

## California, The Land of Dreams – Fiction vs. Reality



*How has California inspired alluring myths over time?*

**Objectif final :** être capable de parler en continu de la construction des représentations de la Californie dans l'histoire.

Midchapter task: **POI** ⇒ *Tell your mates about your own myth of California + answer their questions.*

Final task: **POC** ⇒ *Create a radio spot introducing a new podcast about California Dreams on NPR.*

### **Vocabulary:**

- Talking about history: Gold Rush, pioneers, wagon trail, going west, expansion, conquest, the frontier, push & pull factors...
- Talking about social and geographical issues: dreaming of a better life, migrations, reading a graph etc.

### **Grammar & Pronunciation skills:**

- Pronunciation: American accent vs. British accent
- Past tenses vs present perfect

# California, The Land of Dreams – Fiction vs. Reality



Lesson plan

Brainstorming: Medley California, react to the pictures.

## I – GO WEST! MANIFEST DESTINY AND THE CALL FOR WESTWARD EXPANSION.

- a) **The Promised Land – 19<sup>th</sup> century** CE *California myth-making* + definition Manifest Destiny + CE Introduction *In Our Time* BBC 4 (Manifest Destiny) + CO The Promised Land: Push & pull factors (+ graph).

Midchapter task **POI** ⇒ *Tell your mates about your own myth of California + answer their questions.*

- b) **Dreaming of a better life in times of hardship – 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century**

☆ **The Gold Rush** (*add date after OC*) CO Story of Us: Gold Rush (History Channel)

☆ **The Okies during the Great Depression (1930s)** Photo analysis: Dorothea Lange *Migrant Mother* + CO Okies.

## II – VISIONS OF CALIFORNIA TODAY, FROM DREAM TO REALITY?

- a) **What if you could rewrite the story?** the *Hollywood* 2020 series trailer + article (+ podcast: Hollywood is broken- let's fix it)
- b) **Is the California Dream finished? A harsh reality – climate change and economic threats**  
Oped + NPR radio podcast



Final task ⇒ *Create a radio spot introducing a new podcast about California Dreams on NPR.*

• Séance 1

SUPPORT	California medley + <i>California, Why we come; Myth or Reality</i> essay + BBC 4 <i>In Our Time</i> website introduction (text).
OBJ. CULT	Introduction to the “California dream”
OBJ. LING	EO, IO, CE.
DEM. PEDA/ ACT DE L’ELEVÉ	<p>⇒ California medley: brainstorming: react, say as much as you can.</p> <p>⇒ <i>California, Why we come; Myth or Reality</i> essay. Origin of the name “California”, reference to Grapes of Wrath 1939 (comment on this date briefly).</p> <p>⇒ Introduction <i>In Our Time BBC4</i> (Manifest Destiny) + definition Manifest Destiny.</p> <p>Teamwork: Team A focuses on understanding what Manifest Destiny is about. (Define it in your own words) + the people mentioned.</p> <p>Team B watches the painting <i>American Progress</i> by John Gast and takes notes</p> <p>Recap: share your information + take notes from the other team. Elements needed: <i>A</i> = <i>Manifest Destiny/ self-government/freedom, liberty/ Westward Expansion</i> + <i>Pioneers = trailblazers / wagon trails/ gold prospectors/ entrepreneurs/ cowboys. B = America floats westward through the air (= personification). She has left the cities of the east behind, and the wide Mississippi, and still her course is westward. In her right hand she carries a school book = national enlightenment, while with her left she trails the wires of the telegraph that will bind the nation. Fleeing her approach are Indians, buffalo, wild horses, bears and other wild beasts.</i></p>
HW	<i>Be ready to recap orally what Manifest Destiny and the American West is about.</i>

• Séance 2

SUPPORT	BBC 4 <i>In Our Time, The American West: The Promised Land</i> + <i>Push &amp; pull factors</i> graph.
OBJ. CULT	Push & pull factors in migration.
OBJ. LING	EO, CO
DEM. PEDA/ ACT DE L’ELEVÉ	<p>⇒ Recap orally what Manifest Destiny and the American West are about.</p> <p>⇒ CO BBC 4 <i>In Our Time, The American West: The Promised Land</i> + <i>Push &amp; pull factors</i>. Listen to this extract from the radio programme three times, take notes, share notes, recap. Key items: <i>migrants came from the Midwest: Missouri, Iowa, Mississippi, Illinois, <b>disease-ridden country, in the grip of economic recession</b> at the beginning of the 1840s, tall stories/tall tales/bizarre stories, land flowing with milk and honey, Promised Land by the Pacific, story of roast pork running around with knives already in it, California = a <b>Shangri la</b> (= an imaginary, beautiful place, often far away, where everything is pleasant and you can get everything you want), rise up from the dead, live to be 200 years old.</i></p> <p>⇒ Push &amp; pull factors graph. Read it + associate some of the examples given in the radio programme with the factors in the graph and give at least one example for each graph.</p>

