

Manifest Destiny

Lesson 3 War With Mexico

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

Why does conflict develop?

GUIDING QUESTIONS

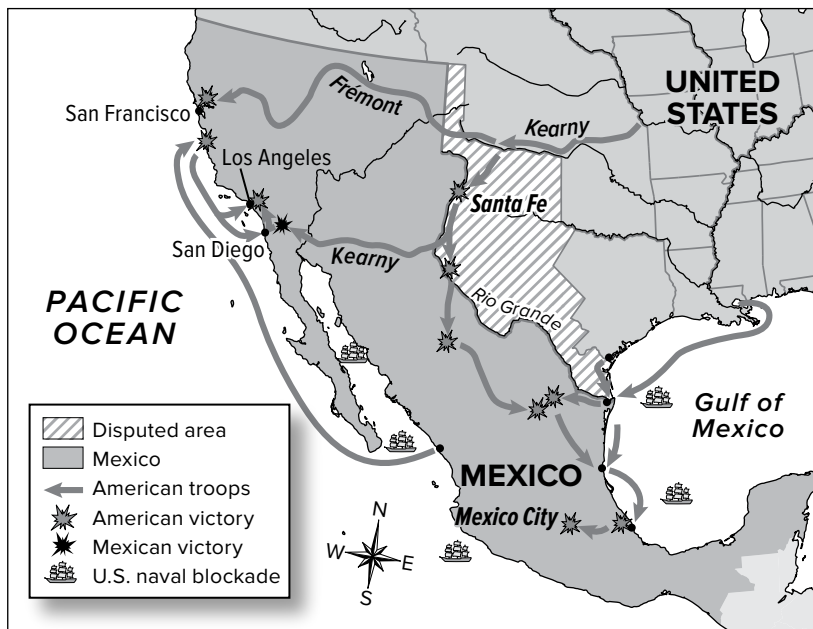
1. *How did the Santa Fe Trail benefit the New Mexico Territory?*
2. *How did the culture of California develop?*
3. *Why did war break out between the United States and Mexico?*

Terms to Know

rancho ranch, especially the large estates set up by Mexicans in the American West

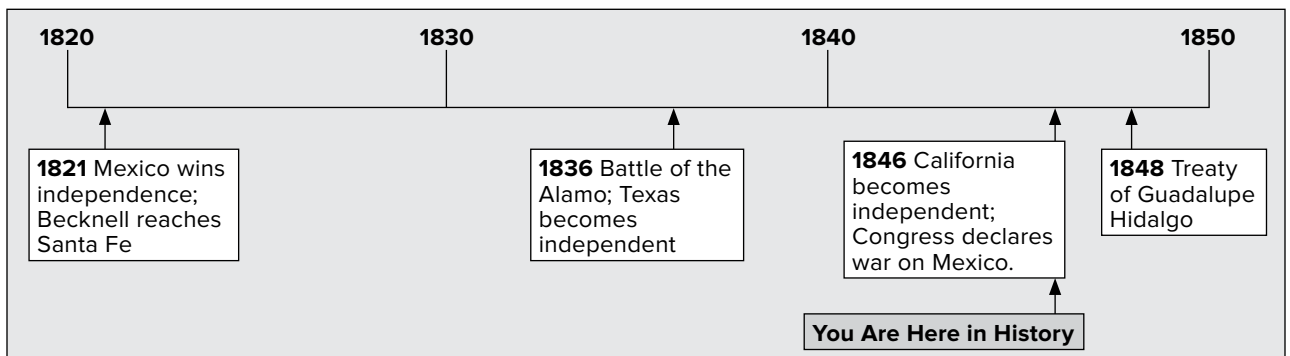
ranchero rancher, owner of a rancho

Where in the world?



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When did it happen?



Manifest Destiny

Lesson 3 War With Mexico, *Continued*

The New Mexico Territory

The New Mexico Territory included all of present-day New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, Utah, and parts of Colorado and Wyoming. Mexico and the United States fought a war over this land.

Native Americans had lived in the area for thousands of years. Then Spanish explorers claimed it for Spain. They started a settlement at Santa Fe. In 1821, Mexico won its independence. New Mexico then became part of Mexico.

The Spanish did not want Americans to live in Santa Fe. They were afraid the Americans would take the land away from them. However, the new government of Mexico welcomed Americans. They hoped more trade would help the economy.

