

Mexican American War

School Name _____

Student Name _____

Teacher Name _____

Date ____ / ____ /20 ____

Per. ____

Fill in the blanks with the following words:

declaration of war

Mexico City

Rio Grande

Guadalupe-Hidalgo,

minority

Texas

Manifest Destiny

In the early nineteenth century expansionist sentiments were particularly strong in the southern and western United States, where many people viewed westward expansion as both a divine right and a national necessity. This ideology encouraged the annexation of territories and was a direct precursor to the conflict with Mexico.



UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY · 1825

The annexation of _____ in 1845 played a crucial role in igniting the war. Texas had gained independence from Mexico in 1836, declaring itself the Republic of Texas, and sought to join the United States, a move that Mexico vehemently opposed, considering Texas still part of its territory.

Tensions escalated when President James K. Polk sent American troops to the disputed border region between the Nueces River and the _____. The resulting skirmish on April 25, 1846, provided Polk with grounds to seek a _____ from Congress.

Militarily, the Mexican American War was characterized by several key battles and campaigns. One of the first major conflicts was the Battle of Palo Alto on May 8, 1846, where General Zachary Taylor's forces secured an early American victory.

Another significant engagement was the Siege of Monterrey in September 1846. Despite strong Mexican resistance, American forces captured the city, boosting U.S. morale and increasing support for the war effort.

Mexican American War



The war's turning point came with the successful naval blockade of Mexican ports and the invasion of Mexico's heartland. General Winfield Scott's campaign, culminating in the capture of _____ in September 1847, effectively decided the war in favor of the United States.

The Treaty of _____ - _____ signed on February 2, 1848, marked the end of the Mexican American War. The terms of the treaty were stark and consequential, resulting in Mexico ceding nearly half of its territory to the United States.

The ceded territories included present-day California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, and parts of Colorado, Wyoming, New Mexico, and Texas. This massive land grab was pivotal in fulfilling the United States' expansionist goals.

In return, the U.S. agreed to pay Mexico \$15 million and assumed \$3.25 million in debts owed by Mexico to American citizens. Despite this compensation, the loss of land was deeply humiliating and had severe repercussions for Mexico.

The cultural and societal impacts of the war were profound on both sides. In the United States, the successful execution of " _____ " bolstered national pride and reinforced expansionist policies.

For Mexican Americans living in the newly acquired territories, the war was highly disruptive. Many found themselves navigating a new national identity, facing discrimination and adapting to U.S. legal and cultural practices.

The influx of Anglo-American settlers into the acquired territories brought about significant demographic changes. Mexican Americans became a _____ in regions where they had previously been the majority, often experiencing marginalization.

Legal and land disputes were common, as Mexican land grants were often challenged by American courts, resulting in many Mexican Americans losing their properties. This period marked the beginning of a long history of legal battles over land rights.

The war's legacy also influenced U.S. domestic politics, particularly in terms of the intensifying debate over slavery. The newly acquired territories raised the contentious issue of whether they would be free or slave states.