	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p><b>Push Factors</b></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• few services</li> <li>• lack of job opportunities</li> <li>• unhappy life</li> <li>• poor transport links</li> <li>• natural disasters</li> <li>• wars</li> <li>• shortage of food</li> </ul> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p><b>Pull Factors</b></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• access to services</li> <li>• better job opportunities</li> <li>• more entertainment facilities</li> <li>• better transport links</li> <li>• improved living conditions</li> <li>• hope for a better way of life</li> <li>• family links</li> </ul> </div> </div> <p>⇒ Pairwork: you are poor Midwest farmers in the 1840s. Weigh pros and cons on leaving your state and try your luck in the West. One of you is convinced it would be better, the other one hesitates.</p>
HW	<i>Invent a tall tale that could have been told about California as a Shangri la back in the 1840s. Be ready to tell it to your mates without reading.</i>

• **Séance 3**

SUPPORT	History Channel video: <i>Gold Rush</i> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gDkqvqqjMAA">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gDkqvqqjMAA</a>								
OBJ. CULT	Introduction to the California Gold Rush in 1849 + Okies in the 1930s								
OBJ. LING	IO, CO, EO.								
DEM. PEDA/  ACT DE L'ELEVE	<div><div><p>⇒ Teamwork: 4 pupils. Tell your mates a tall tale that could have been told about California as a Shangri la back in the 1840s. They should ask you questions about this place to show they're not buying your story.</p><p>⇒ Titles: <i>Dreaming of a better life in times of hardship</i> + California Gold Rush photo:</p><p>Title <i>The California Gold Rush</i>: anticipate what you'll see and learn about in the video.</p><p>⇒ Watch the video three times. Take notes. Organize your notes: find a theme/a caption for each part that you can identify. Ex:</p></div><div><table><tr><th>Attracting gold diggers/gold miners</th><th>The drawbacks of gold digging</th><th>Inventing California</th></tr><tr><td><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Success followed a willingness to try and fail ≠ in New England, no tolerance of failure, failure was equated with sin/moral failure.</li><li>- Luck as much a factor of success as anything else.</li><li>- The lure of quick money was an enormous attraction.</li></ul></td><td><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Very few people actually made money from gold itself.</li><li>- Rape of the countryside.</li><li>- Exploitation of the Mexicans.</li><li>- Extermination of the local tribes.</li><li>- Mistreatment of Asians (labourers + badly treated in the mines).</li><li>- Terrible loss of life and impoverishment of people who'd go out and dig the stuff.</li></ul></td><td><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The GR transformed the landscape + the demography of California and the West.</li><li>- Great breakthrough: not creating fortunes from the precious metal but the invention of California itself.</li><li>- Getting enough people to move all the way out there: this state was able to really turn into something extraordinary.</li></ul></td></tr></table></div></div>			Attracting gold diggers/gold miners	The drawbacks of gold digging	Inventing California	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Success followed a willingness to try and fail ≠ in New England, no tolerance of failure, failure was equated with sin/moral failure.</li><li>- Luck as much a factor of success as anything else.</li><li>- The lure of quick money was an enormous attraction.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Very few people actually made money from gold itself.</li><li>- Rape of the countryside.</li><li>- Exploitation of the Mexicans.</li><li>- Extermination of the local tribes.</li><li>- Mistreatment of Asians (labourers + badly treated in the mines).</li><li>- Terrible loss of life and impoverishment of people who'd go out and dig the stuff.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The GR transformed the landscape + the demography of California and the West.</li><li>- Great breakthrough: not creating fortunes from the precious metal but the invention of California itself.</li><li>- Getting enough people to move all the way out there: this state was able to really turn into something extraordinary.</li></ul>
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HW	Slideshow with soundtrack: <i>Okies during the Great Depression</i> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W3ID8DebUQ4">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W3ID8DebUQ4</a> Take notes and be ready to recap orally what you understood.								

• Séance 4

SUPPORT	Slideshow with soundtrack: <i>Okies during the Great Depression</i> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W3ID8DebUQ4">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W3ID8DebUQ4</a> + <i>How to analyse and describe a photograph</i> worksheet.
OBJ. CULT	Okies in the 1930s + <i>Migrant Mother</i> , Dorothea Lange 1936
OBJ. LING	EO, CO, EE.
DEM.  PEDA/  ACT DE  L'ELEVE	<p>⇒ Recap: Slideshow + soundtrack: <i>Okies during the Great Depression</i>.</p> <p><u>Key elements</u>: <b>Dust Bowl</b>, central plains, abandoned homes in search of <b>new opportunities</b>, left for jobs in the city/left the area, common destination: California. Highways Oklahoma-California resembled parades (continuous string of cars) // Gold Rush of 1849: millions of <b>migrants in search of a fresh start</b>, "Okie" = OK license plate. Okies thought they could find a job <b>picking fruit</b>: California <b>supplied ½ fresh fruit</b> for the entire country. Far <b>more workers than needed</b> = extremely <b>low wages</b> + no minimum wage. Jobs lasted 2-3 days, moved to next location = <b>migratory lifestyle</b>. <b>Orchard, grove, vineyard</b>. Hard, unpleasant life (looked down upon by Californians, refused entrance in towns) + lived in <b>makeshift villages</b>, shacks, <b>poorly built shelters</b>.</p> <p>⇒ <i>Migrant Mother</i>, Dorothea Lange. Give the complete title: (<i>Destitute pea pickers in California. Mother of seven children. Age thirty-two. Nipomo, California</i>) + Remember what happened in the 1930's = national economic crisis coupled with natural disasters, including floods and dust storms (= The Dust Bowl).</p> <p>For a couple of minutes, write your ideas to analyse this picture. Think about the <b>historic background</b>, comment on <b>the people</b> (looks, attitudes) in the picture, then focus on its <b>composition</b>: can you link it to paintings/photos you know about?</p> <p>Recap + Culture flash: compare the composition with other works of art.</p> <p>⇒ As a novelist, write an extract of the story of this family to illustrate the photo. The narrative voice must be the mother's or one of her children's. (Imagine their thoughts). Use the past tense.</p>
HW	<i>Be ready to recap orally what you know about the Okies. Assessed for some students.</i>

