

# 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 Oceans.
- 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.

1836

- Texas war for independence
- Battle of the Alamo
- Texas wins independence from Mexico



1841

- President Harrison dies of pneumonia, becoming first president to die in office

Van Buren  
1837–1841



W. Harrison  
1841



Tyler  
1841–1845



1836

1839

1842



1839

- First pedal-propelled bicycle designed by Kirkpatrick MacMillan of Scotland

1842

- China cedes Hong Kong to Britain



*The Emigrant Train Bedding Down for the Night* by Kenneth John Myers, 1867

**1843**

- Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol* published

**1845**

- Irish potato famine begins

**1845**

Polk  
1845–1849

**1845**

- Congress votes to annex Republic of Texas

**1846**

- Great Britain and U.S. agree to divide Oregon Territory at 49th parallel
- United States begins war with Mexico

**1848**

- Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ends war with Mexico

**1848**

- Karl Marx and Frederick Engels publish *The Communist Manifesto*
- Numerous revolutions sweep Europe

**HISTORY Online**

**Chapter Overview**  
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# SECTION 1 The Western Pioneers

## Guide to Reading

### Main Idea

In the 1840s, Americans headed west to the frontier states of the Midwest and the rich lands of California and Oregon.

### Key Terms and Names

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

### Reading Strategy

**Organizing** As you read about the westward movement of emigrants in the 1840s, complete a graphic organizer similar to the one below by filling in the names of the main trails they used.



### Reading 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 Theme

**Science and Technology** Several inventions of this period helped make settling the West possible.

### Preview of Events

◆ 1835

1834

McCormick reaper patented

◆ 1840

1841

Preemption Act passed

◆ 1845

1847

The Mormons arrive at the Great Salt Lake

◆ 1850

1851

Treaty of Fort Laramie signed

## ★ An American Story ★



Mary Richardson Walker

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:

“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?

## 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

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Conestoga wagon storage box



**Geography Skills**

- 1. Interpreting Maps** Name two Missouri cities that served as starting points for western emigrants.
- 2. Applying Geography Skills** Why did emigrants bypass the open territory of the Great Plains for a grueling journey to the Far West?

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





Wagon interior

Wagon wheel



Mormons heading west

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?

## 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?

## SECTION 1 ASSESSMENT

### Checking for Understanding

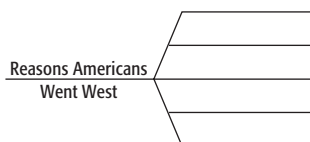
- Define:** **Manifest Destiny**, **squatter**, **overlander**.
- Identify:** John Louis O’Sullivan, Jethro Wood, John Deere, Cyrus McCormick, John Sutter, Kit Carson, Jim Bridger, Donner Party, Brigham Young.
- Evaluate** how mountain men helped settle the West.

### Reviewing Themes

- Science and Technology** What two inventions made it easier to farm the frontier?

### Critical Thinking

- Synthesizing** How did the United States settle its land disputes with Great Britain and the Plains Indians?
- Organizing** Use a graphic organizer similar to the one below to list the reasons why Americans emigrated to the West.



### Analyzing Visuals

- 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

- 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.



## Eulogy

**CHIEF JOSEPH** (above), 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.



*The New York baseball team*



## WESTERN WORD PLAY

## Word Watch

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

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



ANSWERS: 1.e; 2.a; 3.f; 4.c; 5.d; 6.b

## Milestones

**SETTLED, 1847. THE VALLEY OF THE GREAT SALT LAKE**, by Brigham Young, leader of the Mormons, 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.



Frederick Douglass

**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



Panning for gold

**\$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

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# Independence for Texas

## Guide to Reading

### Main Idea

Settlers emigrated from the United States to Texas and fought Mexico to gain independence.

### Key Terms and Names

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

### Reading Strategy

**Categorizing** As you read about Americans settling in Texas and gaining independence, complete a graphic organizer similar to the one below by filling in the major battles of the Texas revolution and the outcome of each.

Major Battle	Outcome

### Reading Objectives

- **Chronicle** the opening of Texas to American settlers.
- **Discuss** the major battles of the war against Mexico.

