

Lesson 9

We will begin this week by reading Chapter Nine on Manifest Destiny from **pages 292-311**. This chapter is divided into 3 sections. Each section's focus and objective will be listed for you. As you read through your text, take appropriate notes to help prepare for tests.

Section 1: This section describes the nation's westward expansion.

Objectives: Discuss the inventions that made it easier to farm the plains. Analyze why Americans were willing to give up their lives in the East to move to the West.

Section 2: This section focuses on Texas settlers' efforts to gain independence from Mexico.

Objectives: Chronicle the opening of Texas to American settlers. Discuss major battles of the war against Mexico.

Section 3: This section explores the war with Mexico and its outcome.

Objectives: Describe the circumstances under which Texas and Oregon were admitted to the Union. Discuss the major events of the war with Mexico.

After you finish reading this chapter, go over your notes one last time to prepare for the test. Make sure you are clear on all focus points and that you feel comfortable with the material. Click on the link to complete the chapter test. Good luck!

U.S. History

Lesson 9



Manifest Destiny 1835-1848

Why It Matters



In this period, Americans strove to expand the nation's boundaries. Many believed they had a "manifest destiny" to spread democratic ideals.

Others simply wanted to go west to find a new and better life. In Texas, settlers came into conflict with Mexico, while those going west on the Oregon Trail came into conflict with Native Americans.



The Impact Today

Developments of the era have left a legacy for Americans.

- The nation now stretches from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean.
- Americans remain a restless people, ready to move to pursue economic opportunity.
- Many Americans continue to view themselves as destined to succeed and prosper.



The American Vision Video

The Chapter 9 video, "Manifest Destiny," chronicles the war between Texas and Mexico from the Mexican point of view.



The Western Pioneers



Mary Richardson Walker, a young woman from the East with a strong religious faith, wanted to serve God as a missionary to Native Americans. In April 1838 she and her husband started out from Missouri, bound for Oregon. After a 129-day trek along the Oregon Trail, they established a mission at Tshimakain near what is now Spokane, Washington, and began their efforts to convert the Nez Perce people to Christianity. She wrote in her diary of some of her experiences:

[Guide to Reading](#)

☺☺ January 21, 1839. The Indians have covered our house with grass & boughs & chinked it so that we are very comfortable.

August 5, 1839. I have just been exercising some [Nez Perce] boys in adding numbers. I never could make white children understand half as quick...

December 9, 1847. We were hoping to have Dr. Whitman to supper with us tonight. But about sunset, Old Solomon arrived bringing the sad intelligence that Dr. & Mrs. Whitman... & others have been murdered by the Indians... I do not see why I should expect to be preserved when more faithful servants are cut off. ☹☹

— quoted in *Women of the West*

Americans Head West

In 1800 only around 387,000 white settlers lived west of the Appalachian Mountains. By 1820 that number had grown to more than 2.4 million people, and the numbers continued to rise rapidly. By the time the Civil War began, more Americans lived west of the Appalachians than lived in states along the Atlantic coast.

Some Americans headed west for religious reasons. Others were lured by the chance to own their own farms. While most settled east of the Mississippi River, more than 250,000 Americans headed farther west, across the Great Plains and Rocky Mountains to California and the Pacific Northwest.

In 1845 a magazine editor named **John Louis O'Sullivan** declared that it was the "manifest destiny" of Americans "to overspread the continent allotted by Providence..." Many Americans believed in this concept of **Manifest Destiny** — the idea that God had given the continent to Americans and wanted them to settle western land.



Farming the New Lands

Early settlers marked out farms on the rich river bottom land. Others occupied fertile woodland soil. These pioneers became known as **squatters**, because they settled on lands they did not own. The federal government intended to survey the land and then sell large parcels to real estate companies, but squatters wanted to buy the land they occupied directly from the government.

Bowing to public pressure, Congress passed the Preemption Act of 1830, a renewable law made permanent in 1841. This law protected squatters by guaranteeing them the right to claim land before it was surveyed and

the right to buy up to 160 acres for the government's minimum price of \$1.25 per acre.

Plows and Reapers

A few decades earlier, farmers had only wooden plows to break the grass cover and roots of Midwestern sod. **Jethro Wood** patented an iron-bladed plow in 1819, and in 1837, **John Deere** engineered a plow with sharp-edged steel blades that cut cleanly through the sod. This reduced by half the labor needed to prepare an acre for farming.

Midwestern agriculture also received a boost from the mechanical reaper, which **Cyrus McCormick** patented in 1834. For centuries farmers had cut grain by hand using a sickle or a scythe—time-consuming and exhausting work. Switching from a sickle to a McCormick reaper pulled by horses or mules, farmers could harvest far more grain with far less effort.

Reading Check

Explaining How did Congress help squatters attain land in the West?

Answer

Settling the Pacific Coast

Latecomers to the Midwest set their sights on California and Oregon. This push to the Pacific Ocean happened partly because emigrants assumed that the treeless expanse of the Great Plains, which lay just beyond the frontier, contained poor land for farming.

