

CHAPTER  
BENCHMARKS

**SS.8.A.4.1** Examine the causes, course, and consequences of United States westward expansion and its growing diplomatic assertiveness (War of 1812, Convention of 1818, Adams-Onís Treaty, Missouri Compromise, Monroe Doctrine, Trail of Tears, Texas annexation, Manifest Destiny, Oregon Territory, Mexican American War/ Mexican Cession, California Gold Rush, Compromise of 1850, Kansas Nebraska Act, Gadsden Purchase).

**SS.8.A.4.2** Describe the debate surrounding the spread of slavery into western territories and Florida.

**SS.8.A.4.3** Examine the experiences and perspectives of significant individuals and groups during this era of American History.

**SS.8.A.4.4** Discuss the impact of westward expansion on cultural practices and migration patterns of Native American and African slave populations.

**SS.8.A.4.8** Describe the influence of individuals on social and political developments of this era in American History.

## Chapter Overview

After the Louisiana Purchase roughly doubled the size of the United States in 1803, the country was larger than many Americans had ever dreamed possible. Yet the new nation would continue to expand in the coming years. Huge territories in Oregon, Florida, Texas, New Mexico, California, and Utah would soon all become part of the United States. By 1846, the nation's territory stretched from the Atlantic coast to the Pacific coast—from sea to sea.

In the 1840s, territorial expansion was shaped by a new idea called Manifest Destiny. Many came to believe it was the destiny, or mission, of the United States to spread freedom throughout the continent by taking over new lands. This idea helped fuel the territorial growth of the United States. It also led to bitter conflicts.

## WHAT I NEED TO KNOW

## TERMS

- joint occupation
- mountain man
- emigrant
- prairie schooner
- Manifest Destiny
- Tejano
- annex
- rancho
- rancharo
- forty-niner

- boomtown
- vigilante

## PEOPLE, PLACES, EVENTS

- Oregon Country
- Adams-Onís Treaty
- Oregon Trail
- James K. Polk
- Tallahassee
- Antonio López de Santa Anna
- The Alamo
- Sam Houston

- New Mexico Territory
- Santa Fe
- William Becknell
- Santa Fe Trail
- California
- John C. Frémont
- Zachary Taylor
- Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo
- California Gold Rush
- Utah Territory
- Joseph Smith
- Brigham Young

## CHAPTER 13

# Manifest Destiny

### CHAPTER BENCHMARKS, *continued*

**SS.8.A.4.17** Examine the key events and peoples in Florida history as each impacts this era of American history.

**SS.8.A.4.18** Examine the experiences and perspectives of different ethnic, national, and religious groups in Florida, explaining their contributions to Florida's and America's society and culture during the Territorial Period.

**SS.8.E.1.1** Examine motivating economic factors that influenced the development of the United States economy over time, including scarcity, supply and demand, opportunity costs, incentives, profits, and entrepreneurial aspects.

**SS.8.E.2.1** Analyze contributions of entrepreneurs, inventors, and other key individuals from various gender,

social, and ethnic backgrounds in the development of the United States economy.

**SS.8.E.2.3** Assess the role of Africans and other minority groups in the economic development of the United States.

**SS.8.G.2.2** Use geographic terms and tools to analyze case studies of regional issues in different parts of the United States that have had critical economic, physical, or political ramifications.

**SS.8.G.4.2** Use geographic terms and tools to analyze the effects throughout American history of migration to and within the United States, both on the place of origin and destination.

**SS.8.G.4.3** Use geographic terms and tools to explain cultural diffusion throughout the United States as it expanded its territory.

**SS.8.G.4.4** Interpret databases, case studies, and maps to describe the role that regions play in influencing trade, migration patterns, and cultural/political interaction in the United States throughout time.

**SS.8.G.5.1** Describe human dependence on the physical environment and natural resources to satisfy basic needs in local environments in the United States.

**SS.8.G.5.2** Describe the impact of human modifications on the physical environment and ecosystems of the United States.

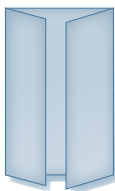


## Manifest Destiny

Make this Foldable and label the six tabs *Oregon Country*, *Florida*, *Texas*, *California*, *Utah*, and *New Mexico/Mexico*. Under the tabs, record dates, names, and short phrases that will help you recall what you read about each territory, region, republic, or country. On the back of the Foldable, explain the concept of Manifest Destiny. Outline some of the positive and negative consequences of this national movement for expansion.

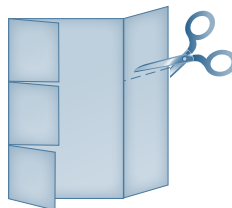
### Step 1

Fold the outer edges of the paper to meet at the midpoint. Crease well.



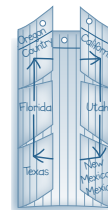
### Step 2

Open and cut three equal tabs from the outer edge to the crease on each side.



### Step 3

Label the tabs as shown.



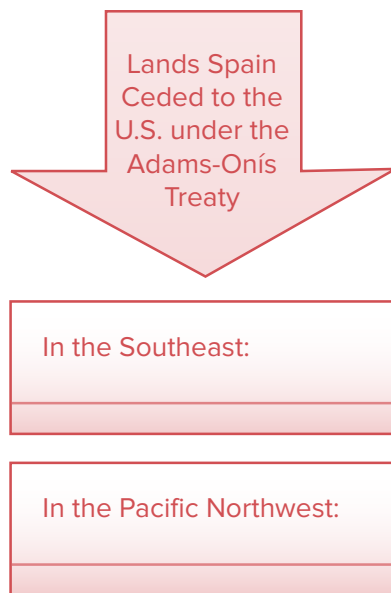
## LESSON 1 SUMMARY

# The Oregon Country

SS.8.A.4.1; SS.8.A.4.8; SS.8.E.1.1; SS.8.G.4.2; SS.8.G.4.3;  
SS.8.G.4.4; SS.8.G.5.1; SS.8.G.5.2

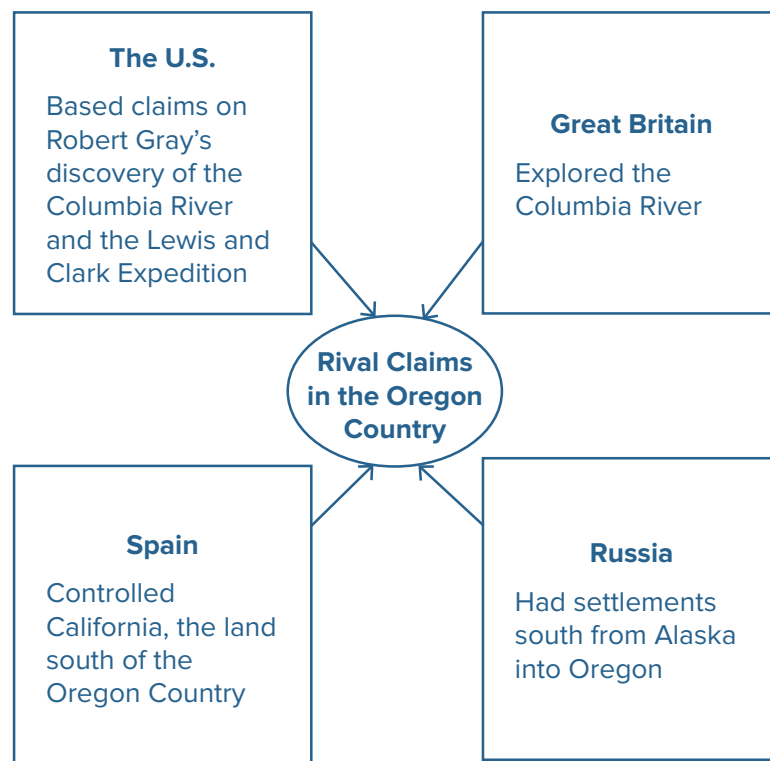
### 1. MAKING CONNECTIONS

Recall that under the terms of the Adams-Onís Treaty, Spain also gave up lands it controlled in the southeast. Complete this organizer to show how the Adams-Onís Treaty affected U.S. territory on opposite ends of the country.