### Section Theme

**Groups and Institutions** Texans hoped to transplant American institutions to their new homes.

### Preview of Events

♦ January, 1836

♦ February, 1836

♦ March, 1836

♦ April, 1836

**February 23, 1836**

Santa Anna's troops begin arriving at San Antonio

**March 2, 1836**

Texas declares independence

**March 6, 1836**

Siege at the Alamo ends

**April 21, 1836**

Santa Anna's army defeated at the Battle of San Jacinto

## ★ An American Story ★



Stephen F. Austin

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:

“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?

## 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

### **Picturing History**

**Land in Texas** This April 1836 poster from New Orleans sought volunteers during the Texas war for independence. The offer of land also drew settlers to Texas before the war. **Why do you think the sponsors offered more land to settlers who stayed longer?**



**TEXAS!!**

Emigrants who are desirous of assisting Texas at this important crisis of her affairs may have a free passage and equipments, by applying at the  
**NEW-YORK and PHILADELPHIA HOTEL,**  
On the Old Levee, near the Blue Stores.

Now is the time to ensure a fortune in Land!  
To all who remain in Texas during the War will be allowed 1280 Acres.  
To all who remain Six Months, 640 Acres.  
To all who remain Three Months, 320 Acres.  
And as Colonists, 4000 Acres for a family and 1470 Acres for a Single Man.  
New Orleans, April 23d, 1836.

# Profiles IN HISTORY

## Lorenzo de Zavala

1788–1836

Lorenzo de Zavala demonstrated his fierce support of democratic principles both in his native Mexico and as a citizen of the Republic of Texas.

Born in the Yucatán peninsula, Zavala was jailed in his youth for advocating Mexican independence from Spain. Soon after Mexico gained independence in 1821, Zavala was elected to the new national congress. Battles for political power in early Mexico were intense. Zavala was forced into exile but granted a huge tract of land in southeastern Texas.

Politics in Texas proved no less intense than in Mexico. Most Mexicans in Texas were loyal to Mexico, but Zavala's disapproval of Santa Anna's policies led him to support Texan independence. As a speaker of both Spanish and English, he helped draft the new republic's constitution and design its flag. He also served as vice president of the Republic-in-Arms until ill health forced him to resign.



## Sam Houston

1793–1863

Standing over six feet tall, Sam Houston seemed larger than life. A military hero in the Creek wars, he had a brief political career in Tennessee before heading to Texas in 1832. He soon revived his military career and led the army of the Republic of Texas to victory over Mexico at the Battle of San Jacinto. Texans elected him president of the Republic and later, when Texas joined the Union, Houston served as a U.S. senator.

Despite being a slaveholder himself, Houston voted with the antislavery faction because he believed a compromise was necessary to save the Union. When the Civil War broke out, Houston refused to take an oath of loyalty to the new Southern government, and he was removed from office. In his farewell address, he declared, "Oh my fellow countrymen, the fearful conflict will fill our land with untold suffering, misfortune, and disaster." He died in July 1863 at the height of the Civil War.



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.

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:

“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

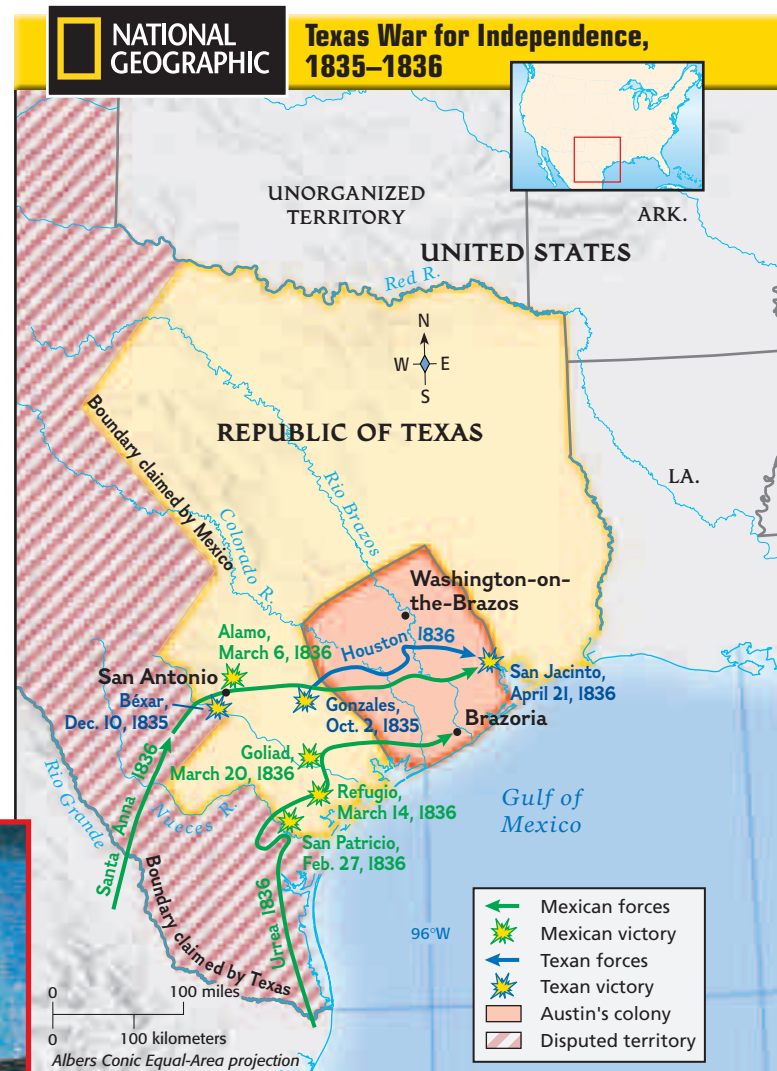
Houston. Santa Anna no longer saw Houston's army as a threat, so he allowed his men to sleep in the afternoon, confident that Houston would wait until the next day to launch an attack.

