Push and Pull factors for immigrants to migrate to the West from the East

Push:
- The Population of the east coast was becoming crowded
- In 1847 the USA suffered an Economic Depression. Banks collapsed in the eastern cities and people lost all their money
- Unemployment was increasing in the USA and wages cut by 40%
- Farmers in the East experienced a drop in their income as the price of corn and wheat fell

Pull:
- Mountain men like Jim Bridger had discovered safe routes across the rocky mountains and the sierra nevadas
- Mountain men like Jim Bridger earned their living guiding wagon trains
- The journey across the Great Plains offered people a sense of freedom and adventure
- California had huge areas of fertile land and fruit such as grapes, peaches, apples, pears and figs easily grew
- The mountain men said that the sun always shone in California
- Missionaires wanted to converter of the Natives to Christianity
- The mountain men said that Oregon had a never ending supply of furs, fertile land and rivers full of fish
- In 1842 the government of the USA passed a Pre-emption Bill for land in Oregon. If a farmer squatted on land, but a house and cleared the trees, he was guaranteed to be able to buy the land cheaply from the government