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In the summer of 1871, the artist Thomas Moran joined the U.S. Geological Survey of the Territories. Ferdinand V. Hayden headed this scientific exploration of lands along the Yellowstone River in northwestern Wyoming and southeastern Montana. Having an artist with the group helped to stimulate public interest. This image depicts a chromolithograph (by L. Prang & Co.) of Moran's painting, "The Great Blue Spring of the Lower Geyser Basin, Yellowstone."

As pioneers and explorers began to "Go West," the American government, through the U.S. Geological Survey, commissioned a study of the territories. Some of the best artists of the day took part and have left us with incredible scenes of unspoiled beauty.

- The Tower of Tower Falls at Yellowstone (By Thomas Moran, artist, of L. Prang & Co.)
- Grand Canyon at Yellowstone (Thomas Moran)
- Valley of Babbling Waters, southern Utah (Thomas Moran)
- Great Falls of Snake River, Idaho Territory (Thomas Moran)
- Yellowstone Lake (Thomas Moran)
- <u>Tower Falls and Sulphur Mountain</u> at Yellowstone (Thomas Moran)
- Hot Springs of Gardiner's River at Yellowstone (Thomas Moran)
- The Great Blue Spring of the Lower Geyser Basin at Yellowstone (Thomas Moran)
- Summit of the Sierras, Nevada (Thomas Moran)
- <u>Musquito Trail</u> in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado (Thomas Moran)
- The Mountain of the Holy Cross in Colorado (Thomas Moran)
- The Great Salt Lake, Utah (Thomas Moran)

- Lower Yellowstone Range (Thomas Moran)
- Crater of the Castle Geyser (William Henry Jackson)
- 1864 California Sunset Scenery (Albert Bierstadt, artist, of L. Prang & Co.)
- 1863 Rocky Mountains (Albert Bierstadt, artist; James David Smillie, engraver)
- The "Bridal Veil Fall" at Yosemite Valley (F. F. Palmer for Courier & Ives)
- The Rocky Mountains in 1871 (W. Whitteredge, artist; R. Hinshelwood, engraver)
- Great Falls of the Yellow Stone River (William Henry Jackson)
- Camp in Cache Valley, Wasatch Mountains (William Henry Jackson)

Beyond gorgeous landscapes, soaring mountains and the <u>astonishing Grand Canyon</u>, "The West" offered a place for people to start a new life. With little regard for existing ownership rights - such as tribal lands belonging to Native Americans - the United States government announced the "Homestead Act." "Free land," in other words, was there for the taking (as long as an individual met certain requirements). Let's investigate how the system worked.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/SCENES-OF-UNSPOILED-BEAUTY-Go-West-U.S.-Westw</u> <u>ard-Expansion</u>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/SCENES-OF-UNSPOILED-BEAUTY-Go-West-U.S.-Westwa rd-Expansion

Media Stream



<u>Tower of Tower Falls - by Thomas Moran</u> Image online, U.S. National Archives. View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Tower-of-Tower-Falls-by-Thomas-Moran



<u>Grand Canyon - by Thomas Moran</u> Image online, courtesy U.S. National Archives. View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Grand-Canyon-by-Thomas-Moran</u>



<u>Great Falls - by Thomas Moran</u> Image online, courtesy U.S. National Archives. View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Great-Falls-by-Thomas-Moran

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Valley-of-Babbling-Waters-by-Thomas-Moran











<u>Yellowstone Lake - by Thomas Moran</u> Image online, courtesy U.S. National Archives. View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Yellowstone-Lake-by-Thomas-Moran</u>

Valley of Babbling Waters - by Thomas Moran

Image online, courtesy U.S. National Archives.

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<u>Tower Falls and Sulphur Mountain - by Thomas Moran</u> Image online, courtesy U.S. National Archives. View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Tower-Falls-and-Sulphur-Mountain-by-Thomas-Moran</u>

<u>Hot Springs of Gardiner's River - by Thomas Moran</u> Image online, courtesy U.S. National Archives. View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Hot-Springs-of-Gardiner-s-River-by-Thomas-Moran</u>

<u>Great Blue Spring - by Thomas Moran</u> Image online, courtesy U.S. National Archives. View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Great-Blue-Spring-by-Thomas-Moran

<u>Musquito Trail - by Thomas Moran</u> Image online, courtesy the U.S. National Archives. View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Musquito-Trail-by-Thomas-Moran</u>



<u>Summit of the Sierras - by Thomas Moran</u> Image online, courtest the U.S. National Archives. View this asset at:

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<u>Albert Bierstadt</u> Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons. View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Albert-Bierstadt</u>

<u>Bridal Veil Fall - by F.R. Palmer</u> Image online, courtesy the U.S. Library of Congress. View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Bridal-Veil-Fall-by-F.R.-Palmer</u>



<u>California Sunset - by Albert Bierstadt</u> Image online, courtesy the U.S. Library of Congress. View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/California-Sunset-by-Albert-Bierstadt



<u>Camp in Cache Valley - by William Henry Jackson</u> Image online, courtesy the U.S. National Archives. View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Camp-in-Cache-Valley-by-William-Henry-Jackson











<u>Crater of the Castle Geyser - by William Henry Jackson</u> Image online, courtesy the U.S. Library of Congress.

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<u>Great Falls - by William Henry Jackson</u> Image online, courtesy the U.S. Library of Congress. View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Great-Falls-by-William-Henry-Jackson

<u>Great Salt Lake - by Thomas Moran</u> Image online, courtesy the U.S. Library of Congress. View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Great-Salt-Lake-by-Thomas-Moran</u>

Lower Yellowstone Range - by Thomas Moran Image online, courtesy, the U.S. Library of Congress. View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Lower-Yellowstone-Range-by-Thomas-Moran

<u>Mountain of the Holy Cross - by Thomas Moran</u> Image online, courtesy the U.S. Library of Congress. View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Mountain-of-the-Holy-Cross-by-Thomas-Moran



<u>Rocky Mountains - by Albert Bierstadt</u> Image online, courtesy the U.S. Library of Congress. View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Rocky-Mountains-by-Albert-Bierstadt



<u>Rocky Mountains - by W. Whitteredge</u> Image online, courtesy the U.S. Library of Congress. View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Rocky-Mountains-by-W.-Whitteredge</u>