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



Mosaic of the Gonzales cannon



**Geography Skills**

- 1. Interpreting Maps** On what day did the Alamo fall to Santa Anna?
- 2. Applying Geography Skills** Why were the American settlers in Texas reluctant to obey Mexican law?



## History Through Art

**Battle of San Jacinto** H.A. McArdle's painting (above) and this monument (at right) commemorate the pivotal battle of the war between Texas and Mexico. **Why were Santa Anna and his troops surprised by Houston's attack?**

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?

## SECTION 2 ASSESSMENT

### Checking for Understanding

- Define:** *Tejano, empresario, annexation.*
- Identify:** National Colonization Act, Washington-on-the Brazos, Antonio López de Santa Anna, Sam Houston, Alamo, William B. Travis.
- Explain** why Texas declared war on Mexico.

### Reviewing Themes

- Groups and Institutions** Why did some Northern leaders oppose admitting Texas to the United States?

### Critical Thinking

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

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

- 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.



# 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  $0^{\circ}$ . Moving north or south of the Equator, the number of degrees increases until reaching  $90^{\circ}\text{N}$  or  $90^{\circ}\text{S}$  latitude at the poles.

The **Prime Meridian** is at  $0^{\circ}$  longitude. Moving east or west of the Prime Meridian, the number of degrees east or west increases up to  $180^{\circ}$ . The  $180^{\circ}$  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  $41^{\circ}\text{N}$  latitude and  $112^{\circ}\text{W}$  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  $42^{\circ}\text{N}$  and  $109^{\circ}\text{W}$ ?



- 4 The United States originally wanted Oregon's northern border to be between  $54^{\circ}$  and  $55^{\circ}\text{N}$ . 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  $40^{\circ}\text{N}$  latitude and east of  $100^{\circ}\text{W}$  longitude?



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



# SECTION 3 The War With Mexico

## Guide to Reading

### Main Idea

The United States clashed with Mexico in an attempt to gain new territory.

### Key Terms and Names

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

### Reading Strategy

**Taking Notes** As you read about the war with Mexico, use the major headings of the section to complete the outline started below.

The War With Mexico  
I. The Lingering Question of Texas  
II.  
A.  
B.  
C.

### Reading Objectives

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

### Section Theme

**Continuity and Change** The war with Mexico brought new territories under the control of the United States.

### Preview of Events

◆ 1845	◆ 1846	◆ 1847	◆ 1848
<b>February 1845</b> Congress votes to annex Texas	<b>May 13, 1846</b> Congress declares war on Mexico	<b>June 18, 1846</b> Oregon boundary dispute settled	<b>September 14, 1847</b> U.S. troops storm Mexico City
			<b>February 2, 1848</b> Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo signed

## ★ An American Story ★

"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.