Dividing Oregon

Other nations, as well as Native Americans, had already laid claim to parts of Oregon and California. In the case of Oregon, the United States and Great Britain competed for possession, though they had agreed in 1818 to occupy the land jointly and settle their disputes later. In the late 1830s, American missionaries began arriving in Oregon, hoping to convert Native Americans. It was these missionaries who first spread the word about Oregon, persuading many Easterners to come to the lush Willamette Valley.

Populating California

In 1821, after a bloody struggle, Mexico gained its independence from Spain. The new nation controlled a vast territory, including California, but that territory lay far from the central government in Mexico City. The local California government often relied on foreign settlers because it could not attract enough emigrants from Mexico. In 1839, hoping to attract more settlers, Juan Bautista Alvarado, governor of California, granted 50,000 acres (20,250 ha) in the Sacramento Valley to **John Sutter**, a German immigrant. There Sutter built a trading post and cattle ranch. Sutter's Fort — as it was called — was often the first stopping point for Americans reaching California. By 1845 more than 200 Americans had settled in California.

GEOGRAPHY

The Trails West

Much of the terrain between the frontier jumping-off points and the Pacific was difficult. A small number of trailblazers — mountain men like **Kit Carson** and **Jim Bridger** — made their living by trapping beaver and selling the furs to traders. At the same time they gained a thorough knowledge of the territory and the local Native Americans.



By the 1840s the mountain men had carved out several east-to-west passages that played a vital role in western settlement. The most popular route was the **Oregon Trail**. Others included the California Trail and the Santa Fe Trail.

Wagon Train Life

Emigrants made the journey in trains of covered wagons. Before starting out, the trains assembled at staging areas outside a frontier town. There, families exchanged information about routes, bought supplies, trained oxen, and practiced steering the cumbersome wagons, which new drivers were apt to tip over.



The first wagon trains hired mountain men to guide them. Once the trails became well worn, most of the travelers — known as **overlanders** — found their own way with the help of guidebooks written by earlier emigrants.



Sometimes the guidebooks were wrong, leading to tragedy. In 1846 a group of 87 overlanders, known as the **Donner Party** after the two brothers who led them, were trapped by winter snows high up in the Sierra Nevada. After 41 died of starvation, those still alive faced the choice of death or cannibalism. Many, in desperation, did resort to cannibalism in order to survive.

The typical trip west took five to six months, the wagon trains progressing about 15 miles (24 km) per day. Generally, men drove the wagons, hunted game, and bedded down the animals at night, while women looked after the children, cooked their families' food, cleaned the camp, and laundered the clothes. As Elizabeth Geer recalls here, the journey west was exhausting and difficult:

☺☺ I carry my babe and lead, or rather carry, another through snow, mud, and water, almost to my knees. It is the worst road... [T]here was not one dry thread on one of us — not even my babe... I have not told you half we suffered. I am not adequate to the task.☺☺

— quoted in *Women's Diaries of the Westward Journey*

Native Americans

Early travelers feared attacks by Native American warriors, but such encounters were rare. By one estimate 362 emigrants died due to Native American attacks between 1840 and 1860. The same estimate calculates that emigrants killed 426 Native Americans. In fact, Native Americans often gave emigrants gifts of food as well as helpful information about routes, edible plants, and sources of water. They often traded fresh horses for items such as cotton clothing and ammunition.

As the overland traffic increased, Native Americans on the Great Plains became concerned and angry over the threat immigration posed to their way of life. The Sioux, Cheyenne, Arapaho, and other groups relied on the buffalo for food, shelter, clothing, tools, and countless other necessities of everyday life. Now they feared that the increasing flow of American settlers across their hunting grounds would disrupt the age-old wanderings of the buffalo herds.

Hoping to ensure peace, the federal government negotiated the **Treaty of Fort Laramie** in 1851. Eight

Native American groups agreed to specific geographic boundaries, while the United States promised that these territories would belong to the Native Americans forever.

 **Reading Check**

Describing What were the difficulties facing Western settlers?

Answer

The Mormon Migration



Unlike those bound for the West Coast in search of land, the Mormons followed a deeply rooted American tradition — the quest for religious freedom. The Mormons, however, sought that freedom by leaving the United States.



In 1844, after a mob murdered Joseph Smith, the Church's leader, his successor **Brigham Young** decided to take his people west to escape further persecution. Several thousand Mormons forged their way along a path that became known as the **Mormon Trail**. Along with the Oregon Trail, it served as a valuable route into the western United States. In 1847 the Mormons stopped at the Great Salt Lake in what is now Utah. With the words "This is the place," Young declared that here the Mormons would build a new settlement. Undeterred by the wildness of the area, the Mormons staked a claim on the land they called "Deseret."



 **Reading Check**

Examining Why did the Mormons emigrate to the West?

Answer

SECTION 1 ASSESSMENT

Checking for Understanding

1. Define:

Manifest Destiny, squatter, overlander.

2. Identify:

John Louis O'Sullivan, Jethro Wood, John Deere, Cyrus McCormick, John Sutter, Kit Carson, Jim Bridger, Donner Party, Brigham Young.

