

CHAPTER 14

Manifest Destiny

1820–1860

► MINING TOOLS



SETTING THE SCENE

Focus

The drive to expand the boundaries of the United States became a goal for many Americans in the 1830s. American journalist John L. O’Sullivan declared: “It is . . . our manifest destiny to overspread the whole continent.” Eventually the United States government would acquire land in present-day Oregon, Texas, California, Utah, and the remainder of the Southwest.

Concepts to Understand

- ★ How the beliefs and ideas of Americans led to westward expansion
- ★ Why individuals and families migrated to the West and shaped political events in Oregon, Texas, and California

Read to Discover . . .

- ★ the reasons Americans moved westward.
- ★ why Texans declared independence from Mexico.
- ★ what caused war between Mexico and the United States.
- ★ how the Gold Rush of 1848 changed the history of California.

Journal Notes

Put yourself in the position of Native Americans on lands west of the Mississippi River. Record your impressions of the wave of settlers who crossed into your lands during the mid-1800s.

United States

1821 Stephen Austin founds colony in Texas

1836 Battle of the Alamo fought
1836 Texas wins independence

1821–1830

1831–1840

World

1821 Mexico wins independence from Spain
1825 Egyptian troops invade Greece

The Oregon Country

SETTING THE SCENE

Read to Learn . . .

- ★ what nations had conflicting claims to the Oregon Country.
- ★ how traders and trappers paved the way for western expansion.

Terms to Know

- ★ rendezvous
- ★ pass
- ★ emigrate
- ★ prairie schooner
- ★ annex



◀ PRAIRIE HUNTER

People to Meet

- ★ Robert Gray
- ★ John Jacob Astor
- ★ mountain men
- ★ James Beckwourth
- ★ Jedediah Smith
- ★ Marcus and Narcissa Whitman

Places to Locate

- ★ Oregon Country
- ★ Oregon Trail
- ★ Independence, Missouri

The grizzly bear stood so close Hugh Glass could smell it. Sweat rolled off Glass's brow, nearly blinding him. With a steady finger, the fur trapper squeezed back the hammer on his musket. As the bullet struck the animal, the bear hurled itself into Glass. Another trapper described what happened next:

“ . . . [T]he bear caught him and hauled him to the ground, tearing and lacerating [cutting up] his body [at a] fearful rate. ”

Glass not only survived, he continued to hunt grizzly bear and other animals in

the **Oregon Country**. The adventures of fur trappers like Glass soon caught the attention of other people—people who wanted to claim more than the region's fur-bearing animals. They came to capture the land itself.

★ **Settlers Move West**

The Oregon Country included the present-day states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and parts of Wyoming, Montana, and Canada. The Rocky Mountains bounded the region on the east, while the Pacific Ocean hemmed it on the west.

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Within the Oregon Country climates and vegetation varied. Lands west of the coastal mountains, called the Cascades, enjoyed mild temperatures and abundant rainfall. On the east side of the mountains, however, the landscape changed dramatically. The Cascades prevented the rain-bearing clouds that rolled off the Pacific from heading inland. As a result, a dry plateau sprawled eastward from the Cascades to the Rockies.

For the non-Native Americans who first set foot in the Oregon Country, its wealth lay in fur-bearing animals. For centuries, fashionable Europeans and North Americans wore hats made of beaver pelts. To meet the demand, fur trappers exhausted the supply of beaver in one stream after another. By the early 1800s, a few adventurous trappers plunged across the Mississippi River in search of new forests to hunt.

Trappers often traveled trails blazed by the Native Americans. Groups that lived in the Oregon Country included the Cayuses, Yakimas, Chinooks, Nez Perce, and Blackfeet. Most had deep ancestral roots in the region, even as Europeans and Americans refused to recognize Native American rights to the land. Instead, they labeled the lands a "wilderness" and freely staked their claims.

★ **Conflicting Claims**

Four nations—Russia, Spain, Great Britain, and the United States—tried to take control of the Oregon Country. Of these nations, Great Britain and the United States pursued their claims most actively.

The British based their claims in Oregon Country on the explorations of Sir Francis Drake and George Vancouver. Drake visited the coast of Oregon in 1579. A member of Vancouver's crew navigated a river part of the way through Oregon in 1792. Fort Vancouver, the only permanent

British outpost in Oregon, took its name from this expedition.

The United States based its claim on the voyages of **Robert Gray**. In 1792 this New England sea captain gave the Columbia River its name. In 1805 the Lewis and Clark expedition reached the mouth of this river and strengthened the United States's claims to the area. By 1807 American fur traders had set up scattered trading posts along Lewis and Clark's route. They had to compete with British traders who pushed into Oregon from Canada.

American fur trader **John Jacob Astor** sent a shipload of supplies and workers around the tip of South America in 1811. The workers built a trading post near the mouth of the Columbia River. Here they set up Astoria, the first American settlement on the Pacific coast. Although Astoria lasted only a short time, it gave Americans another claim to Oregon.

Agreement With Great Britain

In 1818 Great Britain and the United States agreed to share the Oregon Country for 10 years. Under the agreement, British and American citizens would enjoy equal rights. With few settlers in the region, Spain and Russia gave up their claims in 1825.

★ **The Mountain Men**

Both British and American fur-trading companies rushed to secure their claims to the Oregon Country. In 1822 one American company advertised for "ENTERPRISING YOUNG MEN" to sign up for work. More than 100 people—Scots, Germans, Spaniards, New Englanders, Southerners, and African Americans—responded to the ad. Some hired on as camp keepers, people who cooked and guarded the camp. Others took jobs as trappers. From their ranks came a rough-and-tumble group of explorers known as the **mountain men**.

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**History
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ART**

▲ **THE WHITE TRAPPER** by Frederic Remington
Mountain men depended on trapping and the fur trade in order to survive. **Where did trappers meet to sell their furs and buy supplies?**

Life of a Mountain Man

The mountain man lived a tough, lonely life. Aside from the clothes on his back, he traveled with little more than a “possibles sack.” Inside this small leather pouch, a mountain man carried all he might possibly need—an awl for stitching leather, a mold for making lead musket balls, and a surgeon’s lance for digging out bullets.

During the spring trapping season, a mountain man might haul 6 to 8 heavy iron traps on his back. To set the traps, he waded into bone-chilling streams. When game was in short supply, he went to bed hungry. One band of trappers ate nothing but roots for 10 days. Mountain men learned many of their trapping skills and survival methods from Native Americans, especially from the Native American women they married.

In the summer, trappers’ spirits soared as they headed to a meeting place called the *rendezvous* (RAHN•dih•VOO). They met traders from Missouri who bought their furs and charged high sums of money for supplies. But most trappers shrugged off the high prices. They just wanted to have a good time. “These men

are chock full of brag and fight,” chuckled mountain man Joe Meek.

Because mountain streams froze between October and March, trappers gathered in winter camps of up to 60 men. During the day they hunted. In the evening, they huddled around fires in buffalo-hide lodges “spinning long yarns [tales] until midnight. . . .”

Blazing a Path for Others

The epic journeys of the mountain men opened the door for settlement of the West. An African American mountain man, **James Beckwourth**, discovered a pass, or opening, through the Sierra Nevada mountains into California. **Jim Bridger** first strode across the Great Divide—the name given to the Rocky Mountains. **Jedediah Smith** brought back colorful accounts of the geysers and boiling springs of what is now Yellowstone National Park. **Manuel Lisa**, a Spanish American trapper, led a trip up the Missouri River in 1807. He founded Fort Manuel, the first outpost on the upper Missouri River.

