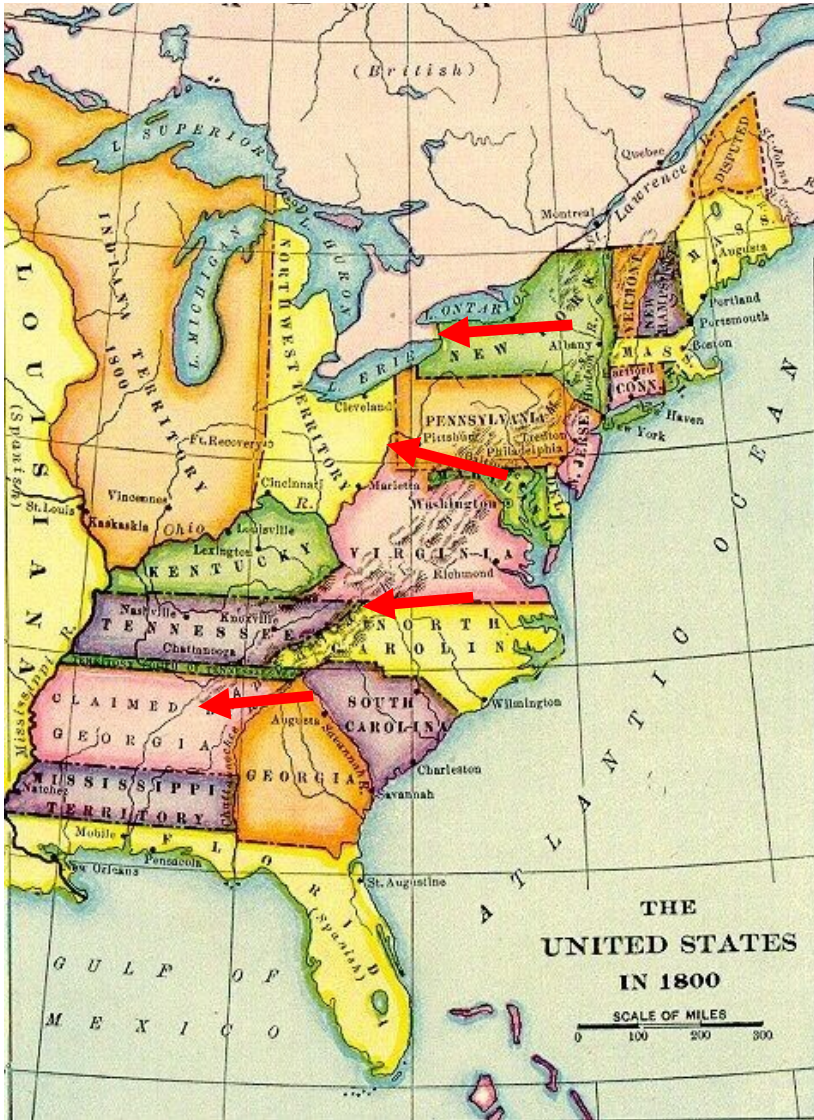


The Routes West

There were limited routes west between 1790 and 1840. They were dictated by geography. Settlers followed rivers and the few natural gaps in the Appalachian Mountains. In an age before railroads, these natural pathways determined the initial make-up of the population that settled in the trans-Appalachian west.



Settlers from the original thirteen colonies primarily used the following routes west:

1. New England & New York - Mohawk River Valley/Erie Canal to Lake Erie
2. Middle States & Virginia - National Road, Forbes Road & Potomac River Valley to the Ohio River
3. Virginia & North Carolina - Cumberland Gap to Kentucky & Tennessee
4. Carolinas & Georgia - South of the Appalachians to Mississippi & Alabama