• **Séance 5:**

SUPPORT	Introduction to NPR/KPCC podcast <i>Hollywood, the Sequel</i> by John Horn + <i>Hollywood: the 2020</i> Netflix series (trailer) <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q3EASLgzOcM&amp;feature=emb_logo">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q3EASLgzOcM&amp;feature=emb_logo</a>
OBJ. CULT	Representations and misrepresentations of California now and then: the Hollywood series
OBJ. LING	EO, IO, CO. GRAM: Present perfect.
DEM. PEDA/ ACT DE L'ELEVE	<p>⇒ Recap orally what you know about the Okies.</p> <p>⇒ Read the title and make assumptions about what the document is about. Listen to the introduction to NPR podcast <i>Hollywood, the Sequel</i>. Take notes. Share notes. Recap.</p> <p><i>Hollywood loves sequels, even if <b>there have been</b> way too many <b>spin-offs and reboots</b>, the industry now has a chance to produce the ultimate sequel: <b>a new version of itself</b>. In the wake of the pandemic the film industry and TV business could <b>implement the fundamental changes</b> <b>it's been considering for years</b>. (...) Every week <b>we'll ask if Hollywood can indeed be reinvented</b>, whose voices will be raised up, who will have access to power and how story-tellers and audiences will stay safe. We'll be asking these questions to people like actor and producer Kerry Washington: "My job as a story-teller is to make sure that people that we want to ignore or voices that are undervalued, that <b>these people get seen and these voices get heard</b>." And along with producer Jason Reed, who hopes <b>Hollywood can reinvent its gig economy</b>: "I think this pandemic could have, over the long term, a beneficial effect, in the sense that we can't just treat humans as midgets. And hopefully, we'll embrace that." <i>Hollywood the sequel</i> from KPCC &amp; LAist studios, coming on a podcast platform near you, on June 23<sup>rd</sup>.</i></p> <p>NB: A gig economy is a <b>free market system</b> in which temporary positions are common and organizations contract with independent workers for short-term engagements.</p> <p>Focus on the two <b>highlighted</b> sentences. Explain what the use of present perfect means.</p> <p>⇒ Watch the trailer for <i>Hollywood</i>, the series. React.</p> <p>⇒ This trailer perfectly illustrates the general theme for this chapter, Fiction and Reality. Prove it. (1-2-all).</p>
HW	<p><i>Is Hollywood a dreamland for you? Why/Why not? Argue your point (at least 5 lines).</i></p> <p><i>Read the text that was given to you about the series and sum it up in your own words, explaining its main ideas (at least 3 ideas for each text).</i></p> <p><i>GRAMMAR FOCUS exercise Past vs Present perfect.</i></p>

**GRAMMAR FOCUS Past vs Present perfect.**

Lis chaque phrase et barre la proposition de temps qui ne convient pas.

- Hollywood **was considering/ has been considering** to implement some changes for years now.
- Tall-tales about California **were told / have been told** to attract migrants.
- The Midwest **was / has been** a disease-ridden place.
- Okies **came / have come** to California in the 1930s.
- People **were always dreaming / have always been dreaming** of living in California.
- Dorothea Lange **took / has taken** many pictures of Okies during the Great Depression.
- Poor mothers posing with their children **was / has been** a classic artistic subject.
- The Gold Rush **started / has started** in the 1840s in California.
- Since I was a teenager, I **wanted / have wanted** to visit California.
- Manifest Destiny **validated / has validated** Westward Expansion