“To explore unknown regions was . . . [their] chief delight,” wrote a clerk in one fur-trading company. By exploring unknown regions, the mountain men surveyed paths for the pioneers who would soon follow.

End of an Era

The mountain men recognized changes were coming when covered wagons began showing up in their camps. In 1836 two missionary couples—**Marcus and Narcissa Whitman** and Henry and Eliza Spalding—arrived at the annual rendezvous. Narcissa and Eliza became the first non-Native American women to cross the Rocky Mountains.

The two couples came to set up missions among the Cayuses. The Whitmans chose to build their settlement at a site where the Snake and Columbia Rivers

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meet. In letters to friends and family, the Whitmans encouraged others to **emigrate**, or move, to Oregon.

Troubles with Native Americans, though, cost the Whitmans their lives. In 1847 measles spread to Cayuse children at the mission. The epidemic claimed the lives of both non-Native American and Cayuse children. The Cayuses blamed the intruders for the disease. They attacked and killed the Whitmans and 12 others. News of the Whitmans' deaths, however, did not stop settlers from pouring into the region.

As settlers arrived, a change in fashion ended a way of life for the mountain men. In the late 1830s and 1840s, people stopped wearing beaver hats. Within a few years the mountain men found themselves out of work. Some turned to farming in the rich valleys of the Pacific Northwest. Others became guides for wagon trains. The route they knew best—the **Oregon Trail**—soon became a major highway across the continent. The Oregon Trail extended from **Independence, Missouri**, to the Columbia River in Oregon.

★ Oregon Fever

Emigrants only trickled into Oregon until reports made their way back east and stories grew into tall tales. One rumor claimed that pigs “roamed about pre-cooked . . . [for] anyone who might be hungry.” Other rumors described turnips 5 feet in diameter and wheat 6 feet tall. Stories like these sparked an outbreak of “Oregon fever.” Between 1840 and 1860, more than 60,000 people traveled the Oregon Trail. Even today, the ruts carved by their wagons scar parts of the Great Plains.

Traveling the Oregon Trail

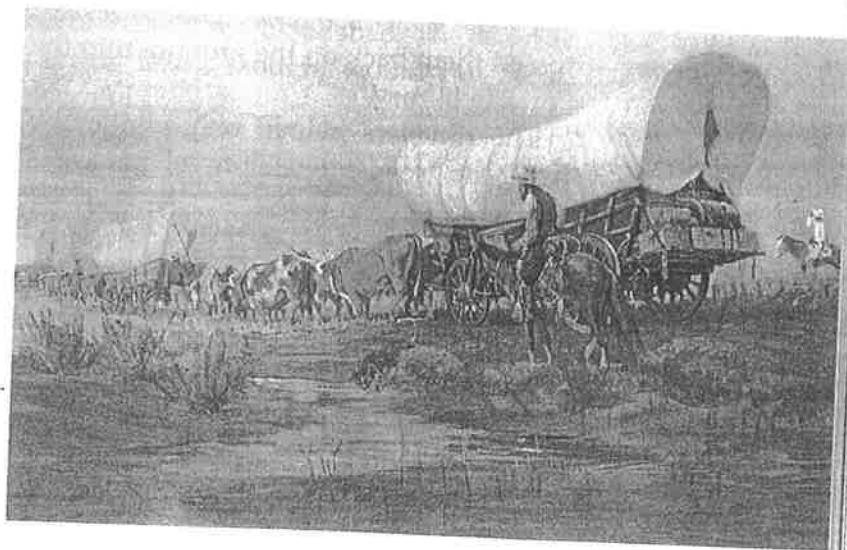
The journey west began at jumping-off places like Independence, Missouri. Here families stocked their lightweight covered wagons, known as **prairie schooners**, and hitched them to teams of oxen. Several

families then formed a wagon train. Each wagon train elected a leader to make decisions on the trail.

Most wagon trains left Independence in May. By then, enough spring grass covered the plains to feed the oxen. The emigrants had five months to cross the Rockies. If they arrived later, they might freeze to death in blinding blizzards.

Once on the trail, the wagons rolled each day at dawn. As the oxen crawled along at 2 miles an hour, the leader cried out, “Catch up! Catch up!” Near dusk the men began scouting for water and grass. When they found both, they drew the wagons into a circle. While the livestock grazed and the men stood guard, the women fried bacon and baked biscuits over fires fueled with buffalo chips (dried manure).

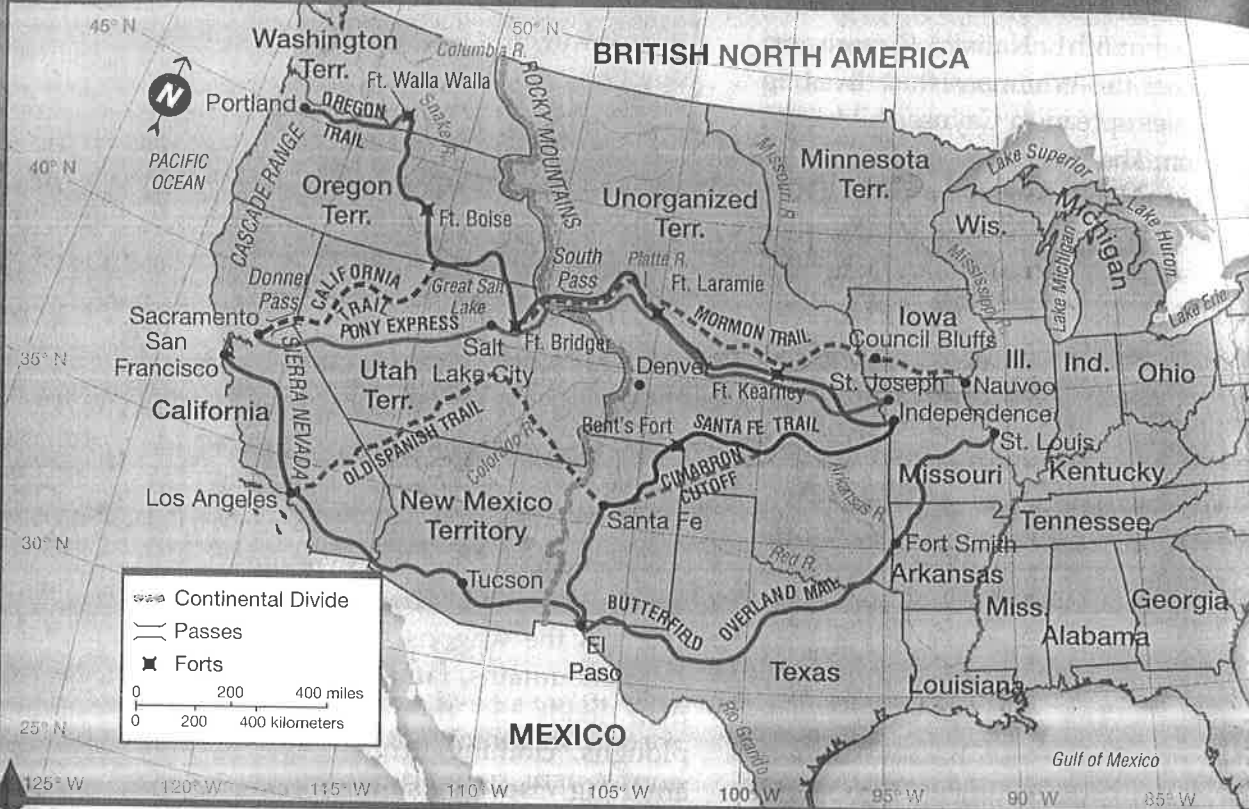
When the wagons hit deep rivers or steep mountains, families had to lighten their loads. So they dumped barrels, ploughs, clothing, trunks, spades, and anything else that slowed them down. Other emigrants helped themselves to the discards. One man “camped beside an old stove and baked some bread.” Others picked up books, read them, and



Picturing History

▲ **PRAIRIE SCHOONERS** Traveling west was long and difficult. Families in wagon trains relied on each other to survive the journey. **Why did wagon trains leave Independence, Missouri, in May?**

Trails West



Map Study

Movement By the late 1840s, large amounts of new territory came under American control. Soon after, thousands of Americans moved to settle this land. **What major mountain range did travelers to the Pacific Coast have to cross?**

tossed them back on the ground, into the “prairie library.”

