

**Expanding West****Section 3****MAIN IDEAS**

1. Many Americans believed that the nation had a manifest destiny to claim new lands in the West.
2. As a result of the Mexican-American War, the United States added territory in the Southwest.
3. American settlement in the Mexican Cession produced conflict and a blending of cultures.

**Key Terms and People**

**manifest destiny** belief that America's fate was to conquer land all the way to the Pacific Ocean

**James K. Polk** U.S. president, elected in 1844, whose administration annexed both Texas and Oregon

**vaqueros** cowboys

**Californios** Spanish colonists and their descendents living in California

**Bear Flag Revolt** rebellion of American settlers against the Californios in 1846

**Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo** 1848 peace treaty between Mexico and the United States

**Gadsden Purchase** purchase from Mexico of the southern parts of present-day New Mexico and Arizona in 1853

**Academic Vocabulary**

**elements** a basic part of an individual's surroundings

**Section Summary****MANIFEST DESTINY**

The idea of manifest destiny loomed large in the election of 1844. The new president, **James K. Polk**, promised to annex both Texas and Oregon.

In 1846 Britain and the United States signed a treaty that gave the United States all Oregon land south of the 49th parallel. This treaty drew the present-day border between the United States and Canada. In 1845 the congresses of both the Republic of Texas and the United States approved annexation of Texas.

**How did the boundaries of the United States change during the 1840s?**

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**Section 3, continued**

After winning independence from Spain in 1821, Mexico began changing old policies set by Spain. Mission lands were broken up into vast ranches. *Vaqueros* managed the herds of cattle and sheep. Settlers, known as **Californios**, felt little connection to their faraway government in Mexico. American settlers also began coming to California and calling for independence from Mexico.

**How might Californios have viewed the arrival of large numbers of American settlers?**

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**MEXICAN-AMERICAN WAR**

Since the Texas Revolution the border between Mexico and Texas had been in dispute. Mexico claimed the border lay along the Nueces River while the United States claimed the Rio Grande as the border. In 1845 President Polk sent troops to the Rio Grande. When Mexican soldiers attacked them, Congress declared war on Mexico. Although many Americans thought the war was unjustified, U.S. troops pushed into Mexico, going from victory to victory until they finally captured Mexico City. A successful revolt against the Californios in Sonoma, known as the **Bear Flag Revolt**, proclaimed California to be an independent nation.

**Some Americans at the time thought President Polk provoked the Mexican attack by stationing soldiers on the Rio Grande. Do you agree? Explain your answer.**

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**AMERICAN SETTLEMENT IN THE MEXICAN CESSION**

The **Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo**, which ended the Mexican War in 1848, increased the land area of the United States by almost 25 percent. A few years later, in 1853, the **Gadsden Purchase** fixed the continental boundaries of the United States.

As American settlers flooded the Southwest, the **elements** of life changed. Cultural encounters often led to conflict and violence. New settlers usually ignored Mexican legal ideas, such as community property and water rights. However, traditional knowledge and customs gradually shaped local economies, and new and mutually beneficial trade patterns began to emerge.

**Why is the issue of water rights much more serious in the West than it is in the East?**

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**CHALLENGE ACTIVITY****Critical Thinking: Identify Cause and Effect**

Write a law regulating water rights.

**Section 3, *continued***

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**DIRECTIONS** Read each sentence and fill in the blank with the word in the word pair that best completes the sentence.

1. The Democratic Party chose former Tennessee governor \_\_\_\_\_ as its presidential candidate in the election of 1844.  
(James K. Polk/Henry Clay)
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ was negotiated with Mexico so that the United States government would pay Mexico for the southern parts of what are now Arizona and New Mexico. (Gadsden Purchase/Bear Flag Revolt)
3. The growth of the United States to the Pacific Ocean was called \_\_\_\_\_ (Californios/manifest destiny)
4. The Mexican-American War ended with the signing of the \_\_\_\_\_ (manifest destiny/Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo)
5. Spanish colonists in California were known as \_\_\_\_\_ (Californios/manifest destiny)
6. This rebellion was called the \_\_\_\_\_ because of the flag that was created to represent the nation of California.  
(Bear Flag Revolt/Gadsden Purchase)
7. \_\_\_\_\_ was elected president of the United States in 1844.  
(Henry Clay/James K. Polk)
8. The \_\_\_\_\_ finally fixed the continental boundaries of the United States. (Bear Flag Revolt/Gadsden Purchase)
9. General \_\_\_\_\_ led U.S. troops against Mexico.  
(Zachary Taylor/James K. Polk)
10. In the \_\_\_\_\_, Mexico turned over to the United States land that included the present-day states of California, Nevada, and Utah, and parts of Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, and Wyoming. (Bear Flag Revolt/Mexican Cession)