## Rivalry in the Northwest

The Oregon Country was a huge area located north of California, between the Pacific Ocean and the Rocky Mountains. It covered far more land than today's state of Oregon. And, in the early 1800s, its lands were claimed by four different nations.



## Adams-Onís Treaty

Control of the Oregon Country was especially important to the United States. Settlements in Oregon would give Americans access to the Pacific Ocean.

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### LESSON 1 SUMMARY, *continued*

In 1819, Secretary of State John Quincy Adams convinced Spain to sign the Adams-Onís Treaty. Under the treaty, the Spanish agreed to give up their claims in Oregon. They also set the limits of their territory at what is now the northern border of California. In 1824 Russia also gave up its claims to lands south of Alaska.

Great Britain, however, would not give up its claims to the Oregon Country. In 1819, the United States and Great Britain agreed to **joint occupation**. This meant that people from both countries could settle there.

## Mountain Men in Oregon

The first people from the United States to live in the Oregon Country were fur trappers. They came to trap beaver, whose skins were in great demand. Fur companies bought the skins to sell as furs in the United States and Europe.

The fur trappers were tough, independent men who spent most of their time in the Rocky Mountains. They became known as **mountain men**. The mountain men traded with Native Americans and often adopted Native American ways.

Over time, the mountain men could no longer make a living by trapping. Overtrapping had reduced the number of pelts available, and changes in fashion had reduced demand. Some mountain men moved to Oregon and became farmers. Others used their knowledge of the area to guide settlers on the long trip to the Oregon Country. They carved out several east-to-west passages that played a vital role in western settlement. The route they used most often was called the Oregon Trail.

## Oregon and Manifest Destiny

By the 1830s, many Americans had heard about the good farmland in Oregon. With economic troubles in the East, more and more settlers began traveling to the Oregon Country seeking a fresh start.

### 2. RECOGNIZING RELATIONSHIPS

How did the economic factors of scarcity and supply and demand affect the lives of the mountain men in the Oregon Country?

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**LESSON 1 SUMMARY, *continued***

**ANALYZING MAPS**

3. On a separate sheet of paper, describe the route of the Oregon Trail, using the map to identify geographic features settlers followed along the way.

**4. EVALUATING**

Look at the map of the Oregon Country. Circle the line of latitude 54°40' N. Now circle the line of latitude 49° N. Does setting the final border at 49° N seem like a fair compromise over control of the Oregon Country? Why or why not?

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**Marcus and Narcissa Whitman**

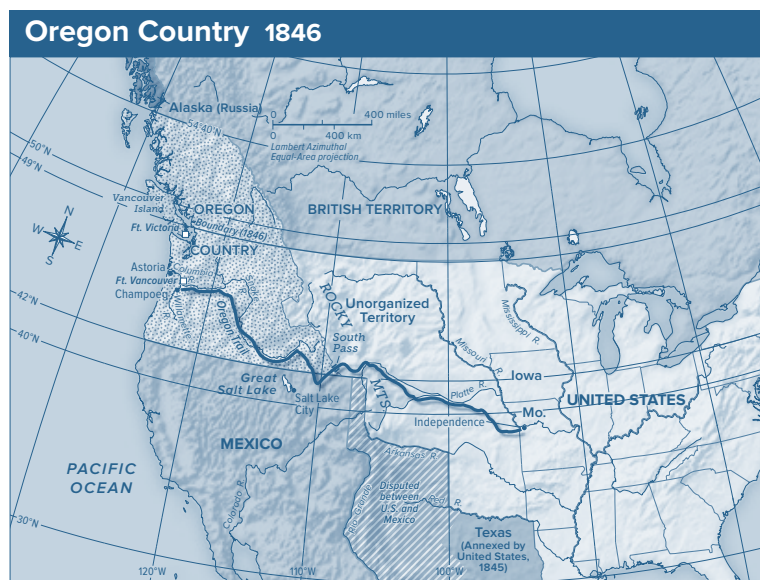
Among the first settlers were Dr. Marcus Whitman and his wife, Narcissa, who went to Oregon in 1836. The Whitmans built a mission among the Cayuse people to provide medical care and convert the Cayuse to Christianity.

Settlers traveling to Oregon often stopped to rest at the Whitmans' mission. In 1847 the people at the mission began getting measles. Many Cayuse children died. The Cayuse blamed the Whitmans for the deaths. They attacked the mission and killed the Whitmans and 11 others.

**Along the Oregon Trail**

The Whitman massacre was a shocking event, but it did little to stop the flood of pioneers heading for the Oregon Country. These pioneers were called **emigrants**—people who leave their country—because they left the United States to go to Oregon.

The Oregon Trail stretched for 2,000 dangerous, rugged miles. Settlers on the trail carried all their belongings and supplies in canvas-covered wagons. People called the wagons **prairie schooners** because, from a distance, they looked like ships called schooners. Over the years, tens of thousands of emigrants made the long, difficult journey across the Oregon Trail to Oregon Country.



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LESSON 1 SUMMARY, *continued*

## America Seeks Its Manifest Destiny

In the early 1800s, many Americans began to focus on what newspaper editor John O’Sullivan called the nation’s **Manifest Destiny**. This was the idea that it was the mission of the United States to spread freedom by settling the entire continent, all the way to the Pacific Ocean. This included the Oregon Country.

James K. Polk supported this idea. Polk was the Democratic nominee for president in the election of 1844. His campaign slogan, “Fifty-Four Forty or Fight,” referred to the line of latitude Democrats believed should be set as the nation’s northern border in Oregon—a line that stretched along the northernmost lands of the Oregon Country. Polk’s Whig opponent, Henry Clay, did not take a strong position on the Oregon issue. Polk won the election.

As president, Polk was focused on acquiring Oregon. But the British refused to accept a border at 54°40' N latitude. In 1846 the two countries compromised. They set the border at 49° N latitude. This line still serves as the northern border of the United States today.

### 5. IDENTIFYING POINTS OF VIEW

How do you think Native Americans viewed the idea of Manifest Destiny?

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LESSON 1 SUMMARY, *continued*



REVIEW LESSON 1

1. Answer the questions in the chart below to describe the issue related to the campaign slogan “Fifty-Four Forty or Fight!”

“FIFTY-FOUR FORTY OR FIGHT!”	
Who campaigned for president using this slogan?	
What was the election year?	
What did the slogan mean?	
What country would the U.S. fight if “Fifty-Four Forty” failed?	
How was the issue settled?	

2. **DETERMINING CAUSE AND EFFECT** Use the information from your chart and the lesson to write an essay that answers the following questions: What is Manifest Destiny, and what effect did it have on the settlement of the Oregon Country during the mid-1800s? Why do you think the two parties in conflict over the Oregon Country were able to reach a compromise? Write your essay on a separate sheet of paper.

## LESSON 2 SUMMARY

# Statehood for Florida and Texas

SS.8.A.4.1; SS.8.A.4.2; SS.8.A.4.17; SS.8.A.4.18

## Florida

On July 17, 1821, Spain officially transferred Florida to the United States under the terms of the Adams-Onís Treaty. Florida became an American territory with an appointed territorial governor, a territorial legislature, and a nonvoting delegate in Congress. Tallahassee became the territory's capital. It was located between two major cities of the time, St. Augustine and Pensacola.

As news of the area's fertile land spread, thousands of new settlers came to Florida. Many were planters whose farmland in Virginia, Georgia, and the Carolinas had become worn out from years of heavy use. They established new cotton and tobacco plantations in northern Florida and the Panhandle. These planters would come to play a major role in government and politics of the area.