The travelers helped one another by using the “roadside telegraph,” messages left on boards, rocks, tree trunks, and even animal skulls beside the trail. Many emigrants owed their lives to these warnings about dead-end shortcuts or poison water holes.

Hardships and Heartaches

Hundreds of travelers never reached Oregon. Some turned back or settled on the plains. Many died of diseases such as cholera and smallpox. Still others drowned in swollen rivers or died in accidents. Graves and the carcasses of dead animals lined the trail. Wrote one weary traveler:

“It is a hardship without glory, to be sick without a home, to die and be buried like a dog on the Plains.”

Native Americans

For the most part, Native Americans traded with the travelers and tried to lessen their misery. Native Americans provided travelers with horses, clothing, and fresh food. Some Native Americans fed hungry wagon trains or guided them over difficult stretches along the trail. Settlers had been led to believe that Native American groups posed a threat to those crossing the plains. In reality, there were few incidents of violence between wagon trains and Native

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Americans. But eventually relations soured. Conflicts developed in the 1850s. Until then diseases such as cholera proved far more dangerous to settlers.

Governing Oregon

Despite peaceful relations with the British, American settlers wanted to annex, or add, Oregon to the United States. Many other Americans felt the same way. In Congress Tennessee representative Davy Crockett compared joint occupancy—shared ownership—to the time he shared a tree branch with a panther. “The place war [was] big enough for us both,” said Crockett, “but we couldn’t agree to stay there together.”

★ Fifty-Four Forty or Fight!

James K. Polk agreed with Americans who wanted to annex Oregon. As a presidential candidate in 1844, Polk declared that all of Oregon should belong to the United States. This was dramatized by the campaign slogan “Fifty-four forty or fight!” This meant he demanded that the United States expand its territory to the parallel 54°40’, the southern boundary of Alaska.

Polk won the election by a slim margin and began negotiations with Great Britain.



▲ JAMES K. POLK

In 1848 the two nations decided to extend the boundary between Canada and the United States to the forty-ninth parallel. This line already formed much of the United States-Canadian border.

Oregon became a territory in 1848 and a state in 1859. The transfer of territory occurred without bloodshed. The acquisition of Texas, though, would not be as peaceful.

★ SECTION 1 REVIEW ★

Checking for Understanding

1. Identify Robert Gray, John Jacob Astor, mountain men, James Beckwourth, Jedediah Smith, Marcus and Narcissa Whitman, Oregon Country, Oregon Trail, Independence.
2. Define rendezvous, pass, emigrate, prairie schooner, annex.
3. How did Great Britain and the United States come to share Oregon jointly?
4. What hardships did emigrants face on the Oregon Trail?

Critical Thinking

5. **Determining Cause and Effect** What effect did the mountain men have on the exploration of western mountains and on relations with the Native Americans who lived there?

ACTIVITY

6. Create an enlarged version of the map on page 448. Then add illustrations that show in pictures the story of the Oregon Trail.

Texas Independence

SETTING THE SCENE

Read to Learn . . .

- ★ how conflict developed between Mexico and settlers in Texas.
- ★ how Texas won its independence from Mexico.

Terms to Know

- ★ Tejanos
- ★ empresario
- ★ reform

People to Meet

- ★ Stephen F. Austin
- ★ Antonio López de Santa Anna
- ★ Sam Houston
- ★ Juan Seguin

Places to Locate

- ★ San Antonio
- ★ Goliad



▲ ADVERTISEMENT FOR TEXAS SETTLERS

Mexican cannons boomed outside the Alamo's walls. Colonel William Travis put his face in his hands and tried to think. His co-commander, Jim Bowie, lay sick with pneumonia. His small force would not hold out for long. Travis picked up a quill pen and wrote a plea for help.

“To the people of Texas & all Americans in the world. . . . I call on you in the name of liberty, of patriotism & everything dear to the American character, to come to our aid. . . .”

Soon people all over the United States learned about the desperate situation at the Alamo. The road to the Alamo started in the 1820s with the arrival of the first United States settlers in a Spanish-owned colony called Texas.

★ Colonizing Texas

In 1820 Texas included a handful of Americans and about 3,000 Tejanos. Tejanos are people of Mexican heritage who consider Texas their home. Most of the region belonged to Native Americans—



▲ STEPHEN F. AUSTIN

Comanche, Apache, and others—who fiercely resisted colonial settlement. Spanish officials believed they might lose control of Texas unless they lured more settlers into the territory.

The First Texas Empresarios

In the early 1800s, the Spaniards decided to offer large tracts of land to empresarios—people who agreed to recruit settlers. News of the offer caught the attention of Missouri businessman Moses Austin. In 1821 Austin convinced the Spanish government to give him a huge tract of land along the Brazos River. In exchange, Austin promised to bring 300 families to his colony.

Moses Austin died before he could organize his colony. His son, Stephen F. Austin, carried out his plans. In 1821 he established the first settlements along the Brazos and Colorado Rivers. About this same time, Mexico won its independence from Spain. Mexico soon issued new land grants to Austin and extended the boundaries of his colony.

American Colonists in Texas

The Mexican government granted each settler in Texas large tracts of land. In exchange, the colonists promised to become citizens of Mexico, obey Mexico's laws, and accept the Roman Catholic faith.

Austin chose the first group of settlers carefully. He frowned on lying, using foul language, or drinking alcohol. He wanted only "civilized and industrious" settlers for his new colony. Austin issued land titles to almost 300 families. These hand-picked pioneers later became known as the Old Three Hundred.

Although other empresarios founded other colonies, Austin's settlement proved the most successful. By 1831, about 5,665 people lived in his colony.

Growing Conflicts

The Mexican government used the empresario system to ensure loyalty. Meanwhile thousands of United States settlers moved into Texas without Mexico's permission. Unlike Austin's colonists, they never promised to uphold Mexican

Footnotes to History

Father of Texas Stephen F. Austin earned the name "Father of Texas" because of his leadership in populating the Mexican Territory of Texas. By doing this, Austin fulfilled his father's dying request to colonize Texas. After Texas won its independence, Austin lost the presidential election to Sam Houston. Houston appointed him secretary of state.

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laws or accept the Roman Catholic faith. Instead, they wanted to keep their own culture, or ways of living.