3. Evaluate

how mountain men helped settle the West.

Reviewing Themes

4. Science and Technology

What two inventions made it easier to farm the frontier?

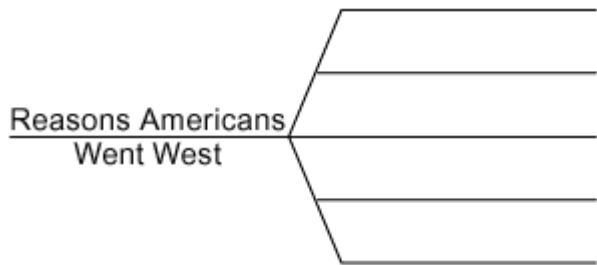
Critical Thinking

5. Synthesizing

How did the United States settle its land disputes with Great Britain and the Plains Indians?

6. Organizing

Use a graphic organizer similar to the one below to list the reasons why Americans emigrated to the West.



Analyzing Visuals

7. Examining Artifacts

Examine the feature about western migration on pages 296 and 297, especially the photo of a wagon's interior. Why would people need all of the items shown as they traveled west?

Writing About History

8. Descriptive Writing

Imagine that you emigrated from the East and are living on a frontier farm in the West. Write a letter to a friend in the East describing your daily life.

Email  My Answers

Print My Answers

TIME NOTEBOOK

MOVING WEST: 1816-1850

Eulogy



CHIEF JOSEPH, a leader of the Nez Perce of the Wallowa Valley in eastern Oregon, remembers his father, Old Joseph. The Nez Perce were forced to leave the Wallowa Valley less than a decade after Old Joseph's death.

MY FATHER SENT FOR ME. I SAW HE WAS DYING. I TOOK HIS HAND IN MINE. He said, "My son, my body is returning to my mother earth, and my spirit is going very soon to see the Great Spirit Chief. When I am gone, think of your country. You are the chief of these people. They look to you to guide them. Always remember that your father never sold his country. You must stop your ears whenever you are asked to sign a treaty selling your home. A few years more, and white men will be all around you. They have their eyes on this land. My son, never forget my dying words. This country holds your father's body. Never sell the bones of your father and your mother."

I pressed my father's hand and told him I would protect his grave with my life. My father smiled and passed to the spirit land.

I buried him in that beautiful valley of winding rivers. I love that land more than all the rest of the world. A man who would not love his father's grave is worse than a wild animal.

Baseball for Beginners



Thinking of taking up the new game of baseball? Watch out! The rules keep changing!



1845

- Canvas bases will be set 90 feet apart in a diamond shape.
- Only nine men will play on each side.
- Pitches are to be thrown underhanded.
- A ball caught on the first bounce is an out.

1846

- At first base, a fielder can tag the bag before the runner reaches it and so make an out.

1847

- Players may no longer throw the ball at a runner to put him out.



These changes may be coming:

- A poor pitch is a ball; nine balls gives the runner first base, a walk.
- A ball caught on the first bounce is no longer an out.

WESTERN WORD PLAY

Word Watch

Can you talk Western? Match the word to its meaning.

1. maverick
 2. Hangtown fry
 3. grubstake
 4. bonanza
 5. palo alto
 6. pard or rawwheel
- a. gold rush favorite, made of eggs, bacon, and oysters
 - b. inexperienced '49er, Eastern type not used to wearing boots
 - c. a lucky discovery of gold; a source of sudden wealth
 - d. a style of hat worn by gold rush miners
 - e. a lone dissenter who takes an independent stand, from the name of a Texas cattleman who left his herd unbranded
 - f. food provided by an investor to a gold prospector in exchange for a share of whatever gold he finds

Milestones

SETTLED, 1847. THE VALLEY OF THE GREAT SALT LAKE, by Brigham Young, leader of the Mormon Church, and a party of 143, to escape hostility toward their group in Illinois. Young plans to return to Council Bluffs, Iowa, and lead the rest of the members of his faith to a permanent home in Utah.

MOVED, 1845. HENRY DAVID THOREAU, writer, to Walden Pond, Concord, Massachusetts. Thoreau intends to build his own house on the shore of the pond and earn his living by the labor of his hands only. "Many of the so-called comforts of life," writes Thoreau, "are not only not indispensable, but positive hindrances to the elevation of mankind."

AILING, 1847. EDGAR ALLAN POE, in Baltimore, following the death of his wife, Virginia. Other than a poem on death, Poe has written little this year, devoting his dwindling energies to plagiarism suits against other authors.



EMIGRATED, 1845. FREDERICK DOUGLASS, former slave, author, and abolitionist leader, to England to escape the danger of re-enslavement in reaction to his autobiography, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*. On his 1845 trip across the Atlantic, Douglass was not permitted cabin accommodations. After a lecture during the crossing, some passengers threatened to throw him overboard.

DISCOVERED, 1846. THE PLANET NEPTUNE, by German astronomer Johann Galle.

