8 th Grade American Studies
Unit 7 – Westward Expansion
Topic: The Mexican-American War

Name		
Date		
Period		

Directions: Using pages 354 – 363, please complete the following activity.

What was Manifest Destiny? (Obvious Fate)				
A belief shared by many Americans in the mid-1800's that the United States should expand across the continent to the Pacific Ocean				
Who won the Presidency in 1844?	What new territories did the U.S. acquire during this period?			
James K. Polk	Oregon Territory Texas California Most of the present-day Southwest			

	The Mexican-American War	The Bear Flag Revolt
What "issue" or "dispute" started the conflict?	Border dispute Mexico said that the border was the Nueces River, the U.S. said it was the Rio Grande	American settlers stole horses from the Mexican militia stationed in Sonoma, CA
What happened? (Basic details / description of the event)	War was very "political" in the U.S. ("slavery issue") General Zachary Taylor led the U.S. Army Taylor won early battles south of the Nueces River, then stalled (waiting for more troops) Gen. Stephen Kearny attacked Santa Fe, then headed to CA Taylor was fired by Polk (became to popular), replaced with Gen. Winfield Scott.	June, 1846, American settlers declared California to be an independent republic John Fremont (U.S. Army surveyor) joined the revolt July, 1846 Gen. Kearny arrived and helped gain control of San Diego, Los Angeles, & San Francisco August, 1846, the U.S. Navy arrived and claimed California for the United States
How did the conflict come to an end?	Gen. Scott sailed into Veracruz, then moved on Mexico City. Long, fierce battle at Mexico City, but the U.S. took the city on 9/14/1847	See Above

	Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo	Gadsden Purchase
What was it?	Treaty that officially ended the Mexican- American War; forced Mexico to turn over most of its northern lands These lands were known as the Mexican Cession (agreed to pay Mexico \$15 million)	Agreement with Mexico to buy the southern parts of present-day Arizona and New Mexico in order to build a southern transcontinental railroad. (\$10 million)
Why was it established?	Resolved the issues that started the war Gave to the U.S. claims to most of the present-day southwest)	Done in order to secure lands to build a southern transcontinental railroad, linking Texas with the Pacific Ocean (never completed)

What effect did these new land acquisitions have on Mexicans, Mexican-Americans, & Native Americans?

The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo promised to protect the property rights of Mexican-American residents, but differences in Mexican & U.S. laws led to problems

New settlers to the region tended to ignore Mexican legal concepts, such as community property & water rights

American settlers frequently took land from Native Americans

American settlers and Mexican-Americans & Native Americans became economically dependent on one another