“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!*



Mexican army shako hat

## 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.

**✓ Reading Check Analyzing** Why did antislavery members of Congress oppose admitting Texas to the Union?

## 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

Fact

Fiction

Folklore

**Dangers on the Western Trails** Many people who migrated west during the mid-1800s feared attacks by Native Americans. It was certainly a dangerous journey. From 1835 to 1855, more than 10,000 people died while traveling the Oregon Trail. Most people, however, died because of firearm accidents or from diseases such as cholera or smallpox. Less than 4 percent of the deaths on the trail were actually due to Native American attacks.

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



### **Picturing History**

**Tensions Grow With Mexico** From the time of the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, territorial tensions between the United States and Mexico threatened the possibility of war. In the late 1840s, war began between the two nations. This rare daguerreotype shows American soldiers patrolling Mexican territory. [How did Texas's annexation contribute to the start of the war?](#)

# Different Viewpoints

## Did Manifest Destiny Violate American Ideals?

In the 1800s, many Americans believed the United States was destined to reach from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean. This national mission also implied that Americans were superior to their neighbors who also controlled territory in North America. Did this belief in American superiority contradict the spirit of equality important to so many Americans?



### Public servant Albert Gallatin opposes Manifest Destiny:

At the age of 86, after a distinguished career in public service, Albert Gallatin became president of the New York Historical Society. The war against Mexico revived his interest in politics, and he wrote:

“It is said that the people of the United States have a hereditary superiority of race over the Mexicans, which gives them the right to subjugate and keep in bondage the inferior nation. . . .

Is it compatible with the principle of democracy, which rejects every hereditary claim of individuals, to admit a hereditary superiority of races? . . . Can you for a moment suppose that a very doubtful descent from men who lived 1,000 years ago has transmitted to you a superiority over your fellow men?

. . . At this time the claim is but a pretext for covering and justifying unjust usurpation and unbounded ambition.

. . . Among ourselves the most ignorant, the most inferior, either in physical or mental faculties, is recognized as having equal rights, and he has an equal vote with anyone, however superior to him in all those respects. This is founded on the immutable principle that no one man is born with the right to governing another man.”

—quoted in *The Mission of the United States*

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.

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.

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



### Editor John L. O’Sullivan supports Manifest Destiny:

John L. O’Sullivan first used the phrase “manifest destiny” in a July 1845 edition of the *United States Magazine and Democratic Review*. In the following article excerpt, he promotes the spread of democracy:

“Texas is now ours. Already, before these words are written, her convention has undoubtedly ratified the acceptance, by her congress, of our proffered invitation into the Union. . . . Her star and stripe may already be said to have taken their place in the glorious blazon of our common nationality. . . .

. . . The next session of Congress will see the representatives of the new young state in their places in both our halls of national legislation, side by side with those of the old Thirteen.

Why . . . [have] other nations . . . undertaken to intrude themselves into [the question of Texas]? Between us and the proper parties to the case, in a spirit of hostile interference against us, for the avowed object of thwarting our policy and hampering our power, limiting our greatness and checking the fulfillment of our manifest destiny to overspread the continent allotted by Providence for the free development of our yearly multiplying millions.”

—quoted in *Annexation*

### Learning From History

1. What does Albert Gallatin think is the real motivation underlying the idea of Manifest Destiny?
2. Can you find other instances in American history when Americans believed their nation had a special destiny?

## 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—in 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.”

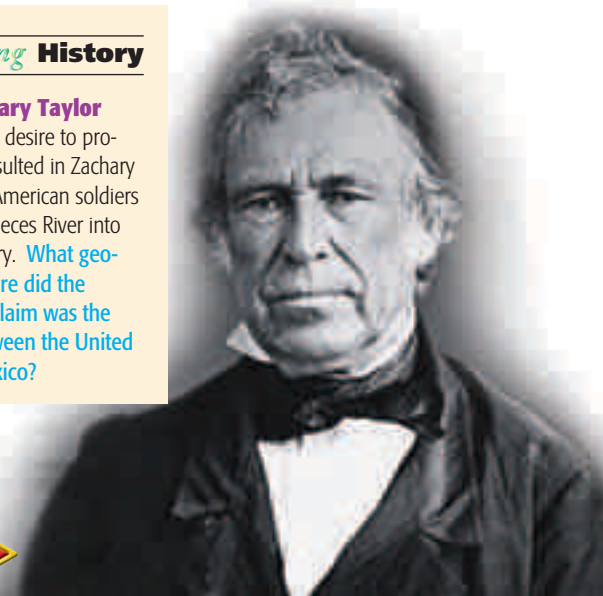
—from *Memoirs of a Maryland Volunteer*

**The Fighting Begins** In early May, several days before Polk signed the declaration of war, Taylor’s troops defeated Mexican forces, first at Palo Alto and

