of vigilantes and outlaws are of constant interest, and are matched by more recent interest in the growth of urban centers, the environmental impact of westward expansion and of life in the borderlands.

Through a mixture of original manuscripts, maps, ephemeral material, and rare printed sources, this collection is a dynamic teaching and research resource.

- Papers of early pioneers, explorers and hunters, including items such as the original manuscript journal and papers of James Audubon.
- Documented accounts of the **Gold Rush** and the landscape of Canada and the Pacific Northwest.
- **City directories** and prospectuses that show the evolution of Western towns.
- **Maps and records** from key railroad companies explore the growth of railway and road networks
- Emigrants' guides, manuscript travel journals, store catalogues, illustrations and maps that bring a greater understanding of the phenomenon of **Westward expansion**.
- Accounts of ranches and of the prairie lands document the **agricultural transformation** of the West.
- Rich resources for the study of Texas, Mexico and the South.
- The **mythic West** contrasts with the reality of the times with literary and historical works ranging from contemporary newspapers and posters to firsthand accounts of the lives of vigilantes and outlaws

This collection complements ***American Indian Histories and Cultures*** and is an invaluable resource for scholars working in Western American history, Southern History, the History of the Pacific Northwest, Western Literature, Film and Cultural Studies.

Both ***The American West*** and ***American Indian Histories and Cultures*** are cross-searchable for a more in-depth user experience.



TexShare is a program of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, made possible by a grant from the US Institute of Museum and Library Services. Contact us at texshare@tsl.texas.gov or at 800-252-9386



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American Indian Histories and Cultures

Spanning four centuries and covering North and Central America, **American Indian Histories and Cultures** presents unique materials from one of the finest archival collections on American Indian history and culture available.

From early contacts between European settlers and American Indians and the subsequent political, social and cultural effects of those encounters on American Indian life, these materials tell both the historical and the personal stories of the colonization of the Americas.

Continuing through to the modern era, and told against the backdrop of the 19th century expansion into the 'Western Frontier' right through to the civil rights movement of the mid-twentieth century, **American Indian Histories and Cultures** highlights both the myths and realities of the "Wild West" and American Indian cultural identity.

This collection includes exclusive multimedia resources

- **Manuscripts**, including treaties, speeches, petitions, diaries, travel journals, ledger books)
- **Artwork** (illustrations, sketches, watercolors, oil paintings, American Indian art)
- **American Indian Newspapers** covering the 1960s to 1990s
- **Rare Printed Books**
- **Photographs**
- **Maps**

Rich and diverse materials provide an exploration of the following themes

- American Indians and the European Powers
- American Indians and the US Government
- Indigenous Peoples of Mexico
- Military Encounters: Conflicts, Rebellions and Alliances
- Observation, Representation and Cultural Encounters
- Missionaries and Education
- Trade
- Civil Rights Movement

American Indian Histories and Cultures complements and builds upon the success of **The American West**. Both resources are cross-searchable.



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