Even the Old Three Hundred had scattered clashes with the government. Colonists on the Brazos were using slaves to grow cotton in 1829 when the Mexican government prohibited slavery. The cotton growers protested so vigorously that the government decided to permit slavery in Texas, at least temporarily. Slaveholders balked at the idea that the government might deprive them of their human "property."

Settlers from the United States also had quarrels with the form of government in Mexico. They wanted to have the same voice in government that they had enjoyed in the United States. Mexican officials, however, insisted on tight political control.

Mexican Fears

By 1830 more than five times as many Anglos, or United States settlers, lived in Texas as Tejanos. Manuel Mier y Teran, a Mexican general assigned to Texas, warned:

“The North Americans have conquered whatever territory adjoins them. In less than a half century, they have become masters of extensive colonies which formerly belonged to Spain and France and of . . . territories from which have disappeared the former owners, the Indian tribes.”

Mexican officials heeded the warning. In 1830 the Mexican Congress banned further Anglo immigration. It also ordered construction of five new army posts in Texas to enforce Mexican laws.

These actions brought furious protests from Anglo settlers. Many people talked about defending their rights. A few even

talked of splitting Texas off from the Mexican state to which it belonged.

In 1833 Stephen F. Austin traveled to Mexico City with a petition. The petition listed reforms, or improvements, demanded by both Anglos and Tejanos. The reforms included repeal of the ban against immigration and creation of a separate Texas state.

★ The Fight for Independence

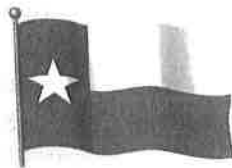
Austin waited for months to present his petition to General **Antonio López de Santa Anna**, the new head of the Mexican government. When they finally met, Santa Anna insisted that Texas remain part of Mexico. Austin wrote a letter urging Texans to go ahead with statehood. When the letter fell into government hands, Santa Anna threw Austin in prison.

Austin secured his release eight months later. By this time, Santa Anna had suspended the Mexican constitution and assumed the powers of a dictator. Many Texans believed the time had come to break away from Mexico.

“Come and Take It”

News of unrest in Texas reached Santa Anna. In October 1835, he ordered soldiers to seize a cannon at the Texas town

★★★ AMERICA'S FLAGS ★★★



Texas Republic, 1839

For its first six years, this Lone Star flag symbolized the independent nation of

the Republic of Texas. Texans kept the Lone Star banner as their official state flag after joining the Union in 1845.

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**Picturing
History**

▲ **THE BATTLE OF THE ALAMO** Outnumbered by the Mexican army, the Texans fought heroically to defend the Alamo. **Where is the Alamo located?**

of Gonzales. When Mexican troops arrived, they faced dozens of Texas volunteers. Over the cannon, the Texans had defiantly hung a flag that read "Come and Take It."

After a brief skirmish, the soldiers left without the cannon. Today many Texans consider the fight at Gonzales "the Lexington of Texas," or the first battle in the Texas war for independence.

Santa Anna did not intend to surrender Texas without a fight. He soon ordered Mexican troops to occupy the Texas town of **San Antonio**. In early December hundreds of Texas volunteers attacked the city. After five days they drove out the Mexicans. The Texas Revolution had begun.

Defense of the Alamo

On March 2, 1836, Texans met at Washington-on-the-Brazos. At this meeting, they announced the creation of the Republic of Texas. They placed **Sam Houston**, a former governor of Tennessee, in command of the army.

Meanwhile, in San Antonio, less than 200 Texas soldiers took cover in and defended an empty mission called the Alamo. The defenders, both Anglos and Tejanos, included **William Travis**, **Jim Bowie**, and **Davy Crockett**.

For 12 days Santa Anna's forces shelled the mission. Defenders inside the Alamo held out against overwhelming odds. Finally, on March 6, Santa Anna ordered an all-out attack. The first wave of Mexican soldiers faced the long rifles of Davy Crockett and his Tennessee sharpshooters. These riflemen picked off soldiers 200 yards (183 m) away. For every Mexican soldier that fell, however, another moved forward.

Mexican troops swarmed over the walls of the Alamo. The defenders fought on in furious hand-to-hand combat. A bullet killed Travis. Bowie died fighting from his sickbed. Mexican soldiers captured and executed Crockett. By 9 A.M., all the Alamo defenders had died. Only a handful of women, children, and slaves survived.

The Goliad Massacre

The fight at the Alamo angered and inspired Texans. To learn firsthand about the Alamo, Sam Houston met with Susanna Dickinson, one of the survivors, in Gonzales. After hearing Dickinson's account of the final battle, Houston vowed to prevent other Alamos. He sent word to James Fannin, the commander in **Goliad**, to abandon the fort there.

Fannin waited several days before obeying the order. When he finally led troops from the town, they ran into a Mexican

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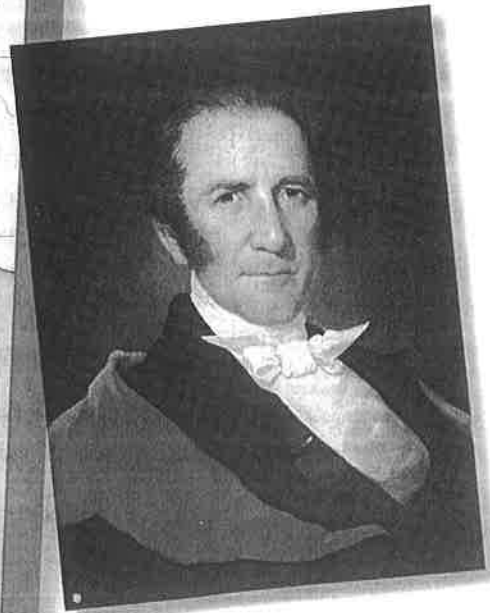
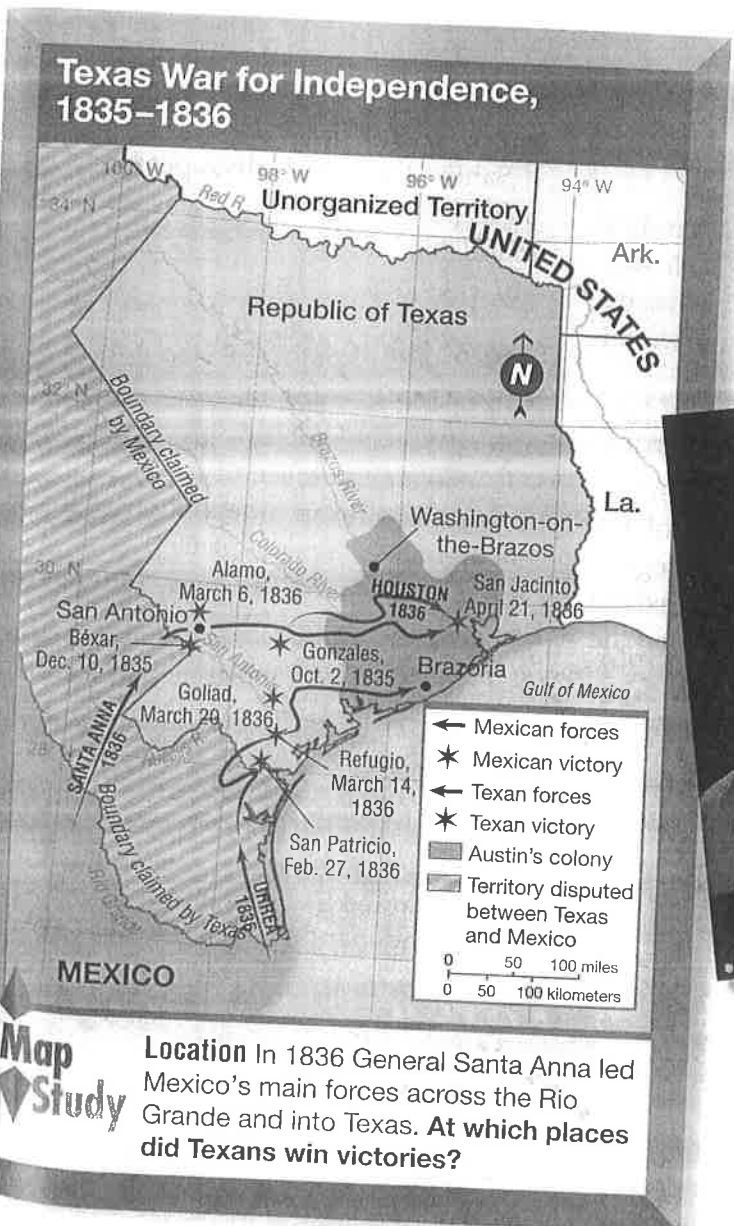
army on the Texas prairie. After a short fight, Fannin surrendered his force. A week later, the Mexicans began to execute the prisoners. Many escaped, including Fannin, but some 350 others fell before Mexican firing squads.