• **Séance 6**

SUPPORT	Article about <i>Hollywood</i> , the series + video Brief History of California's flag for context <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kmBmpfAvNKQ">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kmBmpfAvNKQ</a> + Cagle's cartoons California's flag & worksheet
OBJ. CULT	California today: is the California Dream finished?
OBJ. LING	CE, IO
DEM. PEDA/ ACT DE L'ELEVE	<p>⇒ Recap: Is Hollywood a dreamland for you? Why/Why not? Argue your point</p> <p>⇒ Teamwork (1-4-all)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Each student received a different text last time. Recap the main ideas (at least 3 ideas for each text) for your mates.</li> <li>2. Your texts were written by journalists with conflicting points of view. Find out the similarities and differences in their opinion.</li> <li>3. How does <i>Hollywood</i>, the series inspire an alluring – albeit deceitful – myth? Let's discuss this.</li> </ol> <p>⇒ Watch this video about the Californian flag to know about the history of its design.</p> <p>⇒ Now, following the guidelines in the cartoons worksheet, make sure you understand Daryl Cagle's cartoons about California. Check your understanding with your mates who have the same cartoon as you. Then recap briefly for each cartoon.</p>
HW	<p>Read the short excerpt from the article: <i>Is the California Dream finished? Identify the elements suggesting that the California Dream is an illusion.</i></p> <p>Also find a picture on the web or among the selection on Pronote to illustrate this article <b>OR BONUS, ASSESSED work: create your own cartoon to illustrate this article!</b></p>

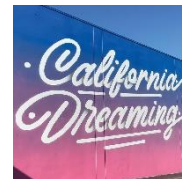
• **Séance 7**

SUPPORT	Oped <i>Is the California Dream finished?</i> + California wildfires medley + <i>The California Dream, a catastrophic wake up call</i> NPR podcast <a href="https://www.npr.org/2020/09/12/912127099/opinion-the-california-dream-a-catastrophic-wake-up-call">https://www.npr.org/2020/09/12/912127099/opinion-the-california-dream-a-catastrophic-wake-up-call</a>				
OBJ. CULT	Climate crisis				
OBJ. LING	EO, CO.				
DEM. PEDA/ ACT DE L'ELEVE	<p>⇒ Recap what suggests that the California Dream is an illusion. Economic crisis/poverty, property crisis, racial injustice/inequality.</p> <p><i>Extraordinarily high housing costs, low-wage jobs, poverty, staggering inequality, the widest gap between middle and upper-middle income earners, progressively more unequal, the prevalence of poverty amid enormous affluence. California's poverty rate, adjusted for cost of living, is the highest of any state and was higher in 2019 than in 2007, Latino and Black populations bear the brunt of the pain (lower access to property), this state is socially, fiscally and economically unsustainable.</i> + focus on “Even before the pandemic, California <b>topped</b> the nation in the widest gap between middle and upper-middle income earners and <b>has become progressively more unequal in recent years.</b>” Past vs past perfect.</p> <p>⇒ Look at the pictures and headlines. React.</p> <p>⇒ Listen to Scott Simon talking about the California Dream in September 2020. <i>The California Dream, a catastrophic wake up call</i>. Take notes, share notes, recap.</p> <table><tr><th>The California Dream</th><th>A catastrophic reality</th></tr><tr><td>dreamscape dreamland, a state of mind, a place for fresh starts, freeways and free love,</td><td>hellscape, calamities, are these catastrophes a new way of life? <b>drought, fires, blackouts and mudslides</b>, once in a lifetime, Rent and home prices soar for those who can pay, while many of those who can't are left to live out of their cars — or sleep on the</td></tr></table>	The California Dream	A catastrophic reality	dreamscape dreamland, a state of mind, a place for fresh starts, freeways and free love,	hellscape, calamities, are these catastrophes a new way of life? <b>drought, fires, blackouts and mudslides</b> , once in a lifetime, Rent and home prices soar for those who can pay, while many of those who can't are left to live out of their cars — or sleep on the
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	can it still hold so many dreams?	streets of California's great, glittering cities, California's red skies and raging wildfires, climate crisis
HW	Get ready for your final task! Check the pronunciation of key words on <a href="https://howjsay.com/">https://howjsay.com/</a> or <a href="https://dictionary.cambridge.org/">https://dictionary.cambridge.org/</a>	

• **Séance 8 Final task**

*California, the Land of Dreams – Fiction vs Reality Final task*



You are a radio host. Make a 2:30-3:00 presentation of your new radio programme entitled “California, the Land of Dream?” in the same way as in the NPR podcast “Hollywood, the sequel”.

- I have presented my new radio programme in a <b>convincing, well-organised</b> podcast. 0 – 1 – 2 – 3	CONTENTS / 10
- I have mentioned <b>historical and social facts</b> about California 0 – 1 – 2 – 3 – 4	
- I have described the <b>evolution</b> of the alluring myths about California over the ages. 0 – 1 – 2 – 3	
Bonus: I have included a soundtrack for my radio programme theme + 1	
- I have used <b>relevant + rich vocabulary</b> . 0 – 1 – 2	LANGUAGE /10
- My <b>pronunciation</b> is correct and I speak clearly (intonation, flow, pronunciation, word stress) 0 – 1 – 2 – 3 – 4	
- My <b>grammar</b> is globally correct. 0 – 1 – 2 – 3 – 4	

- **Séance 9:** recap things to improve/ frequent mistakes to avoid.



## California, The Land of Dreams – Fiction vs. Reality

### I – GO WEST! MANIFEST DESTINY AND THE CALL FOR WESTWARD EXPANSION

#### a) The Promised Land – 16<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> century

#### ☆ Doc 1 California, myth or reality



## California, Why We Come; Myth or Reality

By DOYCE B. NUNIS, JR.

