

0. Go West: U.S. Westward Expansion - Story Preface

1. THE AMERICAN WILDERNESS
2. SCENES OF UNSPOILED BEAUTY
3. FREE LAND!
4. WAGON TRAINS GO WEST
5. TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILROAD
6. THE RAILROAD IS FINISHED
7. TRAINS GO WEST
8. PEOPLE GO WEST
9. WESTERN TOWNS
10. THE PRICE of FREE LAND

Pulpit Terraces at Yellowstone, in 1898, by the Detroit Photographic Company. Image now maintained at the Library of Congress.

*Go West, young man,
and
Grow up with the country.*

John L. Soule, *Terre Haute Express*, Editorial, 1851

John Soule, an editor for the *Terre Haute Express*, coined the “Go west, young man” phrase which remains part of America’s vocabulary.

Ten years later, while much of today’s Western United States was still a “foreign area,” Horace Greeley also urged his *New York Tribune* readers:

If you have no family or friends to aid you...Turn your face to the Great West and there build up your home and fortune.

Greeley reprinted Soule’s editorial in the *New York Tribune* and, forever after, people have wrongly given the future American presidential candidate credit (scroll down 50%) for the famous line.

Many young men and women took Soule’s advice. Using primary sources (mostly from U.S. archives), this story depicts the dangers and rewards of their great westward trek.

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Go-West-U.S.-Westward-Expansion)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Go-West-U.S.-Westward-Expansion>

See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/Go-West-U.S.-Westward-Expansion)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/Go-West-U.S.-Westward-Expansion>

Media Stream



Map of the United States - Depicts Territorial Growth

Image online, courtesy the [University of Texas](http://www.utexas.edu) at Austin website.

View this asset at:

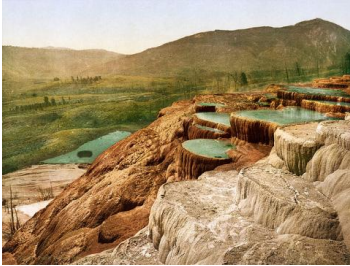
<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Map-of-the-United-States-Depicts-Territorial-Growth>



Horace Greeley

Image online, courtesy the Library of Congress.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Horace-Greeley0>



Go West: U.S. Westward Expansion

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Go-West-U.S.-Westward-Expansion-Illustration->