

## ;American History Unit 5: Manifest Destiny

Since colonial times, American seeking economic opportunity had looked westward. By the 1840's, migrants had moved into the Mexican territory of Texas as well as crossed the Rocky Mountains to Oregon and California. In time, these lands would become part of the United States, helping the nation grow in both wealth and power.

### Section 1: Migrating to the West

- Manifest Destiny was a 19<sup>th</sup> century doctrine that westward expansion of the United States was not only inevitable, but a God-given right.
- Use the web links or your textbook to find the definitions of expansionist; Brigham Young; Oregon Trail; Santa Fe Trail.
- Look at the map of North America in 1820. Most of the land that is now the American South-west belonged to Spain. Mexican independence the following year, gave that land to Mexico. What methods might the United States have used to gain greater access to the Pacific coast?
- Read "Trails to the West" on pages 170 – 171. How did the goals of travelers on the Oregon and Mormon trails differ and how were they similar?

### Section 2: Texas and the Mexican-American War.

Of all the Mexican provinces, Texas was most vulnerable to United States expansion. It was closest to the United States and offered abundant, fertile land and had only a small population of "Tejanos" (Hispanics). To develop and defend the province, Mexico adopted a risky strategy: It invited American settlers into Texas. In return for cheap land grants, Americans had to agree to become Mexican citizens, to adopt the Roman Catholic religion and to accept the Mexican constitution, which banned slavery.

By 1830, the settlers, now known as Anglo-Texans, and led by Stephen Austin, outnumbered the Tejanos by 6 to 1. Despite their oath of allegiance, they did not honor their pledges to Mexico. They remained Protestants and ignored Mexico's slavery ban by smuggling in enslaved African Americans to work on their farms and plantations. They objected to Mexico's unstable government and in 1835, rebelled and formed their own country, The Lone Star Republic of Texas. When the Mexican army defeated the settlers at the Alamo in San Antonio, it became a further rallying cry for volunteers to come from other southern states to support the Texans' cause.

- Use the web links and /or your textbook to find definitions of the following: Santa Anna; Sam Houston. James K. Polk.
- President Polk thought that US annexation of Texas (adding Texas to the United States) would promote peace; Henry Clay thought it would lead to war. Using information from the textbook and any other sources, what decision would you have made and why?
- We know that the United States went to war with Mexico and won the war. The questions that concern us are: Were we justified in going to war? Could it have

been avoided? To answer them, we will try to list some causes of the war (I'll give three, you give three) and then some effects of the war (Same set of rules for this part)

- Causes of the Mexican War
  - Expansionists pursue Manifest Destiny
  - Texas declares independence from Mexico
  - Boundary disputes between Mexico and Texas
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
- The Mexican War takes place
  - Effects of the Mexican War
    - United States wins quick victory
    - Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo gives Southwest to USA
    - Wilmot Proviso – to ban slavery in the territories – is proposed but defeated by Congress.
    - \_\_\_\_\_
    - \_\_\_\_\_
    - \_\_\_\_\_

### Section 3: Effects of Territorial Expansion

- As a result of its quick victory over Mexico, the United States would finally achieve its goal of Manifest Destiny but the long-term effects just highlighted the growing differences between the North and the South and set the stage for future conflict, resulting in the Civil War just fourteen years later.
- Use the web links and/or your textbook to find the definitions of: Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo; Gadsden Purchase; Wilmot Proviso; California gold rush; forty-niners.
- As a result of the gold rush, San Francisco developed into a major city. Read the Infographic on page 182. Note the changes in population of San Francisco from 1848 to 1860. Answer the two questions under Thinking Critically: What kinds of businesses sprang up in San Francisco as a result of the gold rush? And: What other circumstances might cause rapid changes in a city's population? (Think of both adding and losing population.....such as in New Orleans).

### Key points of the Unit:

1. Events in Texas led the US to go to war with Mexico
  - How did the US justify going to war with Mexico?
  - What advantages did the US have over Mexico in the War?
2. The United States has gradually added territory through treaties, purchases, and wars.
  - a. What was the importance of the Louisiana Purchase?

- b. Would the Mexican War have occurred if the expansionists had not hoped to gain control of Mexico's northern territories?

Think back to the question you were asked at the beginning of Chapter 3: "Do Americans feel more loyalty to their state, their region, or their country?"

At this time in the history of the United States, the greatest debates took place between northerners and southerners. The issues of slavery and states' rights within a federal republic were the major ones fought over and would eventually lead to the war that was fought between these two regions.