NUMBERS

18,000 Miles from New York to California by sea route around Cape Horn

90,000 People arriving in California in 1849, half by sea, half by overland route



\$20 Average earned per day by California gold miners in 1849

\$18 Average expenses per day for California gold miners in 1849

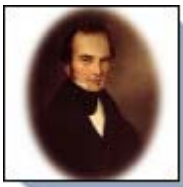
\$390 Value of miners' average daily earnings in 2001 dollars

50 Number of years after the signing of the Declaration of Independence that Thomas Jefferson and John Adams die — within hours of each other.

17,069,453 U.S. population in 1840

55,000 Number of emigrants moving west along the Oregon Trail in 1850

Independence for Texas



In July 1821, Stephen F. Austin set off from Louisiana for the Texas territory in the north-eastern corner of Mexico. The Spanish government had promised to give his father, Moses, a huge tract of Texas land if the elder Austin settled 300 American families there. Moses died before he could fulfill his end of the deal. On his deathbed, he asked Stephen to take his place in Texas. Austin was favorably impressed with the region. As he surveyed the land grant between the Brazos and Colorado Rivers, he noted its natural abundance:

Guide to Reading

●● The Prairie comes bluff to the river... and affords a most beautiful situation for a Town or settlement... The country... is as good in every respect as man could wish for, Land all first rate, plenty of timber, fine water, beautifully rolling. ●●

— quoted in *Stephen F. Austin: Empresario of Texas*

Opening Texas to Americans

When Austin settled in Texas, it was not a wild and empty land. Long a part of Spain's Mexican colony, the

area was under Mexican control after the country achieved independence from Spain in 1821. The Spanish-speaking inhabitants of the area, called *Tejanos*, had established such settlements as San Antonio de Bexar and Hidalgo in the southern portion of the region. Few *Tejanos* lived north of these settlements. That area was the territory of the Apache, Comanche, and other Native American groups.

Unable to persuade its own citizens to move closer to the Native American groups, Mexico decided to continue Spanish policy and invite Americans and other foreigners to settle there. Between 1823 and 1825 Mexico passed three colonization laws, which offered cheap land to nearly anyone willing to come. The last law granted new immigrants a 10-year exemption from paying taxes but required that they become Mexican citizens, live under Mexican law, and convert to Roman Catholicism.

Empresarios and Settlers

Although some American emigrants headed to Texas on their own, most came at the encouragement of *empresarios*, a Spanish word meaning "agents" or "contractors." Under the **National Colonization Act**, Mexico gave 26 *empresarios* large grants of Texas land. In exchange, the *empresarios* promised to fill it with a certain number of settlers. The *empresarios* assigned a plot to each family and governed the colonies they established.



Stephen Austin was not only the first but also by far the most successful *empresario*. He founded the town of **Washington-on-the-Brazos** and, by the mid-1830s, had persuaded some 1,500 American families to immigrate.

Americanizing Texas

The Americans who emigrated to Texas initially accepted Mexican citizenship as required. The government assumed they would also adopt Mexican customs and come to see Mexico as their own country, but for various reasons few did. The Spanish Catholic Church was alien to the traditions of most American settlers, and only a few bothered to learn Spanish.

Many Mexicans, in turn, distrusted the new settlers because of their American lifestyle and dismissal of Mexican ways. The Mexicans' unease increased in 1826, when *empresario* Haden Edwards's brother Benjamin led a rebellion against Mexican authority. Angry over disagreements about whether the Mexican government or the *empresario* controlled the region, Edwards declared that the settlements of Americans in Texas now constituted the independent nation of **Fredonia**. He gained few followers, however, and Stephen Austin led a contingent of troops that helped Mexico crush the revolt.

Although nearly all of the settlers ignored Edwards's call for revolution, the Mexican government feared that it signaled an American plot to acquire Texas. In 1830 Mexico closed its borders to further immigration by Americans and banned the import of enslaved labor as well. Mexico also placed taxes on goods imported from foreign countries, hoping to discourage trade with the United States.

These new laws infuriated the settlers. Without immigration their settlements could not grow. The import tax meant higher prices for goods they were accustomed to purchasing from the United States. Perhaps worst of all, the Mexican government was telling them what they could and could not do. They saw no reason to follow the orders of a government they hardly considered their own.

✓ Reading Check

Examining What did Mexico's colonization laws offer people willing to settle in northern Texas, and what did the laws require of these settlers?

Answer

Texas Goes to War

With tensions simmering, settlers met at two conventions in the Texas town of San Felipe in 1832 and 1833. They chose Stephen Austin as president of the first convention. The convention asked Mexico to reopen Texas to American immigrants and to loosen the taxes on imports. The second convention in 1833 was more aggressive. At that time, Texas was part of the Mexican state of Coahuila. The convention recommended separating Texas from Coahuila and creating a new Mexican state. The convention also created a constitution for the new state and designated Austin to travel to Mexico City to negotiate with the Mexican government. In the fall of 1833, the negotiations stalled, and an irritated Austin sent a letter to *Tejano* leaders in San Antonio that suggested Texas should start peacefully organizing its own state government. Mexican officials intercepted the letter.