## The Territory Grows

Florida's population grew quickly. In 1824, fewer than 8,000 people lived in the territory, including enslaved people. In 1837, some 48,000 people lived there. By then, enslaved people made up about half of the population.

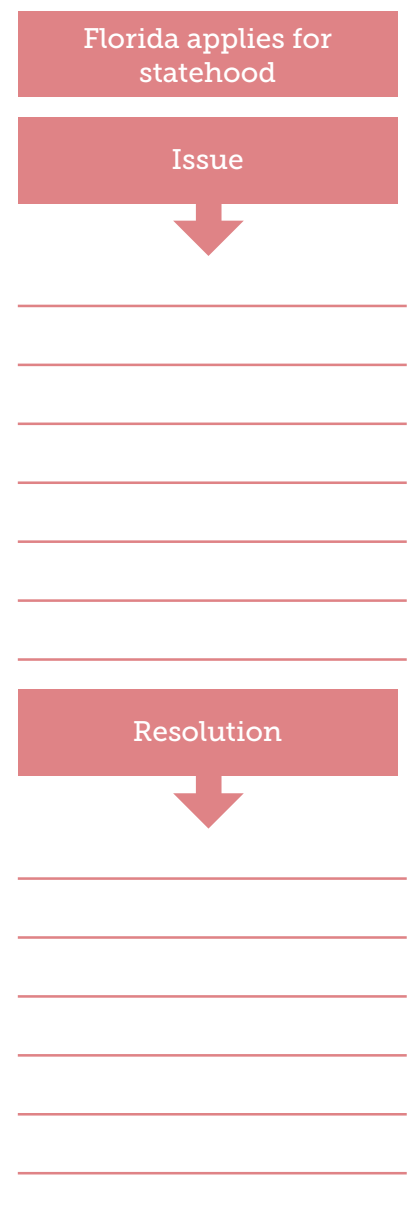
With the population soaring, officials asked Floridians if they wanted to form a state. Voters chose to seek statehood, and delegates to a constitutional convention wrote a constitution. The constitution was approved on January 11, 1839, and sent to the U.S. Congress for ratification.

### Florida's First Constitution

- Governor elected for four years
- An elected General Assembly, or legislature
- System of public schools
- Slavery allowed

### 1. DETERMINING CENTRAL IDEAS

Complete this graphic organizer to identify the issue that delayed statehood for Florida and how it was resolved.





**LESSON 2 SUMMARY, *continued***

**2. CITING TEXT EVIDENCE**

Underline three reasons tensions rose as more and more Americans moved to Texas. Circle the action Mexico took in response. Why do you think the Mexican government was so concerned about these issues?

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Florida’s plan to enter the Union as a slave state, however, created a problem. Congress wanted to keep the number of slave states and free states equal. Admitting Florida as a slave state would upset this balance. As a result, Congress postponed admitting Florida to the Union as a slave state until another state entered as a free state.

**Statehood for Florida**

After six years, Congress finally acted on Florida’s request to become a state. Iowa had asked to be admitted to the Union as a free state, and the number of slave states and free states would remain equal. President John Tyler signed the Florida statehood bill. Florida became the twenty-seventh state on March 3, 1845.

**Texas**

After winning independence from Spain in 1821, Mexico gained control of the region that is now Texas. To increase settlement, Mexico offered vast tracts of land to people who would agree to bring families to settle there. Hundreds of American families packed their belongings and headed for Texas.

Before long, Americans outnumbered Tejanos. **Tejanos** were Mexicans who claimed Texas as their home. Tensions rose when many Americans refused to learn Spanish and to become Catholic as Mexico required. Many Americans also held enslaved Africans Americans, and Mexico threatened to ban the practice of slavery.

In 1830, Mexico issued an order that no more Americans could settle in Texas. American settlers tried to reach an agreement with Mexican leaders, but their efforts failed. Texans—including both Americans and Tejanos—began making plans to break away from Mexico and form their own government.

The conflict soon grew violent as fighting broke out between Texans and Mexican forces. Mexican general Antonio López de Santa Anna led an army into Texas to punish the rebels. Santa Anna’s army reached San Antonio in February 1836. There it found a small force of Texans barricaded inside a mission called the Alamo.

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LESSON 2 SUMMARY, *continued*

## The Alamo

About 180 Texan soldiers defended the Alamo against an army of several thousand. The defenders fought bravely for many days. The Mexican army, however, was too large to hold back. In the end cannon fire smashed through the Alamo's walls, and Santa Anna's troops stormed the fortress and killed all the defenders. Although they were defeated, the defenders' heroism inspired other Texans. "Remember the Alamo!" became a new rallying cry.

## Texas Declares Its Independence

While fighting was going on at the Alamo, Texan leaders meeting at the town of Washington-on-the-Brazos declared independence from Mexico. They established the Republic of Texas and set up a temporary government.

Sam Houston was named commander-in-chief of the new republic. Houston gathered an army and launched a surprise attack against Mexican forces at San Jacinto. The Texans defeated the Mexican army and captured Santa Anna. On May 14, 1836, Santa Anna signed a treaty that recognized the independence of Texas.

## Texas Becomes a State

Even though Texas was now an independent republic, many Texans wanted to join the United States. In September 1836, Texas voters elected Sam Houston president. Houston sent a delegation to Washington, D.C., to ask the United States to **annex**, or take control of, Texas. Once again, however, the issue of slavery would play a role in admitting a new state to the Union.

### 3. MAKING INFERENCES

Why do you think so many Texans wanted to join the United States after fighting so hard to win independence?

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What might have been the advantages of remaining an independent republic?

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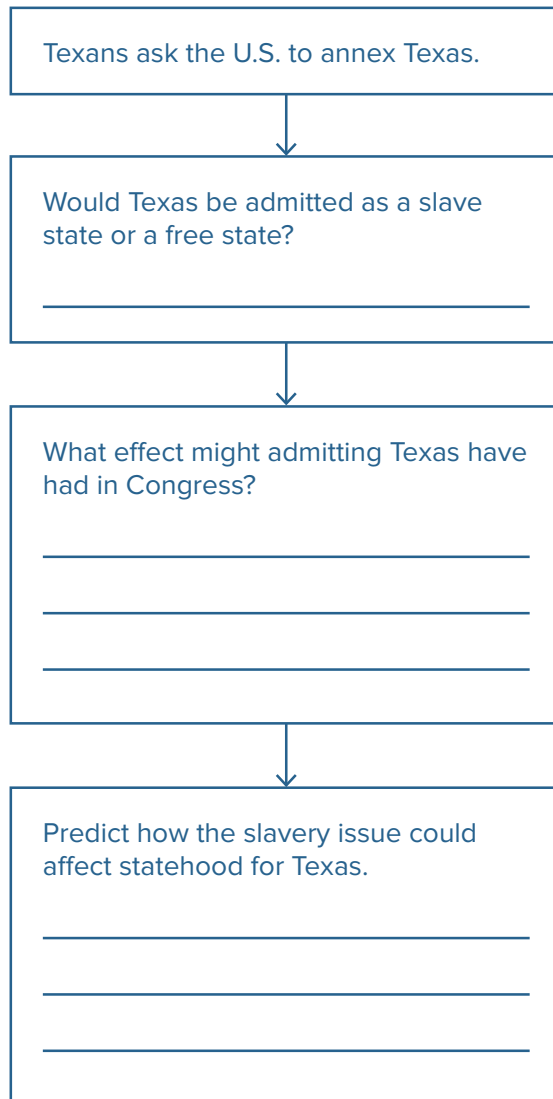
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**LESSON 2 SUMMARY, *continued***

Think about how the debate surrounding the spread of slavery impacted statehood for Florida. Then answer the questions in the graphic organizer below to help you predict how the issue would impact statehood for Texas.



**4. SPECULATING**

What might have happened if James K. Polk had lost the election of 1844?