### Picturing History

#### General Zachary Taylor

President Polk’s desire to provoke Mexico resulted in Zachary Taylor leading American soldiers south of the Nueces River into disputed territory. **What geographical feature did the United States claim was the boundary between the United States and Mexico?**



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



## The War With Mexico, 1846–1848



### Geography Skills

- Interpreting Maps** Which American officer assisted Frémont's attacks in northern California?
- Applying Geography Skills** What land did the United States get from the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo?



**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



### History Through Art

**General Scott's Entrance Into Mexico** This 1851 painting by Carl Nebel re-creates the scene of General Winfield Scott leading troops into Mexico City in the final phase of the war with Mexico. Scott's forces had battled their way inland to Mexico City from the coastal city of Veracruz. **How do the Mexican people seem to be reacting to the arrival of the American troops?**

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?

## SECTION 3 ASSESSMENT

### Checking for Understanding

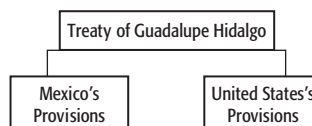
- Define:** *envoy, cede.*
- Identify:** John Tyler, James K. Polk, "Fifty-four Forty or Fight," Zachary Taylor, John C. Frémont, Bear Flag Republic, Winfield Scott, Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.
- Summarize** the controversy between Mexico and the United States over Texas.

### Reviewing Themes

- 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

- Evaluating** What was the military strategy of the United States during the war with Mexico? Evaluate the success of this strategy.
- Organizing** Use a graphic organizer similar to the one below to list the provisions of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.



### Analyzing Visuals

- 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?
- 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

- 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.



# Spanish Missions

**T**he Spanish settlers who came to the American Southwest had two aims: to claim the land and to convert the Native Americans to Catholicism. To achieve these aims, the Spaniards set up fortified religious settlements known as missions.

The missions reflected both the culture of Spain and the demands of life in an arid land. By the late eighteenth century, the missions were thriving, self-contained communities.

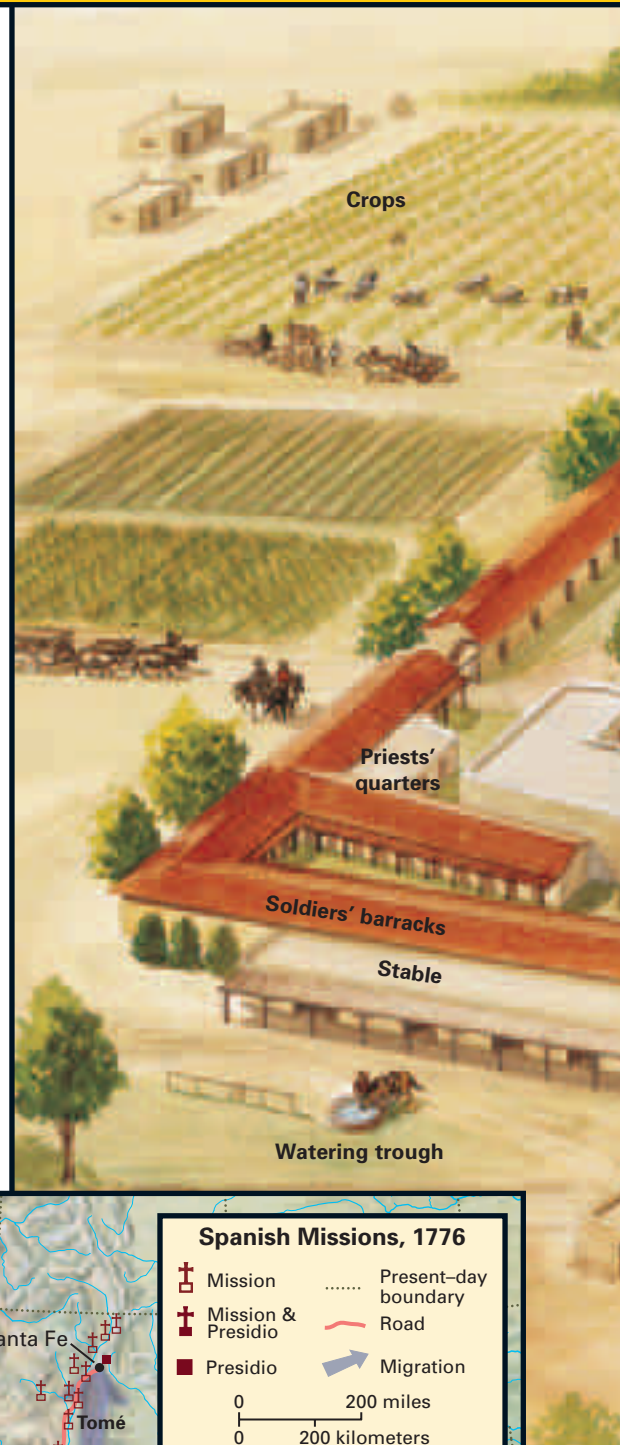
Arranged in a quadrangle around a central courtyard, the complex was a bustling world of workshops, storage areas, gardens, and living quarters. Its location was often determined by the availability of wood, water, and fields for raising crops and grazing the livestock that the Spanish brought to the Americas. The form of the mission was dictated by the building materials available. The thick walls of the one-story buildings were usually made of stone or sun-dried mud bricks known as adobe.

