

# *Manifest Destiny Worksheet*

*Directions:* Read the passage below & then answer the questions below using complete sentences.

Texas has been absorbed into the Union in the inevitable fulfillment of the general law which is rolling our population westward....It was disintegrated from Mexico in the natural course of events, by a process perfectly legitimate on its own part, blameless on ours....(its) incorporation into the Union was not only inevitable, but the most natural, right and proper thing in the world....California will, probably, next fall away from ....Mexico....A population will soon be in actual occupation of California, over which it will be idle for Mexico to dream of dominion....All this without agency of our government, without responsibility of our people in the natural flow of events, the spontaneous working of principles, and the adaptation of the tendencies and wants of the human race to the elemental circumstances in the midst of which they find themselves placed.

The American claim is by the right of our manifest destiny to overspread and to possess the whole continent which Providence (fate) has given us for the development of the great experiment of liberty.

– John L. O’Sullivan, editor of the *Democratic Review* (1845)

1. What did O’Sullivan say about the prospect of Mexico maintaining control over California?

---

---

---

2. According to O’Sullivan, what is “manifest destiny”?

---

---

---

3. What is the purpose of manifest destiny according to O’Sullivan?

---

---

---