IT HAS BEEN SAID that California is not so much a place as it is a state of mind.\* Certainly, California has bred its share of the myths and legends that shadow Western American history; but myth and legend have played a part in attracting immigrants. John Steinbeck's tragic Grampa Joad in *Grapes of Wrath* honestly believed that all he had to do when he reached Southern California was to sit in the sun under an orange tree waiting for the ripe fruit to fall into his lap. What he did not see in his wishful dream was the "no trespassing" sign posted on the border of the orange groves: myth had blurred his vision.<sup>1</sup>

California myth-making was launched by Garci Ordoñez de Montalvo in his *Adventures of Esplandían*, published in Seville in the first decade of the sixteenth century. It contains a romantic and fictional account of the "island" of California—a paradise which was "very near the location of the Garden of Eden."

#### Notes:

1. The name California originates from *Califia*, a mythical island paradise in Montalvo's novel. The term is thought to have derived from the Arabic *Khalif* and/or *Khalifa*.
2. [John Steinbeck](#)'s novel [The Grapes of Wrath](#) tells the story of the Joad family, illustrating the hardships and oppression suffered by migrant laborers during the Great Depression.

#### Understanding the text

1. **Read** the text and **then answer** questions 2 and 3.
2. What was the first impression the Spanish conquerors had when they discovered California in the 16<sup>th</sup> century? **Support your answer by quoting from the text.**

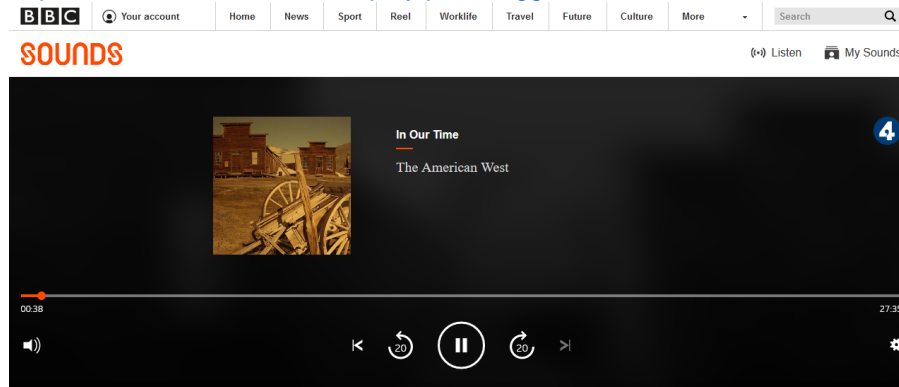
3. What is Grampa Joad's dream about California? Is the dream consistent with reality?  
**Support your answer by quoting from the text.**

☆ **Doc 2 BBC4 Radio Programme *In Our Time* – The American West**

Melvyn Bragg and guests discuss the myths and harsh reality of the 19th century American pioneers.

1. **Listen** to the introduction to the programme and take notes: **00:00** ⇒ **00:53**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p00548gg>



- ⚠ Si tu ne te sens pas assez à l'aise, tu peux écouter l'introduction en lisant le script en même temps. Cela t'aidera à entendre la façon dont les mots sont prononcés. **Pour plus d'efficacité, écoute ensuite l'introduction sans le script.**

2. **Check** that you heard the key words in bold letters in the script below.

**Script Introduction *In Our Time* – The American West**

NB : Pour révéler le script, sélectionne le tableau et passe-le en couleur de police noire.

3. **Read** this definition of *Manifest Destiny*:

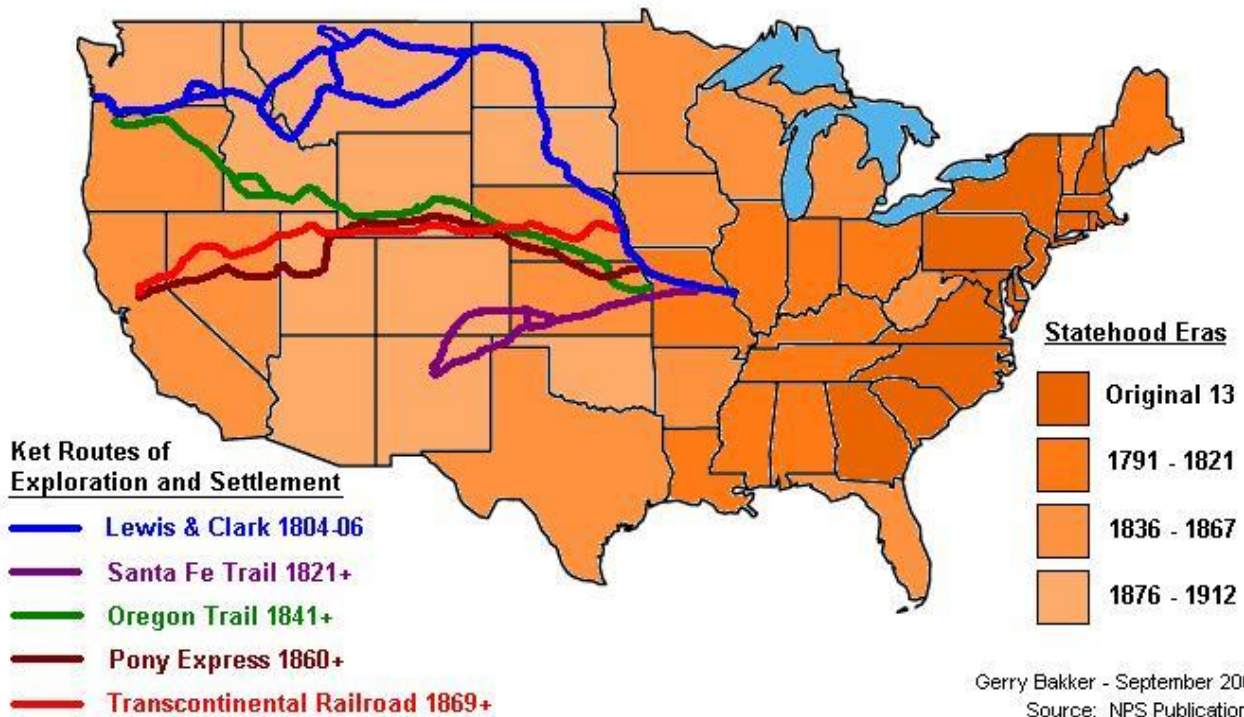
What does Manifest Destiny mean? The phrase encompassed the idea that **Westward Expansion**, and occupation the North American continent, was a **divine right** of the American people. It was based on the belief of **cultural and racial superiority over other nations** and the **obligation to bring civilization and enlightenment to other races**. The phrase "Manifest Destiny" was coined by the journalist John O'Sullivan in 1845. The phrase "Manifest Destiny" is most frequently associated with the **massive territorial expansion**