After sending the letter, Austin managed to persuade President **Antonio López de Santa Anna** to agree to several demands, including lifting the hated immigration ban. On January 3, 1834, as Austin was returning home, officials arrested him for treason on the basis of the intercepted letter. The Mexican officials took Austin back to Mexico City and threw him in jail, where he languished without trial until he was released in July 1835.

Profiles IN HISTORY

Shortly after Austin was imprisoned, in April 1834, President Santa Anna abruptly denounced Mexico's Constitution of 1824 and made himself dictator. Even Austin, finally released from prison, now saw that negotiation with Santa Anna was impossible. In September 1835, he concluded that war was inevitable. He urged Texans to organize an army, which they quickly did.

The Early Battles

The Texan army faced a Mexican army with serious problems. Continuing political instability in Mexico City had denied the army sound leadership, training, and support. Against this handicapped force the Texan army enjoyed its first taste of victory at the military post of **Gonzales**, about 75 miles east of San Antonio. There, Mexican soldiers ordered the Texans to surrender their arms. In response, the rebels pointed a cannon at the Mexican force and held up a cloth sign painted with the taunt, "Come and Take It." Having no orders to attack, the Mexicans retreated to San Antonio, and the Texans followed them. The rebels, numbering only about 350, drove the much larger Mexican force out of San Antonio in December 1835.

Despite these early successes, the Texans faced tremendous difficulties of their own. Few of the men had any military training, and no one could agree at first on who should lead them. Finally a former governor of Tennessee and proven military leader named **Sam Houston** took command. In the meantime, Santa Anna organized a force of about 6,000 troops to put down the rebellion.

The Alamo

When Santa Anna's forces arrived at San Antonio in February 1836, they found over 180 rebels holed up in an abandoned Spanish Catholic mission called the **Alamo**. Under the command of Lieutenant Colonel **William B. Travis**, the small force sought to delay Santa Anna and give Houston's army more time to prepare. From within the mission Travis dispatched a courier through Mexican lines with a plea to fellow Texans and U.S. citizens for help:

 Reading

👏👏 I call on you, in the name of liberty, of patriotism, and everything dear to American character, to come to our aid with all dispatch... Though this call may be neglected, I am determined to sustain myself as long as possible, and die like a soldier... Victory or death!👏👏

— quoted in *History of Texas*



The call for reinforcements went almost unanswered. Only 32 settlers from Gonzales, deciding on their own to join the fight, made it into the Alamo. Running low on ammunition and gunpowder, the Texans held off



Santa Anna's besieging army for 13 days. During the standoff the new Texas government met at Washington-on-the-Brazos and formally declared independence from Mexico.

On March 6, 1836, Santa Anna's army stormed the Alamo. The Texans fought off the attackers for six hours, killing or wounding about 600 before being overrun. Although the defenders of the Alamo had been defeated, they had bought Houston's army nearly two extra weeks to organize.

Goliad

Two weeks later the Mexican army overwhelmed Texan troops led by James W. Fannin at Goliad, a town southeast of San Antonio near the Gulf Coast. Fannin and his men surrendered, hoping the Mexicans would disarm them and expel them from Texas. Though the Mexican field general at Goliad wrote to Santa Anna requesting clemency, Santa Anna demanded execution. At dawn on March 27, a firing squad executed more than 300 men. The losses at the Alamo and Goliad devastated Texans but also united them behind their new country.

TURNING POINT

The Battle of San Jacinto

With the Texan army in disarray, Sam Houston desperately needed time to recruit fresh volunteers and to train the soldiers who remained. Rather than fight, he chose to retreat, heading east toward Louisiana.

Houston was biding his time. Up against a larger, more disciplined army, he decided to wait for Santa Anna to make a mistake. Such a mistake occurred on April 21, when both armies were encamped along the San Jacinto River near what is now the city of Houston. Santa Anna no longer saw Houston's army as a threat, so he allowed his men to sleep in the afternoon, confident that Houston would wait until the next day to launch an attack.

Eager for a fight, Houston's soldiers convinced the officers to launch an afternoon assault. Shielded from sight by a hill, Houston's troops crept up on Santa Anna's sleeping soldiers and charged. The surprise attack threw the Mexicans into a panic.

The Battle of San Jacinto lasted less than 20 minutes, but the killing continued for hours. Yelling "Remember the Alamo" and "Remember Goliad," Houston's men attacked the Mexican troops with guns, knives, and clubs. In addition to hundreds killed, over 700 members of Santa Anna's force were taken captive. The Texans suffered only 9 killed and 34 wounded.



Among the captured was Santa Anna himself. Houston forced Santa Anna to order his army out of Texas and sign a treaty recognizing independence for the Republic of Texas. The Mexican Congress refused to accept the treaty but was unwilling to launch another military campaign. Texas had won the war.

The Republic of Texas In September 1836 the newly independent republic called its citizens to the polls. They elected Sam Houston as their first president and voted 3,277 to 91 in favor of **annexation**, or becoming part of the United States. As proud as they may have been of the republic, even the earliest settlers still regarded themselves as Americans.