The Battle of San Jacinto

News of events at the Alamo and Goliad spread like wildfire among Texans. About 1,400 volunteers rushed to join Sam Houston, who did not strike immediately. He took time to build an army.

He also stayed informed of the movements of the Mexican army with the help of two spies—Deaf Smith and Smith's African American son-in-law Hendrick Arnold.

In April 1836, Sam Houston decided to strike. He moved his troops onto the prairie just west of the San Jacinto River. On April 21, the Mexican soldiers settled down for an afternoon siesta, or nap. At that moment, Houston ordered the attack. Texas volunteers raced into battle, screaming "Remember the Alamo" and "Remember Goliad."



▲ SAM HOUSTON

Map Study Location In 1836 General Santa Anna led Mexico's main forces across the Rio Grande and into Texas. At which places did Texans win victories?



▲ JUAN SEGUIN

Biography ★★

Juan Seguin, A Texas Hero

Juan Seguin grew up on his family's ranch along the San Antonio River. He disliked the arrogant Santa Anna. Like many Tejanos, Seguin believed Santa Anna would use the army to crush all opposition.

Seguin became one of the first volunteers to join the Texas Revolution. He commanded a company of Tejanos in San Antonio. He and eight members of his company fought at the Alamo. Seguin risked his life to slip through Mexican lines to find reinforcements. When he

returned on March 6, he saw the Alamo in flames.

At the Battle of San Jacinto, Houston was not sure the Tejanos should participate. He feared Anglos might mistake them for the enemy. Seguin and his followers refused such protection, declaring that they had joined the army and wanted to face the enemy. Houston admired the courage of Seguin and the Tejanos and changed his mind.

The battle of San Jacinto lasted only 18 minutes. It became the most intense battle of the Texas Revolution. More than 600 Mexican soldiers died. Hundreds more were wounded or captured. Mexican soldiers shot two horses from under Houston before a musket ball finally shattered his ankle. When the battle ended, only nine Texans had died.

Santa Anna had disappeared during the fighting. The next day Texas soldiers found him hiding in tall grass and took him prisoner. ★★★

The Republic of Texas

The war had ended. On May 14 Texans forced Santa Anna to sign a peace treaty. He also signed a secret treaty promising to support Texas independence. In September 1836, Texans elected Sam Houston president of the new independent nation—the Republic of Texas.

★ SECTION 2 REVIEW ★

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★
Checking for Understanding

1. Identify Stephen F. Austin, Antonio López de Santa Anna, Sam Houston, Juan Seguin, San Antonio, Goliad.
2. Define Tejanos, empresario, reform.
3. How did the Mexican government attempt to control United States settlers who moved into Texas?
4. What were some of the causes of the Texas Revolution?

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★
Critical Thinking

5. Making Predictions How do you think people in the United States responded to news of Texas's independence?

ACTIVITY

6. Imagine you are Stephen F. Austin and you need to recruit settlers to colonize Texas. Draw an advertisement or create a catchy slogan that would attract American colonists to Texas.

SECTION 3

War With Mexico

SETTING THE SCENE

Read to Learn . . .

- ★ how the Mexican War began and why some Americans opposed the war.
- ★ how the United States obtained New Mexico and California.

Terms to Know

- ★ Bear Flag Republic
- ★ cede

People to Meet

- ★ Zachary Taylor
- ★ Winfield Scott
- ★ Stephen Kearny

Places to Locate

- ★ Santa Fe
- ★ Mexican Cession
- ★ Gadsden Purchase

► OIL LAMP, 1840s



The United States officially recognized the Republic of Texas as an independent nation in 1837. However, Congress did not immediately annex it. Because many people in the northern United States opposed entry of another slave state into the Union, Texas continued to exist as an independent country.

Peace between Texas and Mexico remained uneasy from the start. Mexico never recognized Texas's independence. The two governments quarreled over borders and territory. Twice in 1842 Mexican troops seized San Antonio. Texans responded by marching to Laredo, a border town on the Rio Grande, and then into

Mexico. Tensions increased when Texas passed a resolution claiming land all the way to present-day California. A showdown seemed inevitable.

★ From Sea to Shining Sea

People in the United States who favored expansion watched events in Texas intently. Texas already had signed several agreements with Great Britain. If Texas went to war with Mexico, it might form an alliance with the British. With British help, Texas could expand its reach all the way to the Pacific.

By the mid-1840s, a group of Americans wanted to see the United States claim that honor for itself. They believed the nation had a "manifest destiny." *Manifest* means clear or obvious. *Destiny* means something that is sure to happen. Some Americans thought the nation was obviously meant to expand and spread across the continent. They gave little thought to the Native Americans and Mexicans who would lose their lands in the process.

Annexation of Texas

After gaining independence from Mexico, Texans immediately voted to seek admission to the United States. Most Southerners strongly supported extending the cotton-growing area by annexing Texas. Northern abolitionists, however, opposed adding another slave state to the Union.

Presidents Andrew Jackson and Martin Van Buren had refused to recommend annexation. The issue soon arose again. As the 1844 election approached, territorial expansion took center stage. The Democrats nominated James K. Polk of Tennessee as their presidential candidate. As you read earlier in the chapter, Polk campaigned with the slogan "Fifty-four forty or fight!" and made manifest destiny the main issue in the campaign.

Polk won in a close election. Outgoing President John Tyler considered Polk's victory a mandate for the annexation of Texas. In February 1845, at Tyler's urging both houses of Congress passed a joint resolution to annex Texas. In December 1845, Texas became the twenty-eighth state to enter the Union; however, some problems still had to be resolved. The boundary between Texas and Mexico remained undetermined, and the Mexican government threatened war.

President Polk responded by sending agent John Slidell to resolve differences. Polk instructed Slidell to convince Mexico to accept the Rio Grande as the southern border of Texas. He also told Slidell to

offer Mexico \$25 million for California and \$5 million for New Mexico.

Mexican officials exploded in outrage. They considered such a low sum of money an insult and refused to even speak with Slidell.