of the United States over just fifty years from 1803 to 1853 and its westward expansion to the Pacific Ocean.

<http://www.american-historama.org/1841-1850-westward-expansion/manifest-destiny.htm>

Here is a diagram representing Westward Expansion.

## Westward Expansion of the United States



<https://legallegacy.files.wordpress.com/2014/01/westward.jpg>

⇒ In your own words, make a definition of Manifest Destiny in just one sentence.

☆ **Doc 3 American Progress by John Gast, 1872.** Oil on canvas, 29.2 cm x 40 cm - [Autry Museum of the American West, Los Angeles, California](#)

Visit [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American\\_Progress#/media/File:American\\_Progress\\_\(John\\_Gast\\_painting\).jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Progress#/media/File:American_Progress_(John_Gast_painting).jpg) for a larger picture.



1. Watch this painting and **identify the words** from *In Our Time* and the definition of *Manifest Destiny* that were represented by the artist:

overspread and possess the whole of the continent great experiment of liberty the uncharted wilderness of the American continent Manifest Destiny massive territorial expansion bring civilization and enlightenment to other races	wagon trails frontier gold prospectors the American West trailblazers pioneering wagon trains
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

2. The woman floating above the scene is a personification of America. Use the vocabulary in the grid from Question 1 to **describe and analyse** this painting.

HW for next class ⇒ *Be ready to recap orally what Manifest Destiny and the American West are about – without your notebook!*



b) Dreaming of a better life in times of hardship – 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century

☆ The Okies during the Great Depression (1930s)

Describing and analysing a photograph

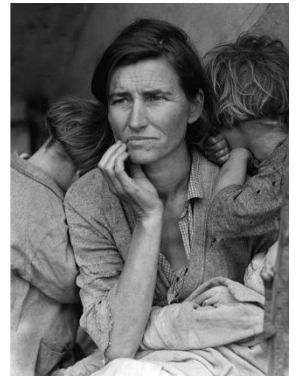
*Migrant Mother* by Dorothea Lange, 1936

VOC

Context: Stock market/ Wall street crash of 1929, the Great Depression of the 1930s, economic crisis

People: anxiety, helplessness, despair, precarious condition, vulnerability, suffering, uncertainty, poverty, impoverished farmers, the human consequences of poverty, ragged/torn/tattered clothes, deeply lined/wrinkled face, sorrowful gaze, children hiding/turning away from the camera // like cherubs /'tʃer.əbz/

Composition: powerful/impactful portrait, iconic picture, emotional photo, classically composed/classical triangular/pyramidal composition // a Renaissance Madonna



Raphael *Madonna of the Meadow* 1505-1506



Raphael *Madonna Sixtina* 1513-1514



William Bourguereau *Charity – The Indigent Family* 1865



J.C. Leyendecker *Modern Madonna and Child*, December 23, 1922

## II –VISIONS OF CALIFORNIA TODAY, FROM DREAM TO REALITY?

a) What if you could rewrite the story? the *Hollywood* 2020 series trailer + articles

### #1 'Hollywood' rewrites showbiz history, in a soapy<sup>1</sup> sign of the times

"Hollywood" has its heart in the right place, and if you have a love for movies' Golden Age, there's a whole lot of meticulously shot nostalgia to savor. Still, rewriting history is always a thorny proposition, and producer Ryan Murphy's latest Netflix limited series doesn't earn unqualified hoorays.