Given that Americans had enthusiastically supported the war, most Texans assumed the United States would want to annex the republic. Many Northern members of Congress, however, opposed admitting Texas as a slave state.

President Andrew Jackson did not want to increase the tensions between North and South. Nor did he want to risk a costly war with Mexico, which continued to claim ownership of Texas. Jackson made no move toward annexation, though on his last day in office he did sign a resolution officially recognizing Texas as an independent nation.

 **Reading Check**

Summarizing What difficulties did the Texans face in their war against Mexico?

Answer

SECTION 2 ASSESSMENT

Checking for Understanding

1. Define:

Tejano, *empresario*, annexation.

2. Identify:

National Colonization Act, Washington-on-the Brazos, Antonio López de Santa Anna, Sam Houston, Alamo, William B. Travis.

3. Explain

why Texas declared war on Mexico.

Reviewing Themes

4. Groups and Institutions

Why did some Northern leaders oppose admitting Texas to the United States?

Critical Thinking

5. Synthesizing

How did the Texan defeats at the Alamo and Goliad affect Texans?

6. Categorizing

Use a graphic organizer similar to the one below to list the reasons that Texans did not wish to become Mexican citizens.

Reasons Texans Opposed Mexican Citizenship

Analyzing Visuals

7. Examining Art

Examine the poster on page 301 advertising land to Texas settlers. How were permanent settlers and soldiers for hire rewarded differently?

8. Examining Art

Study the painting on this page. Why do you think the artist painted the clearing blue sky in the top right of the work?

Writing About History

9. Persuasive Writing

Imagine that you are living in Texas in the late 1830s. Write a letter to the U.S. Congress explaining why the members should or should not vote to annex Texas.

Email  My Answers

Print My Answers

Social Studies SKILLBUILDER

Understanding Latitude and Longitude

Why Learn This Skill?

Mapmakers use lines of latitude and longitude to pinpoint locations on maps and globes. Understanding these lines and what they signify will help you locate any place on a map — around the corner or around the world.

Learning the Skill

The imaginary horizontal lines that circle the globe from east to west are called lines of **latitude**. Because the distance between the lines of latitude is always the same, they are also called *parallels*. The imaginary vertical lines that intersect the parallels are lines of **longitude**, also called *meridians*.

Parallels and meridians are numbered in degrees. The **Equator**, located halfway between the North and South Poles, is at 0°. Moving north or south of the Equator, the number of degrees increases until reaching 90°N or 90°S latitude at the poles.

The **Prime Meridian** is at 0° longitude. Moving east or west of the Prime Meridian, the number of degrees east or west increases up to 180°. The 180° line of longitude is located on the opposite side of the globe from the Prime Meridian and is called the *International Date Line*.

The point at which parallels and meridians intersect is the grid address, or coordinates, of an exact location. The coordinates for Salt Lake City, for example, are 41°N latitude and 112°W longitude.

Practicing the Skill



Analyze the information on the map on this page, and then answer the questions.

1. What are the approximate coordinates of Fort Victoria?
2. At what line of latitude was the Oregon country divided between the United States and Britain? How many degrees south would you need to go from there to reach the South Pole?
3. What geographic feature lies at about 42°N and 109°W?
4. The United States originally wanted Oregon's northern border to be between 54° and 55°N. Does the 1846 Boundary lie north or south of this boundary? By approximately how many degrees?

Skills Assessment

Complete the Practicing Skills questions on page 315 and the Chapter 9 Skill Reinforcement Activity to assess your mastery of this skill.

Applying the Skill

Understanding Latitude and Longitude Study the map of western trails on page 296. Use the map to answer the following questions.

1. St. Joseph is closest to which parallel?
2. Which fort is located north of 40°N latitude and east of 100°W longitude?



Glencoe's **Skillbuilder Interactive Workbook CD-ROM, Level 2**, provides instruction and practice in key social studies skills.

The War With Mexico



"Monterrey is ours," wrote U.S. Army lieutenant Napoleon Dana to his wife Sue in September 1846. "I can hardly describe to you with my pen what difficulties, dangers, and labors we have gone through to gain it." Lieutenant Dana had just survived four days of intense fighting as American troops captured the Mexican city of Monterrey.

[Guide to Reading](#)

●●The enemy fought very obstinately here, and we had to fight them by inches and advance upon them from house to house... Soon after dark our mortar began to fire... The shells all burst beautifully right in the plaza, scattering death and devastation. ●●

Dana and other American troops remained in the city for two months, taking over the houses of wealthy residents. The army assigned Dana to the home of "one Don Manuel Somebody." He wrote Sue of beautiful palace grounds "such as you may have seen in pictures of Italian gardens in older times." In mid-December, the night before leaving Monterrey, he paid a farewell visit to Don Manuel, whom he now regarded as a "right good old fellow." As the elderly Mexican said goodbye, he made "a long and affecting speech... while his eyes filled... He said that if the war continued, he foresaw nothing but the ruin of his native land."
— **adapted from *Monterrey Is Ours!***

The Lingering Question of Texas

The stage had been set for war with Mexico years before. Territorial disputes between the United States and its southern neighbor began as far back as 1803, when the United States claimed Texas as part of the Louisiana Purchase. The United States renounced that claim in the Adams-Onís Treaty of 1819, but the idea of Manifest Destiny and of acquiring Mexican territory had strong popular support.

