8th Grade American Studies

Unit 8 – Westward Expansion

The Mexican-American War (WS 8.7)

Directions: Using pages 354-363 in your textbook, please complete the following activity.
Manifest Destiny:
Define Manifest Destiny:

**OBVIOUS FATE THAT THE U.S. WOULD CONTROL ALL OF THE LANDS BETWEEN THE ATLANTIC & PACIFIC OCEANS**

What was the relationship between slavery and Manifest Destiny?

**AS THE U.S. GAINED MORE LANDS, WOULD SLAVERY BE ALLOWED?**
Who won the election of 1844 and why?

**JAMES K. POLK – HE WAS SEEN AS THE “EXPANSIONIST” CANDIDATE**

What were two reasons why many Americans wanted to annex the Oregon Country?

**LARGE AMERICAN POPULATION IN THE REGION**
**OREGON WOULD PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A PACIFIC PORT CITY**

What did the slogan 54° 40´ or Fight mean?

**THIS SLOGAN REFERRED TO THE LINE OF LATITUDE TO WHICH AMERICANS WANTED THE NORTHERN BORDER OF OREGON TO EXTEND**
Why did the Texas government want to become a part of the United States?

**THEY BELIEVED THE U.S. GOV’T WOULD HELP WITH ECONOMIC & MILITARY PROBLEMS/RESPONSIBILITIES**

How did Mexico feel about the U.S. annexation of Texas?

**THEY FELT TEXAS WAS A “STOLEN PROVENCE”**
Who were the Vaqueros?

**MEXICAN COWBOYS, WHO MANAGED HERD OF CATTLE & SHEEP**

Who were the Californios?

**SPANISH COLONISTS IN CALIFORNIA IN THE EARLY 1800’S**
Mexican-American War
What issue of dispute did the United States and Mexico have leading up to the war?

THE BORDER BETWEEN TEXAS & MEXICO
(U.S. BELIEVED IT WAS RIO GRANDE; MEXICO SAID NUECES RIVER)

What event actually started the Mexican-American War?

GEN. Z. TAYLOR MARCHED U.S. TROOPS TO THE RIO GRANDE – MEXICO VIEWED THIS AS A HOSTILE ACT
Describe U.S. Army at the beginning of the Mexican-American War.

**BETTER WEAPONS & EQUIPMENT THAN MEXICO, BUT HEAVILY OUTNUMBERED BY MEXICO**

What two groups opposed the U.S. war with Mexico and WHY did they feel this way?

**NORTHERN ABOLITIONISTS & THE WHIGS - THEY BELIEVED IT WOULD LEAD TO THE SPREAD OF SLAVERY**

Who was Zachary Taylor and what role did he play in the Mexican-American War?

**GENERAL OF THE U.S. ARMY IN THE MEXICAN-AMERICAN WAR**
What events led up to the Bear Flag Revolt?

AMERICAN SETTLERS SEIZE CONTROL OF TOWN OF SONOMA; TOOK HORSES THAT WERE SUPPOSED TO GO THE MEXICAN MILITIA

What was the Bear Flag Revolt?

A REVOLT AGAINST MEXICO BY AMERICAN SETTLERS IN CALIFORNIA WHO DECLARED THE TERRITORY AN INDEPENDENT REPUBLIC

Who was John C. Frémont?

AMERICAN EXPLORER & ARMY OFFICER WHO HELPED THE AMERICANS IN THE BEAR FLAG REVOLT
What were TWO (2) effects of the Battle of Buena Vista?

1.) **U.S. GAINED CONTROL OF NORTHERN MEXICO**
2.) **GEN. Z. TAYLOR WAS RELIEVED OF HIS COMMAND OF THE U.S. ARMY – TOP COMMAND WENT TO WINFIELD SCOTT**

Who was Winfield Scott?

**U.S. GENERAL WHO REPLACED TAYLOR AS HEAD OF U.S. TROOPS IN MEXICO; LED A SOUTHERN CAMPAIGN IN MEXICAN-AMERICAN WAR**

What were the locations of the last two battles of the war?

**VERACRUZ & MEXICO CITY**
American Settlement in the Mexican Cession
What treaty resolved the war, and what were the terms of the treaty?

TREATY OF GUADALUPE-HIDALGO
• U.S GOT MEXICAN CESSION (MOST OF PRESENT-DAY SW U.S.) FOR $15 MILLION
• U.S. GOV’T AGREED TO PAY $3 MILLION OWED IN PRIVATE DEBTS TO MEXICO
• MEXICANS LIVING IN THE “MEXICAN CESSION” WOULD BE GRANTED CIVIL LIBERTIES
What was the Mexican Cession?

**LAND GIVEN TO THE U.S. AS PART OF THE TREATY OF GUADALUPE-HIDALGO**
**LANDS THAT MADE UP MOST OF TODAY’S WEST/SW STATES**

Where was the Gadsden Purchase and why was it purchased?

**SOUTHERN PARTS OF ARIZONA & NEW MEXICO**
**PURCHASED FOR $10 MILLION TO BUILD A SOUTHERN TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILROAD**
What conflicts did American settlers, Native Americans and Mexican Americans in the Mexican Cession experience?

• **LEGAL, ECONOMIC & SOCIAL DISCRIMINATION**

• **DISPUTES OVER LAND RIGHTS & OWNERSHIP**

• **LACK OF RESPECT FOR NATIVE CULTURE & TRADITIONS**
Why were water rights so important in the American Southwest?

**DRY CLIMATE OF THE WEST DID NOT ALLOW FOR LARGE-SCALE AGRICULTURE. DAMS, CANALS, & IRRIGATION WERE NECESSARY TO MOVE WATER TO FIELDS. THIS WENT AGAINST TRADITIONAL PRACTICES OF THE EAST.**