5 Although the story is set in the wake of World War II, an age of studio moguls and closeted gay stars, there will inevitably be comparisons to "Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood," which also viewed the industry through glasses simultaneously harsh and rose colored. Yet there are elements of everything from "La La Land" to "Echo Park" (an underappreciated 1985 indie film) in this tale of strivers and dreamers, looking for  
10 their big break in Tinseltown.

The main wrinkle, and it's a significant one, is that "Hollywood" is largely told from the point of view of outsiders who were essentially locked out of the industry, mixing fictional and real-life characters in one big lusty stew.

15 There is, for example, an African-American actress, Camille Washington (Laura Harrier), with talent that goes well beyond the maid roles she's offered; Archie (Jeremy Pope), a black writer who yearns for his chance; and Jack Castello (David Corenswet), an aspiring actor who, just back from the war, finds a more unsavory line of work to tide him over while lining up outside the Paramount (sorry, generic studio) gates. (...)

20 Overflowing with soapy situations and steamy sex, "Hollywood" is perhaps most enjoyable for the real-life figures that pass through these characters' lives, usually to help showcase the most inequitable aspects of the bad old days.

Impeccably cast from top to bottom, the backdrop creates plenty of juicy cameos for actors as stars from the '40s and '50s. Of course, that will mean more to viewers who can appreciate spot-on portrayals of actresses like Tallulah Bankhead (Paget  
25 Brewster) or Anna May Wong (Michelle Krusiec), or who'll get a kick from the star-studded guest list at director George Cukor's beyond-wild parties. (...)

"Hollywood" nevertheless begins to stumble toward the end, though it does succeed in getting you to think about the Butterfly Effect -- how changes in the timeline, here or there, might have altered the world, and more particularly the entertainment industry,  
30 in fundamental ways. (...)

Then again, in this age of abundant streaming content seeking to break through, "Hollywood" is really a sign of the times.

<sup>1</sup> soapy = melodramatic

## #2 Why Ryan Murphy Wanted to Rewrite *Hollywood*

In **Ryan Murphy's** *Hollywood*, the straight white male lead, played by **David Corenswet**, doesn't get the typical showbiz happy ending. He doesn't walk away with the trophy, it's the underdogs that come out on top. "It's a wonderful universe to create. And I don't know, I would say I write, not about the world that I live in, but the world I want to live in, and this is a world I wanted to live in," Murphy said about *Hollywood* in a phone interview.

*Hollywood*, a seven-episode miniseries created by Murphy and **Ian Brennan**, follows a mix of actors, writers, producers and executives in the 1940s all trying to make it big in the business. There are actors playing real-life *Hollywood* figures, like **Jack Picking** as **Rock Hudson** and **Jim Parsons** as **Henry Willson**, mixed with fictional players like **Darren Criss** as Raymond Ainsley and **Patti LuPone** as Avis Amberg. The action follows the making of a movie, *Meg*, the creation of stars, and in the end, Murphy, and Brennan rewrite Hollywood history. (...)

Murphy's desire to explore buried Hollywood history "dovetailed with a conversation I had one night with Darren Criss. We just talked about all of these people who were not able to be open with their sexuality or their fetishes or their fantasies. Everybody had to sort of hide in the shadows and pretend to be one thing, which was white, homogenized, straight. And if you were not that thing, and you couldn't keep that thing hidden, you would be punished," Murphy said. "We created an alternative universe where people who are marginalized won, and that was very powerful to do, really powerful and emotional to do."

Murphy said several scenes in the show got reaction off camera from the assembled cast and crew. "It was a very emotional experience to make it because you felt, in many ways, this was our attempt to sort of right some wrongs. I just really believe that idea that if those people had been allowed to be who they were and be authentically themselves...If what had happened at the end of episode seven actually happened, I think our world would be a different place because I think Hollywood is a teacher, and sets so many rules," he said.

Much of the issues explored in *Hollywood* are still at play in the industry in 2020. "I think this show shows how far we've come and how far we have to go. You have to remember not too long ago, Emma Stone was playing an Asian woman...And a lot of this show, our show, talks about the power of representation...When people who look like you and act like you and love like you are accepted and validated, you are accepted and validated because you can't be what you can't see. I always felt that way growing up, I felt like an alien because I didn't have any role models," Murphy said. "And if Rock Hudson could have been out and gay and successful in the 1970s, when I was a kid, it would have changed the path of my life, you know? I would not have felt so alone. I would not have felt so alone in my struggle. So, I think that's a very powerful thing to do."



### #3 The Problem With Netflix's 'Hollywood' Fantasy Is That It's Just That—a Fantasy

Ryan Murphy's new Netflix show *Hollywood* has arrived, finally, after literal months of hype. The show follows a group of up-and-coming Hollywood talent and their industry veteran counterparts as they work together to make a movie that breaks literally all the barriers in 1940s Hollywood (some of which still exist today). While Murphy was probably aiming to create an inspiring series that demonstrates what Hollywood could be, it'll actually leave you with a pit in your stomach and a deep existential dread about what it all means. At least, if you can peel your eyes away from the plethora of hot dudes long enough to actually pay attention.