Tensions grew during the administration of **John Tyler**, who hoped to bring Texas into the Union. Because Texas already possessed a significant population of Southerners who had taken enslaved African Americans into Texas, it was certain to support the cause of slavery. Antislavery leaders in Congress therefore opposed annexation. Moreover, Mexico had never recognized the independence of Texas and still considered it Mexican territory.

[Fact Fiction Folklore](#)

✓ Reading Check

Analyzing Why did antislavery members of Congress oppose admitting Texas to the Union?

[Answer](#)

Texas and Oregon Enter the Union



In early 1844, after spearheading a publicity campaign in favor of annexation, President Tyler brought the matter before the Senate. He blundered, however, by including in the supporting documents a letter written by Secretary of State John C. Calhoun that contained a fierce defense of slavery. Outraged Northerners pointed to the letter as evidence that annexation was nothing but a pro-slavery plot, and by a count of 35 to 16, the Senate voted against annexation. The maneuver that Tyler believed would win him a second term instead destroyed his chances of retaining the presidency.

The Election of 1844

As the presidential race began later that year, the front-runners for the nomination were Whig senator **Henry Clay** and former Democratic president Martin Van Buren. Although politicians on both sides of the annexation issue pressed the candidates to state their positions, both responded cautiously to avoid losing supporters.

Van Buren's indecision cost him the Democratic nomination. His party instead chose **James K. Polk**, a former Congressman and governor of Tennessee. Polk promised to annex not only Texas but also the contested Oregon territory in the Northwest. In addition, he vowed to buy California from Mexico. The ambitious platform appealed to both Northerners and Southerners because it expanded the country while promising to maintain the delicate balance between free and slave states.

The Democrats' unity on annexation caused Clay to backpedal. Reversing a statement made in the spring of 1844 against immediate annexation, Clay now supported annexation of Texas as long as it was done without causing war with Mexico. This so angered antislavery Whigs in his party that they threw their support to the Liberty Party — a small third party that supported abolition. With the Whig vote split, Polk won the election.

The Oregon Question

In public, Polk took a strong stance on Oregon. Despite British claims on the region, he said that the United States had a "clear and unquestionable" right to it.

His supporters cried "**Fifty-four Forty or Fight**," declaring that they wanted all of Oregon to the line of 54° 40' north latitude.

Different Viewpoints

In private, however, Polk agreed to split the territory. In June 1846 Great Britain and the United States resolved the dispute. The United States received all of Oregon south of 49° north latitude, except for the southern tip of Vancouver Island.

The Annexation of Texas

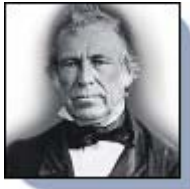
Even before Polk took office, outgoing president Tyler pushed an annexation resolution through Congress in February 1845. The resolution succeeded because it needed only a simple majority of both houses rather than the two-thirds majority needed to ratify a treaty. Texas joined the Union in 1845. Mexico was outraged and broke diplomatic relations with the U.S. government. Matters worsened when the two countries disputed the location of Texas's southwestern border. Mexico said it was the Nueces River. Texans, and then the United States, claimed the Rio Grande, about 150 miles (240 km) farther west and south, as the boundary. The Texas-United States claim covered far more territory than the Mexican claim, including some of what is now eastern New Mexico.

Polk's intentions in California added to the growing strife. In November 1845 he sent **John Slidell** as special **envoy**, or representative, to Mexico City to try to purchase the territory. Mexico's new president, José Joaquín Herrera, refused even to meet with Slidell.

Examining What did James Polk promise to do if he was elected president?

Answer

The War With Mexico



Herrera's snub ended any realistic chance of a diplomatic solution. Polk ordered troops led by General **Zachary Taylor** to cross the Nueces River — Mexico's view, an invasion of its territory. Polk wanted Mexican soldiers to fire the first shot. If he could say Mexico was the aggressor, he could more easily win popular support for a war.



Finally, on May 9, 1846, news reached him that a force of Mexicans had attacked Taylor's men. In an address to Congress, Polk declared that the United States was at war "by the act of Mexico herself." Hoping to incite the public's indignation, he added that "American blood has been shed on American soil!"

Many Whigs opposed the war as yet another plot to extend slavery. Most Washington politicians, though, recognized that however questionable Polk's actions, the United States was committed to war. On May 13 the Senate voted 40 to 2 and the House 174 to 14 in favor of the war.

Calling All Volunteers

Polk and his advisers developed a three-pronged military strategy. Taylor's troops would continue to move south, crossing the Rio Grande near the Gulf of Mexico. A separate force to the northwest would capture Santa Fe, an important trading center in what is now New Mexico, and then march west to take control of California with the help of the American navy. Finally, U.S. forces would advance to Mexico City and force Mexico to surrender.

To implement the ambitious plan, the United States needed to expand the army. Congress authorized the president to call for 50,000 volunteers, and men from all over the country rushed to enlist. Almost 73,000 answered the call.