★ The Brink of War

President Polk wanted to move against Mexico. He knew most Americans backed expansion but was not sure they would back it to the point of war.

Polk decided to press the question by sending troops into Texas. Soldiers under the command of General Zachary Taylor crossed the Nueces (nu•AY•suhs) River and set up posts just north of the Rio Grande. Although Texas claimed this as its southern boundary, Mexico considered it Mexican territory. Colonel Ethan Allen Hitchcock, one of Taylor's aides, observed:

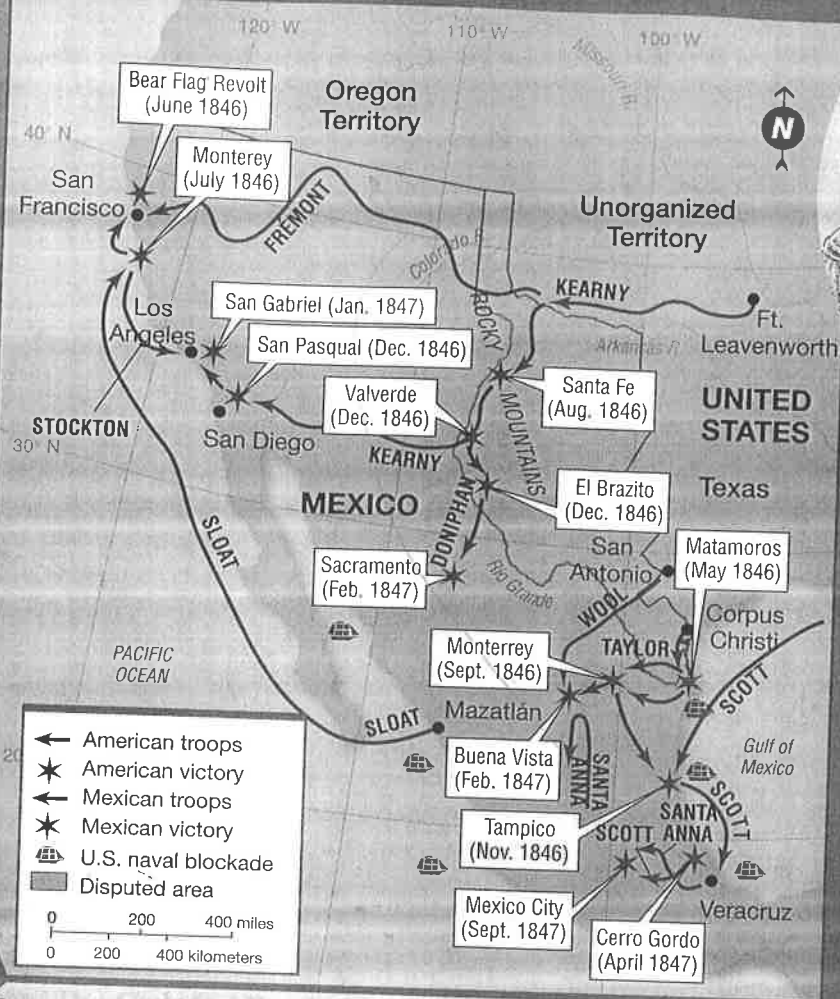
“ We have not one particle of right to be here. . . . It looks as if the government sent a small force on purpose to bring on a war, so as to have a pretext for taking California and as much of this country as it chooses. ”

In April 1846, Mexican soldiers attacked a United States cavalry patrol and killed 11 Americans. Taylor quickly notified Polk. On May 9 President Polk announced that "Mexico has . . . shed American blood on American soil." He then asked Congress for an official declaration of war. On May 13 both houses of Congress voted by a large majority to declare war on Mexico.

Opposition to the War

Fourteen antislavery representatives in the House voted against the war. Ohio representative Joshua Giddings called the

The Mexican War, 1846–1848



▲ ANTONIO LÓPEZ DE SANTA ANNA

Map Study

Location War between the United States and Mexico broke out in 1846 near the Rio Grande. The fighting soon spread over a wide area. **Which battle occurred farthest north?**

war “aggressive, unholy, and unjust.” Illinois representative Abraham Lincoln challenged Polk to name the spot where Mexicans “shed American blood on American soil.”

People outside of Congress also criticized “Mr. Polk’s War.” New England poet John Greenleaf Whittier wrote, “[I am] heartsick with this miserably wicked Mexican War.” Abolitionists considered the war a Southern plot to add more slave states to the Union. They called it a scheme to steal “bigger pens to cram in

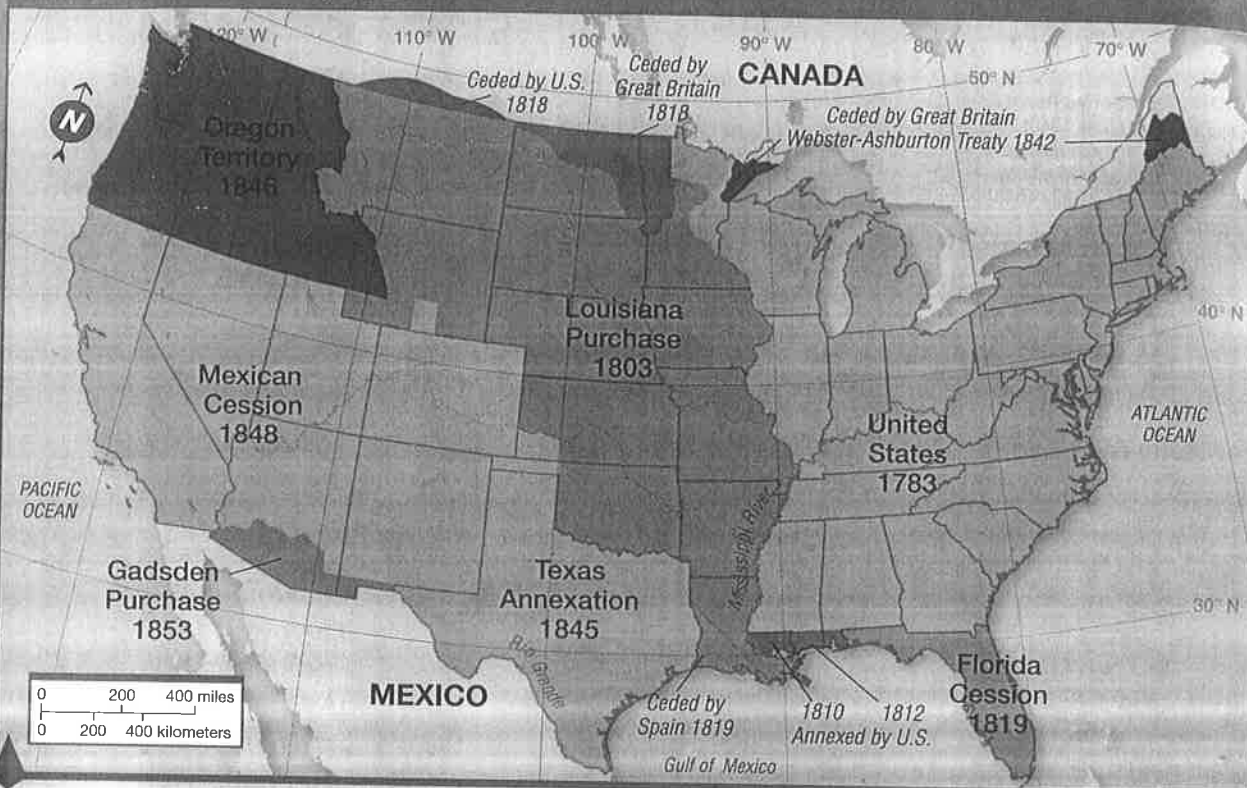
slaves.” Most American newspapers, though, rallied behind the President.