Each character in the show represents a minority group, and they all pose the question, "How can you really make it in Hollywood if you're [blank]?" But then, for all of them, they *do* make it, and they end up creating a wildly successful movie that gives a false sense that the industry is now fixed. The head of the studio responsible for financing the movie is a woman, for example. The lead actress is a woman of color, and the screenwriter is a Black man. The director is half Filipino. One of the actors in the movie is openly gay. The rosy tint the show puts on Tinseltown and the potential it has to make progress works for a while, until it doesn't.

By showing the characters seemingly overcoming all the obstacles put in their way, the show's creators undercut the very real struggles of the stories they're trying to tell. It almost asserts that if you could just make the right movie, hire the right writer, pick the right lead actor and actress, you could win all the awards and solve all the representational problems. Not only is that false, but it's also a dangerous idea that gives too much power to systems that don't deserve it, like, IDK, the Academy Awards. The solution to Hollywood's problems doesn't come in the form of a little gold statue, and it can't be summed up in a seven-part miniseries for Netflix.

So my question is, what is the goal here? Is the show merely a way for Murphy and his collaborator Ian Brennan to tell Hollywood to do better now, in 2020? Is it supposed to make us all feel guilty for the way the industry functioned in the 1940s even though none of us were alive when that happened? Is it purely a thought exercise? And for those of us who don't work in Hollywood and don't green-light scripts and don't make casting decisions, what are we actually supposed to take away from this?

The fantasy of *Hollywood* is just that—a total fantasy. At the end of the day, the message it's sending is that in a fictional world, you can break all the glass ceilings if you just try hard enough. Real life, as we know, is a very different story.

## #4 Netflix's new show 'Hollywood' is potentially dangerous

It may look like a visual feast, but Netflix's new limited-series Hollywood is a potentially dangerous watch.

We need to talk about "Hollywood" – the most dishonest, delusional, self-important and potentially destructive alternative-reality TV series to be spat out by Netflix during this endless pandemic.

How could show creator Ryan Murphy, backed by a stellar cast including the awesome Darren Criss, hilarious Jim Parsons and Broadway veteran Patti LuPone, get this tale from Hollywood's Golden Age so insufferably wrong?

Set in the world's film capital circa 1947, the show does a top-down rewrite of the soul-crushing, heart-stomping, life-threatening evils that ruled over Tinseltown back in the day.

It's as if some magic wand descended from the heavens and – poof! – eliminated the homophobia that prevented movie star Rock Hudson from openly living as the gay man he was.

Gone is the anti-Asian racism that denied a meaningful career to the tragic Anna May Wong. And erased to the point of ludicrousness is the unhinged sexism that drove actress Peg Entwistle to jump to her death from the iconic Hollywoodland sign.

This all really happened. But Murphy & Crew simply sprinkle fairy dust over the California swamp, and so much ugly history simply vanishes or is changed beyond recognition.

Everything that was (and maybe still is) wrong with La La Land is simply wished away. And then, by extension, all the isms and phobias that have plagued America and the rest of the world follow suit, and disappear, too, as Hollywood leads the planet into evolving into one big woke and diverse utopia by the time the end credits roll.

What a crock<sup>1</sup>. *Hollywood*, which seems destined for a number of self-congratulatory Emmy Awards, got a whole lot of things criminally wrong.

I can only hope *Hollywood* suffers the same fate this offensive series bestowed on actual Hollywood. Let it be ignored.

<sup>1</sup> crock, US (offensive): something that is not true

## b) Is the California Dream finished? A harsh reality – climate change and economic threats

### Op-ed<sup>1</sup> – Is the California dream finished?

*Is the California dream a myth? Extraordinarily high housing costs and low-wage jobs are the biggest drivers of poverty and staggering inequality in Los Angeles County and throughout coastal California.*

For all the persistent rhetoric from California's leaders about this state being on the cutting edge of social and racial justice, the reality on the ground is far grimmer. (...)

5 Even before the pandemic, California topped the nation in the widest gap between middle and upper-middle income earners and has become progressively more unequal in recent years. But its greatest shame is the prevalence of poverty amid enormous affluence. California's poverty rate, adjusted for cost of living, is the highest of any state and was higher in 2019 than in 2007.

10 California's political leaders like to talk about racial justice, but Latino and Black populations bear the brunt<sup>2</sup> of the pain. And by some measures, such as minority home ownership, California remains far behind states such as Texas, Michigan, Arizona and Florida.

Gov. Gavin Newsom and state lawmakers should stop trying to sell the myth of the California dream. On its current trajectory, this state is socially, fiscally and economically unsustainable.

15 The biggest drivers of California's poverty and staggering inequality are low-wage jobs and extraordinarily high housing costs. But it's not too late to change course if state policies that help create these twin crises are rolled back.

Joel Kotkin and Marshall Toplansky, July 12, 2020, [www.latimes.com](http://www.latimes.com)

<sup>1</sup> **Op-ed**: a [piece](#) of writing that [expresses](#) a [personal opinion](#) and is usually [printed](#) in a [newspaper](#)

<sup>2</sup> **Brunt** = main force

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**California Governor: Hundreds of Wildfires Blazing Statewide**

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