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Despite the growing divisions over slavery, by 1844 another idea had captured the imaginations of many Americans. Manifest Destiny had become a popular idea in both the North and the South. Northerners wanted the nation to expand into all of Oregon. Southerners wanted the nation to expand into Texas. Presidential candidate James K. Polk supported both actions. After Polk won election, Congress passed a resolution to annex Texas. In 1845 Texas joined the Union.


LESSON 2 SUMMARY, *continued*



REVIEW LESSON 2

1. Use the time line below to review the process of statehood in Florida and Texas. Place each of the following events on the time line, and label each with the correct date: Florida becomes a U.S. territory; Texas becomes a republic; Florida applies to become a state; Florida becomes a state; Texas becomes a state.



2.  **COMPARING AND CONTRASTING** Use the information from your time line and the lesson to write an essay that answers the following question: How did the process to attain statehood in Florida compare to the process to attain statehood in Texas? In your answer, be sure to consider the role of population growth, the events that shaped the process in each state, and the debate surrounding the expansion of slavery. Write your essay on a separate sheet of paper.

## LESSON 3 SUMMARY

# War With Mexico

SS.8.A.4.1; SS.8.A.4.3; SS.8.A.4.4; SS.8.A.4.8; SS.8.G.2.2; SS.8.G.4.4

### ANALYZING MAPS

1. Study the paths of the Mountain and Cimarron Routes on the Santa Fe Trail map. What might have been the advantages and disadvantages of each route for traders in the 1800s?

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## The New Mexico Territory

In the early 1800s, the New Mexico Territory was a vast region between Texas and California. It included all of the present-day states of New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, and Utah, and parts of Colorado and Wyoming. Native Americans had lived in New Mexico for thousands of years. In the late 1500s, Spanish conquistadors claimed it for Spain, and Spanish missionaries soon followed. Mexico won independence from Spain in 1821, and the New Mexico Territory became part of Mexico.

The Mexican government welcomed American traders to New Mexico, hoping more trade would boost the economy. In 1821 William Becknell became the first American trader to reach Santa Fe, a settlement founded more than two hundred years earlier by the Spanish. Becknell's route became known as the Santa Fe Trail.

The Santa Fe Trail soon became a busy trade route. As trade increased, more and more Americans settled in New Mexico. Some began to believe that acquiring New Mexico for the United States was part of the nation's Manifest Destiny.

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LESSON 3 SUMMARY, *continued*

## California's Spanish Culture

Spanish explorers and missionaries settled California in the 1700s. The Spanish built a chain of missions along the coast. They wanted to convert Native Americans to Christianity and the Spanish way of life. Native Americans on the missions farmed and worked at weaving and other crafts.

After Mexico won independence from Spain in 1821, California became a part of Mexico. Mexican settlers bought mission lands and set up huge ranches called **ranchos**. Native Americans worked the land in return for food and shelter, but the ranch owners, called **rancheros**, treated them very poorly.

An American army officer named John C. Frémont traveled to California in the 1840s. After Frémont wrote about the region's mild climate and vast natural resources, more Americans came to California. Many began to talk about adding California to the Union. If California became a state, the Pacific Ocean would become the nation's western border. For many Americans, it seemed clear that California was a part of the nation's Manifest Destiny.

## Conflict Begins

President James K. Polk was determined to get both the New Mexico and California territories from Mexico. Relations between the United States and Mexico, however, were not friendly. A major problem was a dispute over the border between Texas and Mexico. The United States said the border was the Rio Grande, the river to the south. Mexico said it was the Nueces River, 150 miles farther north.

Polk sent a representative to Mexico to propose a deal. The United States would pay \$30 million to buy New Mexico and California as long as Mexico accepted the Rio Grande as the Texas border. Mexican leaders refused to discuss the offer. Instead, they declared that they intended to reclaim Texas for Mexico.

To pressure Mexico, Polk ordered General Zachary Taylor to lead U.S. troops into the disputed territory near the Rio Grande. Mexican leaders viewed this action as an invasion of their country. Polk hoped that Mexican soldiers would fire first. They did. On May 13, 1846, Congress passed a declaration of war against Mexico.

### 2. DRAWING CONCLUSIONS

What would be the advantages of having the Pacific Ocean as the nation's western border?

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### 3. IDENTIFYING POINTS OF VIEW

How did the U.S. interpret the skirmish that took place when General Zachary Taylor led troops into the disputed territory near the Rio Grande?

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How did Mexico interpret the action?

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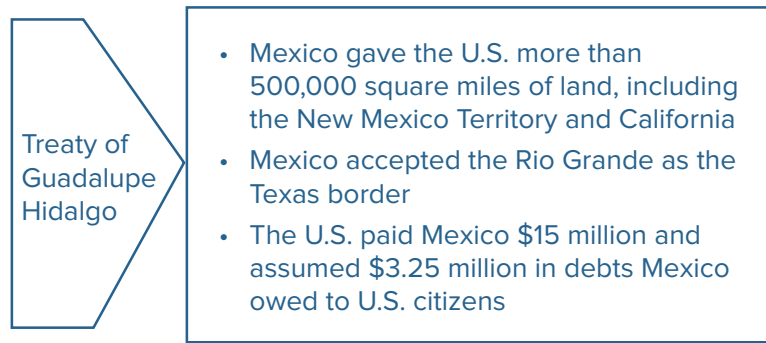


**LESSON 3 SUMMARY, *continued***

Despite huge losses, Mexico refused to surrender. President Polk then sent General Winfield Scott and his troops to attack Mexico City, the nation's capital. Scott landed at Veracruz and fought his way to Mexico City, capturing it in September 1847. Polk's plan for winning the war had succeeded.

**Peace Terms**

The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, signed on February 2, 1848, officially ended the war. With the lands gained under the treaty, the dream of Manifest Destiny was now complete.





LESSON 3 SUMMARY, *continued*



REVIEW LESSON 3

- Use the chart below to review key information about the war with Mexico.

WAR WITH MEXICO	
U.S. Goals	
Dates	
Key Military Leaders	
Outcome	

- CONSTRUCTING AN ARGUMENT** Use the information from your chart and the lesson to write an essay that answers the following question: Do you think President Polk was justified in sending troops to the disputed lands near the Rio Grande and provoking a war? Write your essay on a separate sheet of paper.

## LESSON 4 SUMMARY

# California and Utah

SS.8.A.4.1; SS.8.A.4.3; SS.8.E.2.1; SS.8.E.2.3

## California Gold Rush

When gold was discovered at Sutter’s Mill in California, the news traveled fast. People rushed into California in search of riches. They were called **forty-niners** because most arrived in 1849. About 80 percent of these fortune seekers were Americans. Others were from Mexico, South America, Europe, and Australia. About 300 men arrived from China and were the first large group of Asian immigrants to settle in America. Some of the immigrants eventually returned to China. Others, however, remained and established California’s Chinese American community.

## The Californios

One provision of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was that Mexicans living in California—called Californios—would become citizens of the United States. The treaty also guaranteed them the rights to their lands. The Land Law of 1851, however, said that if a new settler claimed land held by a Californio, the Californio had to go to court to prove ownership. Some Californios were able to prove their claims. Many others, however, lost their land to newcomers.

## The Life of a Forty-Niner

As miners scrambled into new areas to look for gold, new communities quickly sprang up around them. These **boomtowns** seemed to grow from small settlements to bustling towns and cities almost overnight.

Most forty-niners had no experience in mining. Rushing to new sites, they attacked the hillsides with pickaxes and spent hours bent over streambeds “panning” for tiny specks of gold. The California Gold Rush more than doubled the world’s supply of gold, yet few forty-niners got rich. Most found little or no gold or lost their riches to gambling or wild spending.

### 1. CONTRASTING

What effect did the Gold Rush have on the lives of most forty-niners? What effect did it have the lives of many boomtown entrepreneurs?