Major Battles

Even before Congress declared war, General Taylor’s soldiers fought north of the Rio Grande at Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma. In May of 1846, Taylor and his army crossed the Rio Grande into Mexico. By September they captured Monterrey.

In late 1846 Santa Anna rallied his forces. He personally led an army

The United States, 1853



Map Study

Location By 1853 the continental United States had reached its present national boundaries. **How many complete states were later carved from the Oregon Territory?**

against Taylor. In February 1847, however, Taylor regained the upper hand after defeating Santa Anna at the Battle of Buena Vista.

As armies clashed in Mexico, General **Winfield Scott** landed troops on the Gulf Coast near Veracruz. Scott's army won victory after victory as it marched west. In September 1847, after Mexicans made a heroic last stand at Chapultepec (chuh•POOL•tuh•PEHK), Scott took over Mexico City.

The Bear Flag Republic

Soon after the war began, General **Stephen Kearny** marched his army to **Santa Fe**, the capital of present-day New Mexico. The Mexican governor, along

with Mexican troops, fled without firing a shot. From Santa Fe, Kearny led about 300 soldiers to California.

In 1846 some 500 Americans lived in California. Captain **John C. Frémont**, an American army officer and explorer, urged Americans to revolt against their Mexican rulers. In the summer of 1846, rebels hoisted a handmade flag emblazoned with a grizzly bear. With this act, they announced the creation of the independent **Bear Flag Republic**.

When General Kearny arrived, the rebels replaced the Bear Flag with the Stars and Stripes. Frémont joined United States forces in fighting the Mexican War. In January 1847, Mexicans in California surrendered, and the United States took possession of the territory.

Making Peace

On February 2, 1848, the Mexicans signed the **Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo**. Under its terms, Mexico *ceded*, or gave up, all of California and New Mexico. This territory has since become known as the **Mexican Cession**. It included the present-day states of California, Nevada, Utah, and parts of Arizona, Colorado, Wyoming, and New Mexico. The United States agreed to pay \$15 million for these lands and agreed to pay the claims of American citizens against Mexico up to \$3.25 million. Mexico agreed to recognize Texas as part of the United States. The Mexican government also accepted the Rio Grande as the border between Texas and Mexico.

★ Gadsden Purchase

Americans, however, wanted still more territory claimed by Mexico. Railroad owners envisioned a southern route to the Pacific that ran over a strip of land just south of the Gila River. To fulfill this dream, James Gadsden, the minister to Mexico, arranged to buy this land for \$10 million. The **Gadsden Purchase** completed the boundary between Mexico and the United States and the expansion of the United States across the continent.

★ New Citizens

The acquisition of Mexican land brought thousands of Mexican citizens into the United States. The Mexican government worried about the fate of these people. To protect their rights, Mexican negotiators insisted that the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo include provisions allowing Mexicans to freely relocate to Mexico. For Mexicans who remained on their land, the treaty promised them “all the rights of citizens of the United States according to the principles of the Constitution.”

A difficult choice faced Mexicans. About 2,000 people headed south into Mexico. A far larger number, however, chose to stay in the United States. Mexicans who remained in the United States contributed to a rich culture that blended Spanish and Native American traditions. When English-speaking settlers moved to the Southwest, they brought their own ideas and culture with them. The settlers, though, learned much from the Mexican Americans. Mexican Americans taught the newcomers how to irrigate the soil and mine minerals.

Many settlers, however, did not treat Mexican Americans and Native Americans fairly. These two groups struggled to protect their cultures and rights against the newcomers.

★ SECTION 3 REVIEW ★

Checking for Understanding

1. Identify Zachary Taylor, Winfield Scott, Stephen Kearny, Santa Fe, Mexican Cession, Gadsden Purchase.
2. Define Bear Flag Republic, cede.
3. What were the causes of the war between Mexico and the United States?
4. Who urged Americans living in present-day California to revolt against Mexican rule?
5. What were the terms of the Mexican Cession?

Critical Thinking

6. Analyzing Information Why do you think the Texas voters approved annexation to the United States by a great majority?

ACTIVITY

7. Imagine you were a Mexican living on lands acquired in the Mexican Cession. Write diary entries in which you record your feelings on learning the terms of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.

Spanning a Continent

SETTING THE SCENE

Read to Learn . . .

- ★ why the Mormons settled in what is now Utah.
- ★ how California's population boomed in 1849.

Terms to Know

- ★ forty-niner
- ★ prospector
- ★ vigilante

People to Meet

- ★ Brigham Young
- ★ John Sutter
- ★ Bidley Mason

Places to Locate

- ★ Salt Lake City
- ★ San Francisco
- ★ Isthmus of Panama



◀ GOLD RUSH TRAVEL ADVERTISEMENT

In July 1847, Brigham Young stood on a hill overlooking Utah's Salt Lake Valley. According to legend, Young saw a vision of a great city. He turned to the people who had followed him into the desert. "This is the right place!" Young declared confidently.

★ The Mormons

Young's view of Salt Lake Valley marked the end of a 1,300-mile (2,092-km) journey from Iowa. Young and his followers had walked the entire distance, hauling

their possessions behind them in two-wheeled carts. They came to the desert for the same reason countless settlers had first traveled to North America—for religious freedom.

A New Church

The settlers of Utah belonged to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. They referred to themselves as "Saints." Most people, though, knew them as **Mormons**.

The Mormons owed their origins to Joseph Smith, a farmer in upstate New

York. In the 1820s Smith had a vision that convinced him to found a new Christian sect, or religious group. Smith's faith and enthusiasm won converts. Several of his beliefs, however, won even more enemies.

Smith believed that property should be held in common. He also supported polygamy, the idea that a man could have more than one wife. This angered a large number of people in the 1800s. Mormons eventually gave up this practice.

