Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Westward Video Questions**

1. What is the most valuable commodity in the west?

2. What does the freezing Rocky Mountain water do to beaver pelts?

3. How many calories are needed each day to survive as a trapper in the west?

4. What animal is the most deadly frontier beast?

5. One of the paths used by Jedediah Smith survives today as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

6. What was and is the “American Dream”, according to the video?

7. What is the “greatest toll of all” on the trails west?

8. Who is the leader of the wagon train heading west in June of 1846?

9. What is the final obstacle of the wagon train’s journey?

10. How many miles does “Hastings Cutoff” supposedly cut off from the trek west? How many miles does it actually add?

11. What did the members of the Donner party turn to as a food source after all of their other options had been exhausted (pack animals, charred bones, twigs, bark leaves, dirt)?

12. What precious metal (hidden under the Sierra Nevada) changed the west?

13. What North American nation was an even bigger superpower than the United States in the 1830s?

14. What message did the Mexican government hope the Alamo would send to Americans? What did America hear?

15. What did the discovery of gold do to the population of California?

16. How many years did the Gold Rush actually last?

17. What happened to the Native Americans in 1830 under President Andrew Jackson?

18. What new invention transformed the Mississippi River, the Midwest, and ultimately America?

**AFTER WATCHING…**

Read the excerpt below and then discuss and answer the questions below with your small group:

**Excerpt from Jedediah Smith’s Journal from his Second Expedition to California**

*20th I went with the Trappers within a mile of the place where I struck the river on the last Apl. Above that there was no Beaver sign but considerable from the camp up to that place.*

*I saw some indians on the opposite side of the river but they ran off. The river was quite rapid and the rushing of the water brought fresh to my remembrance the cascades of Mt. Joseph and the unpleasant times I had passed there when surrounded by the snow which continued falling. My horses freezing, my men discouraged and our utmost exertion necessary to keep from freezing to death. I then thought of the vanity of riches and of all those objects that lead men in the perilous paths of adventure. It seems that in times like those men return to reason and make the true estimate of things. they throw by the gaudy baubles of ambition and embrace the solid comforts of domestic life. But a few days of rest makes the sailor forget the storm and embark again on the perilous Ocean and I suppose that like him I would soon become weary of rest.*

19. Summarize this journal entry in your own words.

20. Based on this entry, how would you describe Smith’s personality?