Class 5

The U.S.A.
Part 1: The South
Context
What/where is the South?

- Definition and location quite unclear: “Why No One Can Really Agree Where the South Is,” Business Insider, 2018
- Can correspond to the ex-Confederate States
- OR to the states where kuzdu (a plant) grows
- OR to the Baptist counties
- OR to the places where you can find “Dixie” in businesses
- Usually corresponds to the 11 States of the Confederacy:
  - Louisiana
  - Georgia
  - Mississippi
  - Alabama
  - North Carolina
  - South Carolina
  - Texas
  - Virginia
  - Tennessee
  - Arkansas
  - Florida
The US South

The 11 States of the Confederacy
North: industry  
South: agriculture, thus relied on slavery  

1854: the Kansas Nebraska Act allowed the expansion of slavery in all new American territories. The North was opposed to it.  
The Southern states seceded between 1860 and 1861  
1865: slavery abolished in the US  
620,000 killed, deadliest conflict on the American soil
Gone With the Wind, the book

- Written by Margaret Mitchell
- Published in 1936
- 1,037 pages
- Main characters: Scarlett O’Hara and Rhett Butler
- Popularity: More than 30 million copies printed worldwide
- Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1937.
Gone With the Wind, the movie

- Released in 1939
- Directed by Victor Fleming
- Received 10 Academy Awards (out of 13 nominations)
Written Comprehension
“Gone With the Wind and Controversy: What You Need to Know”

- Jason BAILEY
- The New York Times
- Published June 10, 2020, updated May 25, 2021

1. Read the article and sum it up in French.

2. What is Gone With the Wind about? What happened to the movie? Why?
Oral Comprehension
“Gone With the Wind Fans Go Crazy Over Possible Ban,” Inside Edition
Part 2: The West
Context
What is the West?

- The Frontier: “It is characterized by the westward movement of European settlers (colons) from their original settlements on the Atlantic coast (17th century) to the Far West (19th century)” (Britannica)

- The notion of Frontier was theorized by Frederick Jackson Turner in “The Significance of the Frontier in American History” (1893)
A (brief) chronology of the Westward Expansion

- **1805**: Lewis and Clark reach the Pacific Ocean
- **1830**: Indian Removal Act - “Congress passes a law to move Native Americans from the Southeast to the west of the Mississippi River.”
- **1838**: Trail of Tears - “The Cherokee Nation is forced to march from the east coast to Oklahoma. Many thousands die along the way”.
- **1841**: Oregon Trail - “People begin to travel west in wagon trains on the Oregon Trail. Around 300,000 people would take the trail over the next 20 years”.
- **1846-1848**: The Mexican-American War - “A war fought over the rights to Texas. After the war, the United States paid Mexico $15 million for land that would later become California, Texas, Arizona, Nevada, Utah, and parts of several other states.”
- **1848**: The Gold Rush begins.
- The Homestead Act (1862): Public lands were given to individuals, they only had to farm them for five years. This led to thousands of settlers heading West.
- **1890**: “The U.S. Government announces that the Western lands have been explored.”
It is characterized by the westward movement of European settlers from their original settlements on the Atlantic coast (17th century) to the Far West (19th century).
Oral Comprehension
“Taylor Sheridan, the cowboy behind Yellowstone,” CBS Sunday Morning
Sources

- About the West:
  - [https://www.history.com/topics/westward-expansion](https://www.history.com/topics/westward-expansion)
  - [https://www.ducksters.com/history/westward_expansion/timeline.php](https://www.ducksters.com/history/westward_expansion/timeline.php)
  - A short video about the West

- About the South:
  - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8kxJ_24Z-PQ&ab_channel=FordFoundation](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8kxJ_24Z-PQ&ab_channel=FordFoundation)
  - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lg9ayD1ERIA&t=102s&ab_channel=VisitTheUSA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lg9ayD1ERIA&t=102s&ab_channel=VisitTheUSA)
  - [https://www.britannica.com/place/the-South-region](https://www.britannica.com/place/the-South-region)
  - [https://www.history.com/topics/american-civil-war/american-civil-war-history](https://www.history.com/topics/american-civil-war/american-civil-war-history)