

## Assessing with Primary Sources

**Grade Level:** Middle School (6-8)

**Standard(s) or Objectives:** CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.6.1 - Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

### Library of Congress Resources:



George Croft, *American Progress*, 1873.

<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/97507547/>

### Topic Background:

In the nineteenth century, the United States expanded its territory westward at a dramatic pace, leading to conflict, national growth, and ongoing cultural exchange within a transformed continent.

Excerpted from:

[http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/primarysourcesets/westward/pdf/teacher\\_guide.pdf](http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/primarysourcesets/westward/pdf/teacher_guide.pdf)

### Source Used:

Print shows an allegorical female figure of America leading pioneers westward, as they travel on foot, in a stagecoach, conestoga wagon, and by railroads, where they encounter Native Americans and herds of bison.

Excerpted From: <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/97507547/>

### Answer Key:

The Successful Student will:

1. States the given claim in his or her response.
2. Cites at least one specific piece of evidence from the document to support the claim.
3. Provide a justification for the given evidence. I.e. Student explains *why* the evidence he or she provided supports the claim.

### Possible Answer:

This 1873 illustration is in favor of American westward expansion. The mythical looking woman tells me that this illustration is in favor of westward expansion. She appears to be bringing progress and technology from the east to the west. The artist makes the areas of progress seem favorable by depicting them in light as opposed to darkness.

**Westward Expansion**  
**George Crofutt, *American Progress*, 1873**



**Question:**

Cite one specific piece of evidence from the document that supports the following claim (CCSS RI.6.1):

*Claim: This 1873 illustration is in favor of American westward expansion.*

Your response should contain three (3) components: 1) State the claim that is being made. 2) Identify one specific piece of evidence from the document that supports the claim. 3) Explain *why* the evidence you have selected supports the claim.

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