

# 8<sup>th</sup> 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***