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**LESSON 4 SUMMARY, *continued***

**ANALYZING VISUALS**

2. What conclusions can you draw about the lives of forty-niners based on the scene in the image?

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Miners panning for gold swirled water and gravel in a pan to remove dirt and, they hoped, find gold dust or gold nuggets.

Boomtown merchants, however, made huge profits. They could charge almost any price they wanted for food and other supplies because there were no other nearby stores. An immigrant named Levi Strauss sold the miners sturdy pants made of denim. His “Levi’s” made him rich.

Life in the boomtowns was hard and rough. Many miners spent their free time drinking and fighting, and there were no police or prisons. Sometimes people formed groups to protect themselves. **Vigilantes** took the law into their own hands, acting as police, judge, and jury.

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LESSON 4 SUMMARY, *continued*

## Economic and Political Progress

The Gold Rush led to new economic development in California. Farming, shipping, and trade grew to meet the rising demand for food and other goods. Many of the forty-niners eventually settled permanently in California, becoming farmers or merchants.

In 1849 Californians applied for statehood and wrote a constitution. The new constitution banned slavery, leading to another crisis in Congress. California's admission as a free state would upset the balance between free states and slave states. Congress eventually worked out a compromise, and California became a state in 1850.

## A Religious Refuge in Utah

While the Gold Rush was transforming California, changes also were taking place in nearby Utah. Settlers in Utah, however, were not searching for gold. They were Mormons, followers of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

## The Mormons Move On

The founder of the Mormon Church was Joseph Smith, a New Englander living in New York. Smith said that he had received visions that led him to build a new church. He began preaching Mormon ideas in 1830 and published *The Book of Mormon*. The book told of the coming of the Christ and the need to build a kingdom on Earth to receive him.

Smith hoped to build an ideal society, but some of his ideas were unpopular. One teaching that angered a large number of people was the idea that a man could have more than one wife. This practice is known as polygamy.

Disapproval of the Mormons' religion forced them to leave New York. They eventually settled in Illinois but continued to suffer persecution. In 1844 a mob killed Joseph Smith. The new head of the church, Brigham Young, decided that the Mormons should move again to find religious freedom. He led them westward to the Great Salt Lake in present-day Utah. Although part of Mexico at the time, no Mexicans had settled there because of the dry, harsh terrain.

### 3. MAKING CONNECTIONS

Why do you think the Mormons chose a desert in Utah as a place to build a new community?

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**LESSON 4 SUMMARY, *continued***

**4. MAKING INFERENCES**

After Congress established the Utah Territory, Mormon leaders repeatedly applied for statehood. Being a state rather than a territory would allow them to write their own constitution and choose their own leaders. Why do you think this was especially important to Mormon leaders? Write your answer on a separate piece of paper.

**A Haven in the Desert**

Beginning in 1846, about 12,000 Mormons made the journey to Utah in the largest single migration in American history. The Mormons' route became known as the Mormon Trail and served as an important route west.

The Mormons reached the Great Salt Lake in 1847 and called the land Deseret. Although life was difficult, they found success through hard work and determination. They carefully planned towns, built irrigation canals for farms, and regulated the use of water, timber, and other resources. New industries helped them become self-sufficient. Mormon merchants sold supplies to forty-niners passing through Utah on their way to California.

In 1848 the United States acquired the Salt Lake area from Mexico after the Mexican War. In 1850 Congress established the Utah Territory. Becoming a state, however, was not easy. Many Americans opposed the Mormon practice of polygamy, and the Mormons had frequent conflicts with federal officials. Utah finally became a state in 1896, after the Mormons ended the practice of polygamy.

Complete the diagram below to show the causes and effects of the Mormon migration.



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LESSON 4 SUMMARY, *continued*



REVIEW LESSON 4

- Use the chart below to review the paths to statehood for California and Utah.

	REASON FOR SETTLEMENT	PATH TO STATEHOOD	YEAR OF STATEHOOD
California			
Utah			

- CONTRASTING** Use the information from your chart and the lesson to write an essay that answers the following questions: How did the motivations of the people who settled in California contrast with the motivations of those who settled in Utah? What effect did these motivations have on the path to statehood for each area? Write your essay on a separate sheet of paper.



# Benchmark Skill Activities

**DIRECTIONS:** Write your answers on a separate piece of paper.

LAFS.68.RH.1.1, LAFS.68.WHST.1.2, LAFS.68.WHST.2.4, SS.8.A.4.1, SS.8.A.4.2, SS.8.A.4.17

## 1. RECOGNIZING RELATIONSHIPS

Use your **FOLDABLES** to write an essay.

How did Manifest Destiny become linked with the issue of the expansion of slavery, and why did the linking of these two issues prove so difficult for the country? In your essay, provide specific examples of events related to the topic.

LAFS.68.WHST.1.1, SS.8.G.5.1

## 2. PRIORITIZING

Most pioneers traveled for about six months on the Oregon Trail before they reached the Oregon Country. It could take even longer if bad weather, illness, or other problems along the way caused delays. Although they packed supplies, the settlers ultimately had to depend on resources from the physical environment along the trail to help them survive. What items from the environment do you think the settlers depended on during the long journey? List the items, then rank them according to how important you think each one was for survival. Explain your reasoning.

LAFS.68.RH.2.4, SS.8.A.4.1, SS.8.A.4.3, SS.8.E.11, SS.8.E.21

## 3. DETERMINING WORD MEANINGS

Write a paragraph about the California Gold Rush using the following terms: *forty-niners*, *boomtowns*, and *vigilantes*.



## BENCHMARK SKILLS ACTIVITIES, *continued*

LAFS.68.RH.1.1, SS.8.A.4.1

### 4. ANALYZING PRIMARY SOURCES

Read the excerpt below from President James K. Polk’s Inaugural Address, delivered March 4, 1845. Then write an evaluation of the excerpt. Your evaluation should summarize the meaning of Polk’s words, explain how his word choices helped him express his point of view, and discuss whether or not facts or opinions, or both, were used to help support his position. Underline evidence in the text that supports your evaluation. Conclude your evaluation by explaining whether you think this passage is effective in persuading people to support Polk’s view of Manifest Destiny.

“Eighty years ago our population was confined on the west by the ridge of the Alleghanies. Within that period--within the lifetime, I might say, of some of my hearers--our people, increasing to many millions, have filled the eastern valley of the Mississippi, adventurously ascended the Missouri to its headsprings, and are already engaged in establishing the blessings of self-government in valleys of which the rivers flow to the Pacific. The world beholds the peaceful triumphs of the industry of our emigrants. To us belongs the duty of protecting them adequately wherever they may be upon our soil. The jurisdiction of our laws and the benefits of our republican institutions should be extended over them in the distant regions which they have selected for their homes.”

LAFS.68.WHST.3.8, SS.8.A.4.3, SS.8.A.4.8

### 5. GATHERING EVIDENCE

John C. Frémont was an army officer and mapmaker who helped explore and settle the West. Frémont’s writings about his adventures helped convince others to move West. They also helped make the mountain man who served as his guide—Kit Carson—a national folk hero. Conduct research to create a multimedia presentation that highlights the expeditions of Frémont and Carson. Your research should include biographical information about both men and descriptions of their journeys, as well as primary sources such as journal entries describing their travels, examples of Frémont’s maps, or examples of the dime novels that featured the exploits of Kit Carson.



**BENCHMARK SKILLS ACTIVITIES, *continued***

**MAFS.K12.MP.1.1, MAFS.K12.MP.5.1, MAFS.K12.MP.6.1, SS.8.A.4.1, SS.8.A.4.3**

**6. USING MATH TOOLS**

The Oregon Trail was the most popular route to Oregon for settlers traveling west. The trail covered about 2,000 miles, and the journey could take several months, depending on the weather, accidents, illnesses, or other problems that could cause delays. Between 1841 and 1848, the average journey on the Oregon Trail took 169 days.