William Becknell was the first American trader to reach Santa Fe in New Mexico. He arrived in 1821. He brought many goods to sell. The route he took became known as the Santa Fe Trail. It began near Independence, Missouri. That was the western edge of the United States. The trail was mostly flat, so Becknell could use wagons to transport his goods.

Other American traders began to use the trail. It became a busy route. Settlers followed. Many people thought New Mexico was part of the country's Manifest Destiny.

California's Spanish Culture

The Spanish were the first Europeans to reach California. In the 1700s, Spanish explorers and Mexican missionaries settled there. Captain Gaspar de Portolá and Father Junipero Serra (hoo•NIP•uh•roh SEHR•uh) began building missions. Over time, there were many missions built between San Diego and Sonoma. Missions were built to convert Native Americans to Christianity and to teach them the Spanish way of life.

When California became a part of Mexico in 1821, Mexicans bought mission lands. They set up **ranchos**, or large estates. The estates were owned by wealthy **rancheros**. Native Americans worked on ranchos and in exchange, they received food and shelter. However, rancheros treated them almost like slaves.

In the 1840s, Americans came to California. One person was John C. Frémont, an army officer. He wrote about how nice the weather was there, and also described the vast natural resources. This attracted even more Americans.



Identifying

1. Who claimed New Mexico before 1821?

2. Who claimed it after 1821?



Reading Check

3. How did William Becknell affect American settlement in New Mexico?



Defining

4. Circle the definition of *rancho*. Who were *rancheros*?



Summarizing

5. What did John C. Frémont say about California?

Manifest Destiny

Lesson 3 War With Mexico, *Continued*



Reading Check

6. Why did Americans want to add California to the United States?



Identifying

7. Where did the United States say the border between Texas and Mexico was? What did Mexico say?

Americans began to talk about adding California to the United States. If California became a state, the nation's western border would be the Pacific Ocean. Americans would not have to worry about sharing a western border with any other country. Shippers also wanted to build seaports on the coast. From there, they could trade with countries in Asia.

Conflict Begins

President Polk wanted to get both New Mexico and California from Mexico. He offered to buy the land, but Mexico would not sell it. Polk planned to get the land by going to war with Mexico. He hoped to get Mexico to start the fighting.

Mexico and the United States disagreed about where the border was between Texas and Mexico. The United States said it was the Rio Grande, the river to the south. Mexico said the border was the Nueces (nu • AY • sehs) River. It was 150 miles (241 km) farther north. Polk sent General Zachary Taylor to march his army into the area between the two rivers. He hoped that Mexican soldiers would fire first. On April 25, 1846, they did. On May 13, Congress voted to go to war with Mexico.

Polk had three goals to win the war.

U.S. Goals for War With Mexico

1. Push Mexican forces out of Texas
2. Take control of New Mexico and California
3. Capture Mexico City

General Taylor accomplished the first goal in Texas by 1847. General Stephen Kearney led American troops down the Santa Fe trail and captured Santa Fe, New Mexico's capital. Then Kearney headed toward California.

Meanwhile, General John C. Frémont was leading a revolt against Mexico in California. Frémont won. The rebels declared California independent of Mexico.

They named California the Bear Flag Republic. However, the Bear Flag Republic did not stay independent for long. American navy ships sailed into the ports of both San Francisco and San Diego. The Navy claimed California for the United States.

Mexico did not give up, however. Since Mexico had not given up yet, American soldiers were sent to Mexico. Finally, General Winfield Scott and his troops captured Mexico City.

Manifest Destiny

Lesson 3 War With Mexico, *Continued*

In 1848, the Mexicans stopped fighting. The treaty, or agreement, that ended the war was called the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo (GWAH•duh•loop he•DAHL•goh). Mexico gave up California and the New Mexico Territory. It also agreed that the Rio Grande was the border between Mexico and Texas. Mexico gave more than 500,000 square miles (1,295,000 sq. km) of land to the United States. The United States paid Mexico \$15 million dollars for the land. They also took on \$3.25 million in debts that Mexico owed to American citizens. The dream of Manifest Destiny had become a reality.

Glue Foldable here

Check for Understanding

What did the Mexican War have to do with the idea of Manifest Destiny?

List three results of the Mexican War.

 **Reading Check**

8. What did America gain from the Mexican War?

FOLDABLES

9. Place a three-tab Venn diagram Foldable along the dotted line to cover Check for Understanding. Write *Compare* on the anchor tab. Label the three tabs *New Mexico Territory*, *Both*, and *California*. List two things you recall about each and what they had in common. Use the Foldable to help answer Check for Understanding.