For security, most of the mission's residences were connected, and all windows faced inward. The entrances were locked at night. A covered arcade, or outdoor hallway, ran along the inner walls of the residences. The complex was usually dominated by a large church. Thousands of Native Americans were lured to the missions by gifts and by the prospect of finding

safety and food. They were instructed in Catholicism and Spanish and put to work. Women wove cloth and cooked; men labored at handicrafts or in the fields. In addition to the native beans and corn, the converts planted crops introduced by the Spaniards such as wheat, oats, oranges, olives, and grapes.

Some of the missions would not allow the Native Americans to leave without permission once they had entered the community. Making this transition to a regimented life was difficult, and escapes were common. To enforce order and hunt down run-aways, many missions had a small detachment of soldiers. The soldiers rode on horses, which the Spaniards brought to the Southwest.

The Spaniards also brought measles and smallpox—devastating diseases against which the Native Americans had no natural immunity. Mission cemeteries often held the bones of thousands of Native Americans who died of these European diseases.



## LEARNING FROM GEOGRAPHY

1. What factors determined the selection of a mission site?
2. Why did the Spanish station troops at missions?





The Virgin of Guadalupe adorns the church at the mission of San José y San Miguel de Aguayo.



Years before the English unfurled their flag at Jamestown, Spanish missionaries and colonists from New Spain, as Mexico was known, were settling in the Southwest. The map shows their major migration routes into present-day New Mexico, Texas, and California, as well as the location of their missions and presidios, or garrisoned forts.

The Spanish built the church of San José y San Miguel de Aguayo in San Antonio, Texas, in the 1720s. Such churches were only part of much larger mission complexes. The art above shows the layout of a typical mission.



**Reviewing Key Terms**

On a sheet of paper, use each of these terms in a sentence.

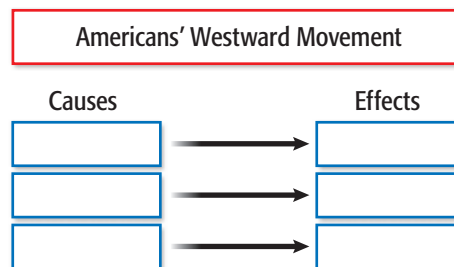
- 1. *Manifest Destiny*
- 2. *squatter*
- 3. *overlander*
- 4. *Tejano*
- 5. *empresario*
- 6. *annexation*
- 7. *envoy*
- 8. *cede*

**Reviewing Key Facts**

- 9. **Identify:** John Louis O’Sullivan, John Sutter, Brigham Young, Antonio López de Santa Anna, Sam Houston, William B. Travis, John Tyler, James K. Polk, Zachary Taylor, Winfield Scott.
- 10. Why were many Americans willing to give up their lives in the East and move to the West?
- 11. What were five trails that Americans followed as they emigrated west?
- 12. Why did the Mexican government encourage Americans to settle in northern Texas?
- 13. What caused settlers in Texas to declare independence from Mexico?
- 14. What did the United States gain from the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo?