1. How many months was the average journey on the Oregon Trail? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How many miles did settlers travel per day on the average journey? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Research famous landmarks and stops along the Oregon Trail. Using a mapping website or app, determine the distance from Independence, Missouri, to those sites. Using your calculation from the second question, determine how long it might have taken Oregon Trail travelers to reach each of the sites.  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Today, if you traveled the same route by car, how long would the journey take if you drove 60 miles per hour and 10 hours a day? \_\_\_\_\_

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# Benchmark Note Cards

**DIRECTIONS:** Use these note cards to help you prepare for the test.

**SS.8.A.4.1** Examine the causes, course, and consequences of United States westward expansion and its growing diplomatic assertiveness (War of 1812, Convention of 1818, Adams-Onís Treaty, Missouri Compromise, Monroe Doctrine, Trail of Tears, Texas annexation, Manifest Destiny, Oregon Territory, Mexican American War/ Mexican Cession, California Gold Rush, Compromise of 1850, Kansas Nebraska Act, Gadsden Purchase).

## THE OREGON COUNTRY

In the early 1800s, the Oregon Country was a huge area of land located between the Pacific Ocean and the Rocky Mountains. It was claimed by four countries:

- the United States
- Spain
- Great Britain
- Russia

## THE ADAMS-ONÍS TREATY

In 1819, Secretary of State John Quincy Adams convinced Spain to sign the Adams-Onís Treaty. Under the treaty:

- Spain gave up claims to the Oregon Country
- Spain set the limits of its territory at the northern border of California
- Spain transferred Florida to the United States

## THE OREGON TRAIL

After Spain and Russia gave up their claims to the Oregon Country, the United States and Great Britain agreed to joint occupation.

American settlers began streaming into Oregon, most following the Oregon Trail, which began in Independence, Missouri. The emigrants made the difficult, 2,000-mile journey carrying their belongings and supplies in wagons called prairie schooners.

## BENCHMARK NOTE CARDS, *continued*

**SS.8.A.4.1** Examine the causes, course, and consequences of United States westward expansion and its growing diplomatic assertiveness (War of 1812, Convention of 1818, Adams-Onís Treaty, Missouri Compromise, Monroe Doctrine, Trail of Tears, Texas annexation, Manifest Destiny, Oregon Territory, Mexican American War/ Mexican Cession, California Gold Rush, Compromise of 1850, Kansas Nebraska Act, Gadsden Purchase).

### MANIFEST DESTINY

In the early 1800s, an idea known as Manifest Destiny became popular throughout the country. Manifest Destiny was the belief that the mission of the United States was to spread freedom by settling the entire continent—all the way to the Pacific Ocean.

Manifest Destiny would play an important role in westward expansion and eventually lead to the acquisition of territories in Oregon, Texas, New Mexico, California, and Utah.

### GREAT BRITAIN AND THE OREGON COUNTRY

Presidential candidate James K. Polk supported Manifest Destiny. In the election of 1844, his campaign slogan was “Fifty-Four Forty or Fight!” This referred to the line of latitude that Polk and other Democrats believed should be the nation’s northern border in Oregon. Polk won the election.

Great Britain refused to set the border at 54°40' N. Eventually, however, a compromise was reached and the border was set at 49° N.

### TEXAS

Mexico gained control of the region that is now Texas after winning independence from Spain. To increase settlement, Mexico gave large areas of land to families willing to settle there.

Many Americans moved to Texas, but some were not willing to learn Spanish and become Catholic. Some also brought enslaved people with them. Tensions rose, and Americans and many Tejanos made plans to break away from Mexico.

## BENCHMARK NOTE CARDS, *continued*

**SS.8.A.4.1** Examine the causes, course, and consequences of United States westward expansion and its growing diplomatic assertiveness (War of 1812, Convention of 1818, Adams-Onís Treaty, Missouri Compromise, Monroe Doctrine, Trail of Tears, Texas annexation, Manifest Destiny, Oregon Territory, Mexican American War/ Mexican Cession, California Gold Rush, Compromise of 1850, Kansas Nebraska Act, Gadsden Purchase).

### WAR FOR TEXAS INDEPENDENCE

Determined to win their freedom, Texas leaders declared independence from Mexico on March 2, 1836, and established the Republic of Texas. In the meantime, however, the Mexican government had sent troops to Texas to put down the rebellion.

- Mexican general Antonio López de Santa Anna attacked the Alamo, a mission held by a small group of Texans. All of the defenders of the Alamo were killed.
- Sam Houston led a surprise attack and defeated Mexican forces at San Jacinto.

Santa Anna was captured and signed a treaty recognizing Texas independence.

### TEXAS ANNEXATION

Many Texans wanted to join the United States. Sam Houston, the first president of the Republic of Texas, asked the United States to annex Texas.

Because Texas allowed slavery, the issue of Texas statehood created a crisis. Adding a slave state would upset the equal balance between free states and slave states in Congress. After a compromise was reached, Texas was admitted to the Union in 1845.

### THE NEW MEXICO TERRITORY

The New Mexico Territory was a vast region between Texas and California. When Mexico won its independence from Spain, the New Mexico Territory became a part of Mexico. William Becknell became the first American trader to reach Santa Fe. The route Becknell took became known as the Santa Fe Trail, which soon became a busy trade route.

### CALIFORNIA

Army officer and explorer John C. Frémont first traveled to California in the 1840s. His reports about the region's mild climate and rich natural resources intrigued many Americans, who soon began to settle there. Many Americans began to talk about adding California to the Union. The idea of having the nation's western border on the Pacific Ocean appealed to many Americans.

## BENCHMARK NOTE CARDS, *continued*

**SS.8.A.4.1** Examine the causes, course, and consequences of United States westward expansion and its growing diplomatic assertiveness (War of 1812, Convention of 1818, Adams-Onís Treaty, Missouri Compromise, Monroe Doctrine, Trail of Tears, Texas annexation, Manifest Destiny, Oregon Territory, Mexican American War/ Mexican Cession, California Gold Rush, Compromise of 1850, Kansas Nebraska Act, Gadsden Purchase).

### THE WAR WITH MEXICO

Determined to acquire the New Mexico and California territories, President James K. Polk sent a representative to Mexico to try to buy the lands. Mexico, however, refused to sell them. Soon after, U.S. and Mexican troops exchanged gunfire in a disputed border area between Texas and Mexico, and the United States declared war on Mexico on May 13, 1846.

President Polk's plan for the war had three parts: drive Mexican forces out of Texas, take control of New Mexico and California, and capture the capital of Mexico City.

- General Zachary Taylor captured Texas.
- General Stephen Kearney captured Santa Fe and headed to California. General John C. Frémont led American settlers in a successful revolt in California, renaming it the Bear Flag Republic.
- General Winfield Scott fought his way to Mexico City, capturing it in 1847. Mexico finally surrendered.

### THE TREATY OF GUADALUPE HIDALGO

Under the terms of the peace treaty:

- Mexico gave the United States more than 500,000 square miles of land, including the New Mexico Territory and California.
- Mexico accepted the Rio Grande as the Texas border.
- the United States paid Mexico \$15 million and assumed \$3.25 million in Mexico's debts.

### THE CALIFORNIA GOLD RUSH

When gold was discovered at Sutter's Mill in California, people rushed to California in search of riches. They became known as forty-niners because most arrived in 1849. Small mining settlements suddenly grew into boomtowns as miners poured into the region, hoping to find gold. Most forty-niners did not strike it rich. The merchants in the boomtowns, however, made huge profits.

The Gold Rush led to new economic development in California and a rise in population. California was admitted to the Union in 1850.