Undisciplined and unruly, the volunteers proved to be less than ideal soldiers. As one officer observed, "They will do well enough to defend their own firesides, but they can not endure the fatigue incident to an invading army." Another bemoaned in a half-comical way their constant demands on his attention:

☺☺[O]ne wanted me to read a letter he had just received; another wanted me to write one for him; another wanted me to send his money home; another wanted me to keep it for him... [O]ne complained that his uniform was too large, another that his was too small. ☺☺

— from *Memoirs of a Maryland Volunteer*

The Fighting Begins

In early May, several days before Polk signed the declaration of war, Taylor's troops defeated Mexican general Santa Anna, first at Palo Alto and then at Resaca de la Palma. Taylor then moved south, overcoming more enemy forces at Matamoros. By late September he had marched about 200 miles (322 km) west from the Gulf Coast and captured Monterrey.



In the meantime, Colonel Stephen W. Kearny led troops from Fort Leavenworth, west of Missouri, toward Santa Fe. The march through the dry countryside was brutal, but when Kearny's men reached the city in August, the Mexican force there had already fled. With Santa Fe secured, a small U.S. force headed on to California.

Before Kearny's force arrived and even before war with Mexico was officially declared, settlers in northern California, led by American general **John C. Frémont**, had begun an uprising. The official Mexican presence in the territory had never been strong, and the settlers had little trouble overcoming it. On June 14, 1846, they declared California independent of Mexico and renamed the region the **Bear Flag Republic**. A few weeks later, the Bear Flag Republic came to an end when naval forces of the United States occupied San Francisco and San Diego and took possession of California for the United States.

To Mexico City

The war had proceeded just as President Polk had hoped, but despite having lost vast territories, Mexico's leaders refused to surrender. Polk decided to force things to a conclusion with the third phase of his battle plan. He sent soldiers on ships to the Mexican port of Veracruz, from where they would march west and capture the Mexican capital, Mexico City.

Polk, seeing Taylor as a potential rival in the 1848 election, eased him out of the war by placing General **Winfield Scott**, a member of the Whig Party, in command of this campaign. In March 1847 Scott's force landed at Veracruz. The troops headed for Mexico City, battling the enemy along the way. On September 14, after a hard fight, they finally captured the capital.



The Peace Treaty

After the fall of Mexico City, Mexico's leaders could no longer hold out. On February 2, 1848, they signed the **Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo**. In the agreement, Mexico **ceded**, or gave up, more than 500,000 square miles (1,295,000 sq. km) of territory to the United States. This land is now the states of California, Utah, and Nevada, as well as most of New Mexico and Arizona and parts of Colorado and Wyoming. Mexico also accepted the Rio

Grande as the southern border of Texas. In exchange, the United States paid Mexico \$15 million and agreed to take over \$3.25 million in debts the Mexican government owed to American citizens.

With Oregon and the former Mexican territories now under the American flag, the dream of Manifest Destiny was finally realized: the United States now stretched from ocean to ocean. Valuable ports on the west coast opened up new avenues to the Pacific nations of Asia. The question of whether the new lands should allow slavery, however, would soon lead the country into another bloody conflict. The experience that such men as Robert E. Lee and Ulysses S. Grant gained during the war would soon be used to lead Americans against each other.

✓ Reading Check

Summarizing What was President Polk's military strategy in the war with Mexico?

Answer

SECTION 3 ASSESSMENT

Checking for Understanding

1. Define:

envoy, cede.

2. Identify:

John Tyler, James K. Polk, "Fifty-four Forty or Fight," Zachary Taylor, John C. Frémont, Bear Flag Republic, Winfield Scott, Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.

3. Summarize

the controversy between Mexico and the United States over Texas.

Reviewing Themes

4. Continuity and Change

The idea of Manifest Destiny was realized as a result of the war with Mexico. What new problems did this increase in land cause for the United States?

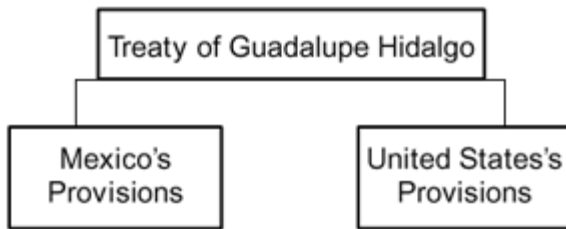
Critical Thinking

5. Evaluating

What was the military strategy of the United States during the war with Mexico? Evaluate the success of this strategy.

6. Organizing

Use a graphic organizer similar to the one below to list the provisions of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.



Analyzing Visuals

7. Examining Art

Study the portrait of General Winfield Scott on page 310. Why did President Taylor place Scott in charge of the invasion of Mexico City?

8. Examining Art

Study the painting *American Progress* by John Gast on page 308. What symbols of progress are shown trailing the spirit figure heading westward?

Writing About History

9. Expository Writing

Pretend you are James K. Polk, the Democratic candidate for president in the 1844 election. Write a speech in which you explain your platform.

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