**Critical Thinking**

- 15. **Analyzing Themes: Science and Technology** How did the inventions of Deere’s steel plow and McCormick’s reaper encourage the settlement of the western plains?
- 16. **Identifying Points of View** Why was James Polk’s platform in the presidential election of 1844 popular with both Northerners and Southerners?
- 17. **Categorizing** Use a graphic organizer similar to the one below to list the causes and the effects of westward movement by Americans.



- 18. **Interpreting Primary Sources** In April of 1847, Charles Sumner presented his views on the causes of the war with Mexico in his “Report on the War with Mexico” to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Read the excerpt and answer the questions that follow.

**Chapter Summary**

**Oregon**

- Great Britain and the United States claimed parts of Oregon.
- The area was almost completely British until American missionaries arrived in the 1830s.
- Large numbers of Americans sought farmland in southern Oregon in 1840.
- The two countries divided the territory without conflict.

**California**

- The territory was part of Mexico, although Americans still settled there.
- The local California government invited foreign settlers but was suspicious of them.
- The United States tried to purchase California from Mexico, but Mexico refused.
- An uprising overthrew the California government, and troops secured the territory during the war with Mexico.

**The Midwest**

- In the early 1800s, squatters settled land that they did not own in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin.
- The Preemption Act allowed squatters to buy up to 160 acres of land.

**Texas and the Southwest**

- Mexico invited Americans and others to populate Texas.
- Mexico passed strict laws against American immigrants, which led to Texas’s war for independence.
- Congress voted to annex Texas in 1845, and Texas also voted for annexation.
- Boundary disputes in Texas, along with the American attempt to purchase the California territory, led to the start of the war with Mexico.
- The United States won the war and gained Texas, California, and much of the territory that is now the West and Southwest.





Self-Check Quiz

Visit the *American Vision* Web site at [tav.glencoe.com](http://tav.glencoe.com) and click on **Self-Check Quizzes—Chapter 9** to assess your knowledge of chapter content.

“It can no longer be doubted that this is a war of conquest. . . . In a letter to Commodore Sloat, . . . the Secretary [of War] says, ‘You will take such measures as will render that vast region [California] a desirable place of residence for emigrants from our soil.’ In a letter to Colonel Kearny . . . he says: ‘Should you conquer and take possession of New Mexico and Upper California, you will establish civil governments therein. You may assure the people of these provinces that it is the wish of the United States to provide for them a free government with the least possible delay. . . .’”

—quoted in *Readings in American History*

- According to Charles Sumner, why did the United States become involved in the war with Mexico?
- What evidence does Sumner provide to show that this was the U.S. government’s intention?

Practicing Skills

- Understanding Latitude and Longitude** Study the map of western trails on page 296. Then use the steps you learned on page 305 to answer the following questions.
  - The Continental Divide lies between what two lines of longitude?
  - About how many degrees of latitude are there between Salt Lake City and Los Angeles?

Writing Activity

- Interviewing** You and a group of your classmates should take on these roles of people in North America in the early to mid-1800s: a journalist, a British settler and an American settler in the Oregon Country, a Native American of the Great Plains, a pioneer, a Mexican official, and a farmer in the East. The journalist then interviews the people about their attitudes toward Manifest Destiny. Write summaries of each interview and place them in your portfolio.

Chapter Activity

- Technology Activity: Using an Electronic Card Catalog** Search your library’s card catalog for books containing information about western settlement in the 1800s. Use this information to make an alphabetical directory of western trails and historic sites that tourists might like to visit. Your



list might include cities along the trails, pioneer museums, mountain passes, and other places of interest.

Geography and History

- The map above shows land acquired after the war with Mexico. Study the map and answer the questions below.
  - Interpreting Maps** What seven U.S. states now hold territory acquired in the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo?
  - Applying Geography Skills** What group of immigrants who had moved outside the United States was brought back under American jurisdiction as a result of the treaty?



Standardized Test Practice

Directions: Choose the best answer to the following question.

Which of the following is NOT a condition set by Mexico for American settlers coming to live in Texas?

- They received a ten-year exemption from paying taxes.
- They could never return to live in the United States.
- They were required to become Mexican citizens.
- They were required to convert to the Roman Catholic faith.

**Test-Taking Tip:** Be careful—overlooking the words NOT or EXCEPT in a question is a common error. Look for the answer choice that does NOT fit the question. For example, since a tax exemption *was* a benefit for Texas newcomers, you can eliminate answer A.