## BENCHMARK NOTE CARDS, *continued*

**SS.8.A.4.1** Examine the causes, course, and consequences of United States westward expansion and its growing diplomatic assertiveness (War of 1812, Convention of 1818, Adams-Onís Treaty, Missouri Compromise, Monroe Doctrine, Trail of Tears, Texas annexation, Manifest Destiny, Oregon Territory, Mexican American War/ Mexican Cession, California Gold Rush, Compromise of 1850, Kansas Nebraska Act, Gadsden Purchase).

### THE MORMONS AND UTAH

The founder of the Mormon Church was Joseph Smith. Smith hoped to build an ideal society, but some of his ideas were unpopular. The Mormon practice of polygamy angered many people. Facing persecution, about 12,000 Mormons led by Brigham Young moved west in search of religious freedom and settled in present-day Utah.

Utah became a territory in 1850. It would not become a state, however, until 1896, after the Mormons ended the practice of polygamy.

**SS.A.4.2** Describe the debate surrounding the spread of slavery into western territories and Florida.

### THE SPREAD OF SLAVERY

American expansion into the western territories and Florida set off a crisis in Congress over the issue of slavery. The number of free states and slave states was equal. Admitting new states would upset this delicate balance.

The slavery issue affected the admission of many new states, including Florida, Texas, and California. These states were admitted to the Union only after compromises were reached that maintained equal representation in Congress between those states that supported slavery and those that did not.

**SS.8.A.4.3** Examine the experiences and perspectives of significant individuals and groups during this era of American History.

### NATIVE AMERICANS IN NEW MEXICO

Native Americans had lived in New Mexico for thousands of years. In the late 1500s, Spanish conquistadors claimed the region for Spain. Then, in 1821, the New Mexico Territory became part of Mexico.

Mexican settlers bought mission lands and built huge ranches called *ranchos*. Native Americans worked the land in return for food and shelter. The *rancheros*, or ranch owners, treated Native Americans very poorly.

## BENCHMARK NOTE CARDS, *continued*

**SS.8.A.4.3** Examine the experiences and perspectives of significant individuals and groups during this era of American History.

### CHINESE IMMIGRANTS

Although most of the forty-niners who came to California during the Gold Rush were Americans, some came from other countries. About 300 men arrived from China and were the first large group of Asian immigrants to settle in America. Some of the immigrants eventually returned to China. Others stayed and established California's Chinese American community.

### THE CALIFORNIOS

Mexicans living in California were known as Californios. When the United States took control of California after the war with Mexico, the Californios:

- became citizens of the United States
- retained rights to their lands

The Land Law of 1851, however, changed the way land claims were settled. If a new settler claimed land held by a Californio, the Californio had to go to court to prove ownership of the land. Some Californios were able to prove their claims. Many others lost their lands to newcomers.

**SS.8.A.4.8** Describe the influence of individuals on social and political developments of this era in American History.

### JAMES K. POLK

In 1844, James K. Polk was the Democratic candidate running for president. Polk strongly supported the goals of Manifest Destiny, as reflected in his campaign slogan advocating the takeover of the Oregon Country: "Fifty-Four Forty or Fight!" Polk won the election.

As president, Polk supported policies that led to the acquisition of the Oregon Country, Texas, the New Mexico Territory, and California. Under the terms of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, Polk sent troops into disputed territory with Mexico, leading to the outbreak of the Mexican War.

## BENCHMARK NOTE CARDS, *continued*

**SS.8.A.4.17** Examine the key events and peoples in Florida history as each impacts this era of American history.

### FLORIDA BECOMES A U.S. TERRITORY

Spain transferred control of Florida to the United States in 1821 under the terms of the Adams-Onís Treaty. Florida became a territory with

- an appointed territorial governor
- a territorial legislature
- a nonvoting delegate in Congress

Tallahassee became the capital of the new territory.

### FLORIDA STATEHOOD

With its population growing rapidly, Floridians voted to seek statehood. A constitution for the new state was approved on January 11, 1839. The constitution provided for:

- a governor elected for four years
- an elected General Assembly
- a system of public schools

The constitution also allowed slavery.

Florida's plan to enter the Union as a slave state created a crisis in Congress. Admitting Florida would upset the balance of free and slave states, and Congress postponed taking action. After six years, Congress acted on Florida's request to become a state when Iowa asked to be admitted as a free state. Florida became the twenty-seventh state on March 3, 1845.

**SS.8.A.4.18** Examine the experiences and perspectives of different ethnic, national, and religious groups in Florida, explaining their contributions to Florida's and America's society and culture during the Territorial Period.

### FLORIDA'S TERRITORIAL POPULATION

Southern planters played a key role in shaping the development of Florida during the Territorial Period.

- Most came from Virginia, Georgia, and the Carolinas, where the soil had been worn out from overuse.
- They established new cotton and tobacco plantations in Florida.
- The planters played a major role in government and politics.

Many planters brought enslaved people with them to Florida. In 1837, some 48,000 people live in Florida. Half of them were enslaved.



## Chapter 13

# VISUAL SUMMARY

**DIRECTIONS:** Complete the following graphic organizer.

## Manifest Destiny



### CALIFORNIA AND THE NEW MEXICO TERRITORY

- ★ Controlled by Spain and then Mexico
- ★ Transferred to the \_\_\_\_\_ after the war with \_\_\_\_\_

### OREGON TERRITORY

- ★ Under joint occupation by the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
- ★ The subject of Polk's campaign of "Fifty-Four Forty or Fight!"
- ★ Border finally set at \_\_\_\_\_

### UTAH TERRITORY

- ★ Settled by \_\_\_\_\_ seeking religious freedom
- ★ Became a U.S. territory in 1850
- ★ Became a state in \_\_\_\_\_

### TEXAS

- ★ Controlled by Spain and then \_\_\_\_\_
- ★ American settlers declared independence, defeated Mexican forces, and established the Republic of Texas
- ★ Became a state in \_\_\_\_\_

### FLORIDA

- ★ Acquired from Spain under the \_\_\_\_\_ Treaty
- ★ Became a U.S. territory in 1821
- ★ Became a state in \_\_\_\_\_

## USING PRIMARY SOURCES

**DRAWING CONCLUSIONS** Below is an entry from the journal of William Clayton, a Mormon who made the journey from Illinois to the Great Salt Lake along what became known as the Mormon Trail. As you read the entry, try to imagine the physical environment that Clayton describes. Once you have finished reading, write an essay that answers these questions: Is Clayton pleased with his new home? How does he believe the area will meet the community's physical needs? How does he believe it will meet the community's spiritual needs?

*“There is but little timber in sight anywhere, and that is mostly on the banks of creeks and streams of water which is about the only objection which could be raised in my estimation to this being one of the most beautiful valleys and pleasant places for a home for the Saints which could be found. Timber is evidently lacking but we have not expected to find a timbered country. There may be timber on the mountains which the long distance would render impossible to be seen with the naked eye, but the mountains through which we have passed have very little on them. In some places may be seen a grove of small fir or cedar or pine and in the valleys some cottonwood and other small timber. There is doubtless timber in all passes and ravines where streams descend from the mountains. There is no prospect for building log houses without spending a vast amount of time and labor, but we can make Spanish brick and dry them in the sun; or we can build lodges as the Pawnee Indians do in their villages. For my own part I am happily disappointed in the appearance of the valley of the Salt Lake, but if the land be as rich as it has the appearance of being, I have no fears but the Saints can live here and do well while we will do right. When I commune with my own heart and ask myself whether I would choose to dwell here in this wild looking country amongst the Saints surrounded by friends, though poor, enjoying the privileges and blessings of the everlasting priesthood, with God for our King and Father; or dwell amongst the gentiles with all their wealth and good things of the earth, to be eternally mobbed, harassed, hunted, our best men murdered and every good man's life continually in danger, the soft whisper echoes loud and reverberates back in tones of stern determination; give me the quiet wilderness and my family to associate with, surrounded by the Saints. . . . This valley appears to be fortified by mountains, except on the banks of the lake, on many of which there is still snow lying in large quantities. It is certain that good limestone abounds in these ridges and it is supposed coal can be found with little labor. From this hill I passed down the creek which we named the Last Creek about a mile and there saw a bed of bull rushes of the largest kind I ever saw, some of them being fifteen feet high and an inch and a half in diameter at the bottom. The grass on this creek grows from six to twelve feet high and appears very rank. There are some ducks around and sand hill cranes. Many signs of deer, antelope, and bears, but not many have been seen here.”*



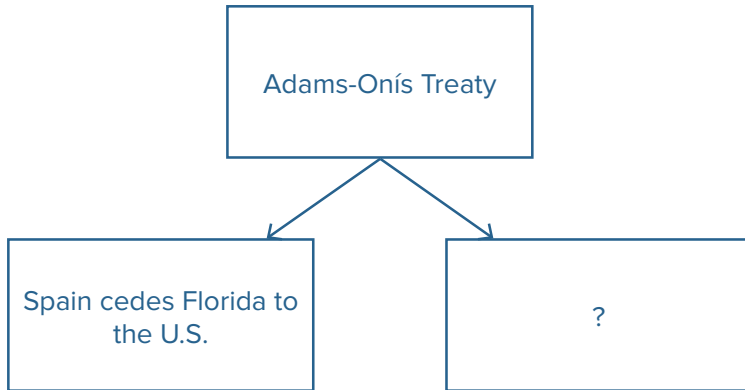
# Chapter Practice Test

**DIRECTIONS:** Circle the best answer for each question.

---

1

SS.8.A.4.1 (Moderate)



Which phrase completes the graphic organizer?

- A Spain cedes Texas to Mexico
  - B Spain gives up claims to Oregon
  - C Spain cedes the New Mexico Territory to the U.S.
  - D Spain gives up claims to California
- 

2

SS.8.A.4.1 (Moderate)

Which of the following words or phrases is directly related to the idea of Manifest Destiny?

- A Deseret
- B “Remember the Alamo!”
- C The Santa Fe Trail
- D “Fifty-Four Forty or Fight!”



3

**SS.8.A.4.1 (High)**

Mexican officials issued the Law of April 6, 1830 as tensions rose between American settlers in Texas and the Mexican government. Article 11 of the law, which appears in this excerpt, infuriated the Americans, who soon began to make plans to revolt.

*“Art. 11. In accordance with the right reserved by the general congress in the seventh article of the Law of August 18, 1824, it is prohibited that emigrants from nations bordering on this Republic shall settle in the states or territory adjacent to their own nation. Consequently, all contracts not already completed and not in harmony with this law are suspended.”*

—Law of April 6, 1830

Which choice describes the provisions of Article 11?

- A** It prohibited Americans from immigrating to Texas.
- B** It prohibited Americans from leaving Texas.
- C** It prohibited Mexicans from immigrating to Texas.
- D** It prohibited Mexicans from immigrating to the United States.

4

**SS.8.A.4.2; SS.8.A.4.17 (Moderate)**

Florida applied for statehood in 1839, but it was not admitted to the Union until 1845. Why was Florida’s admission to the Union delayed?

- A** Florida had not yet written and approved a state constitution.
- B** Florida’s population was not yet large enough to qualify for statehood.
- C** Florida would enter the Union as a slave state, and this would upset the balance between free states and slave states.
- D** Florida had to wait until the war with Mexico was over before Congress could take action.



5

SS.8.A.4.2 (High)

Why did the slavery issue become linked with Manifest Destiny and western expansion?

- A Admitting new states could upset the balance in Congress between free states and slave states.
- B Most people in the western territories thought that slavery was morally wrong and refused to allow it.
- C Enslaved people who escaped often fled to the West, where they were protected by territorial laws.
- D Southern leaders worried that most new states would be free states because the climate and terrain in the West was not suited for plantation agriculture.

6

SS.8.A.4.1 (Moderate)

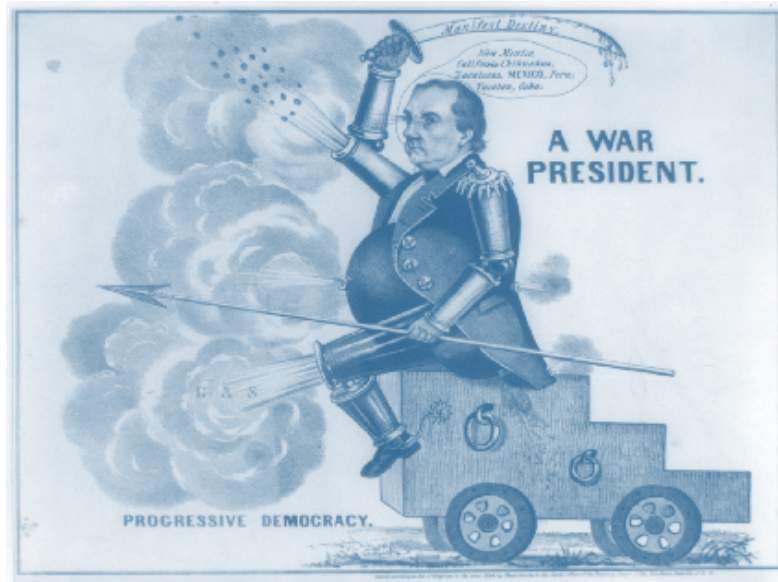
Which choice lists the events surrounding Texas annexation in the correct chronological order?

- A Texas becomes a republic  
Texans seek annexation to the United States  
Texans declare independence  
Texas becomes a state
- B Texans declare independence  
Texas becomes a republic  
Texans seek annexation to the United States  
Texas becomes a state
- C Texans seek annexation to the United States  
Texans declare independence  
Texas becomes a republic  
Texas becomes a state
- D Texans seek annexation to the United States  
Texas becomes a state  
Texans declare independence  
Texas becomes a republic



7

SS.8.A.4.1 (High)



This political cartoon portrays Lewis Cass, the Democratic candidate for president in the election of 1848. What can you infer from the cartoon about Cass's views concerning Manifest Destiny?

- A Cass opposed Manifest Destiny because it would lead to war.
- B Cass would use military might to end slavery.
- C Cass opposed the Adams-Onís Treaty and would fight Mexico for more concessions.
- D Cass would use military might to continue western expansion.

8

SS.8.A.4.1 (High)

Which of the following was a provision of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo?

- A Mexico accepted the Nueces River as its border with Texas.
- B Mexico paid the United States \$15 million and \$3.25 million in debts owed.
- C Mexico gave the United States more than 500,000 square miles of territory.
- D Mexico conceded all rights to Florida and the Oregon Territory.



9

SS.8.A.4.1; SS.8.A.4.8 (High)

*“In the meantime we have tried every effort at reconciliation. The cup of forbearance had been exhausted even before the recent information from the frontier of the Del Norte. But now, after reiterated menaces, Mexico has passed the boundary of the United States, has invaded our territory and shed American blood upon the American soil. She has proclaimed that hostilities have commenced, and that the two nations are now at war.”*

—President James K. Polk, May 11, 1846

Which event is Polk referring to in this speech?

- A the Battle of the Alamo
- B the Whitman massacre
- C the attack in California during the Bear Flag Revolt
- D the skirmish in the disputed area of the Texas-Mexico border

10

SS.8.A.4.1; SS.8.A.4.3 (Moderate)

Which statement correctly describes the California Gold Rush?

- A Most forty-niners were Americans, but some were immigrants from Mexico, Europe, and China.
- B Vigilante justice in most boomtowns was quickly replaced by territorial police forces.
- C In the early years of the Gold Rush, most forty-niners struck gold and made huge fortunes.
- D Most boomtowns collapsed as quickly as they grew because boomtown merchants could not make a profit.