Journey Into the Desert

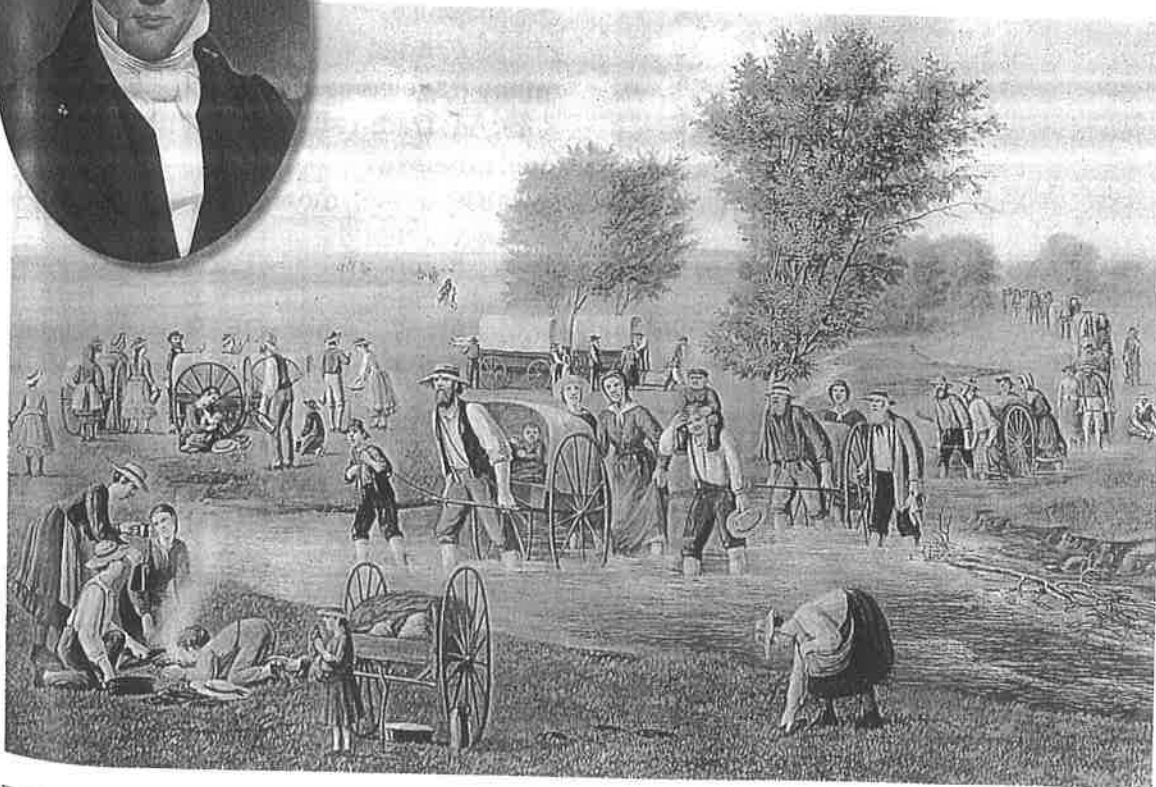
Harassed by neighbors suspicious of their beliefs, the Mormons moved from New York to Ohio to Missouri and then

to Illinois. In 1844 a mob attacked and killed Smith. His successor, Brigham Young, decided to lead the Mormons to shelter in the Far West.

In 1847 the Mormons began their long trek to Utah. More than 15,000 people made the difficult journey across the Great Plains and the Rocky Mountains. Over the next decade, the Mormons built 1,043 miles (1,678 km) of canals and irrigated 154,000 acres (62,370 ha) of formerly arid, or dry, land. In 1850 Congress recognized Young as the governor of the Utah Territory. By 1860 about 30,000 Mormons lived in Salt Lake City and more than 90 other towns in present-day Utah. Utah eventually entered the Union in 1896 as the forty-fifth state.



◀ JOSEPH SMITH



**Picturing
History**

▲ **MORMONS MOVE WEST** Mormons traveled west across the Great Plains and Rocky Mountains to the Utah Territory in search of religious freedom. **Who led the Mormons to Utah?**

★ Rushing to California

As the Mormons built houses in the desert, Swiss immigrant **John Sutter** ordered a crew of workers to build a sawmill along the American River in northern California. On January 24, 1848, a golden glint in the river caught the eye of John Marshall, the supervisor of the job. Marshall reached into the water and pulled out a lump of ore. A single word slipped through Marshall's lips: "Gold."

Marshall tried to keep his discovery a secret, but word spread quickly to nearby towns. The mayor of Monterey, California, described the reaction of townspeople:

“ [T]he farmers have thrown aside their plows, the lawyers their briefs, the doctors their pills, the priests their prayerbooks, and all are now digging for gold. ”



Picturing
History

▲ **GOLD MINING** Thousands of people went to California during the Gold Rush searching for great wealth. **What term did people use for gold seekers in California?**

Forty-Niners by the Shipload

The gold seekers who stampeded into California became known as the **forty-niners** for the year, 1849, in which many of them came. Thousands of forty-niners sailed to **San Francisco** from New York, Boston, and Galveston. Most traveled around the southern tip of South America. Some more adventurous—or impatient—travelers sailed to the **Isthmus of Panama**. They climbed on mules and rode through the steamy jungle to reach the Pacific coast. At the coast, they caught ships bound for California.

The people who departed from the ships in San Francisco came from nearly every corner of the earth. During the first half of 1849, 5,000 miners arrived from Chile alone. Others came from as far away as China.

Traveling Overland

By far the greatest number of gold seekers traveled to California on overland trails. Guided by former mountain men, many traveled over a southern spur of the Oregon Trail, called the California Trail. Still others headed over the Mormon Trail. In 1849 alone, more than 80,000 people poured across the continent.

★ Life in the Mining Towns

When the forty-niners reached California, they threw up temporary towns overnight with names such as Shinbone Peak and You Bet. Most townspeople lived in tents. The lucky ones owned cabins, most of which lacked windows or chimneys.

Some women staked claims, but more made money by opening boardinghouses or laundries. One laundress along the Feather River earned \$1,000 a week—more money than some miners.

Mining towns had no police or prisons, so robbers posed a real threat to business owners and miners, also called

Linking Past and Present

Jeans

One of the most enduring made-in-the-USA fashions came out of the mining camps of California.

Then

Only for Gold Miners

Levi Strauss listened as miners complained about how fast their clothes wore out. Strauss had an idea. He stitched up a pair of pants made from a tough easy-to-care-for fabric called denim. To make sure the pants were extra tough, Strauss folded

the seams and reinforced the corners with small copper tacks called rivets. The pants did not tear when miners hung their tools or bags of gold from their belts or pockets, and the dark blue color did not show dirt! Strauss had a fashion hit. In 1873 his company began producing the first Levi's.

Now

A World Favorite

Today people call Levi's by a variety of names—dungarees, denims, blue jeans, jeans, or by the name of the designer who makes them. Regardless of the name, miner's pants are the top sportswear choice of people around the world. Imagine standing in a market in the middle of Nairobi, Kenya, or Kathmandu, Nepal. Your blue jeans



▲ TEENAGERS IN JEANS

may be a hotter trading item than your American dollars. How many pairs of jeans do you own?



◀ EARLY LEVI PANTS AD

prospectors. Townspeople took law into their own hands, forming vigilance committees. The committee members, or vigilantes, drove petty thieves out of town and hanged murderers. Such hasty justice became known as vigilante justice—law without judge or jury.

★ Dreams of Freedom

In 1849 California delegates drafted a constitution that prohibited slavery. The next year California entered the Union as a free state. Hoping to find riches and freedom, a number of African Americans headed west.

By 1852 more than 2,000 African Americans lived in California. Some struck it rich

in the mines. Others succeeded at business enterprises. **Biddy Mason**, for example, worked as a nurse. She then invested her savings in real estate until she built up a fortune. Mason used some of her money to found Los Angeles's first elementary school for African American children.

As a group, African Americans in California boasted savings of more than \$2.3 million by 1855. The shadow of prejudice, however, still produced huge inequalities. The California legislature denied African Americans the right to vote. Black laws barred African Americans from testifying in court and prohibited integrated schools.

Led by African American journalists such as San Francisco newspaper owner **Mifflin Gibbs**, African Americans forced the repeal of the black laws. But they did

not win the vote until passage of the Fifteenth Amendment in 1870.

Freedom Lost

For Native Americans, the migration of thousands of settlers to California proved disastrous. Tens of thousands of prospectors forced Native Americans to work. Native American men toiled in the mines while Native American women worked in households. Disease and forced labor reduced the Native American population in California from about 150,000 in 1848 to 35,000 by 1860.

The national government had created the Bureau of Indian Affairs in 1824. The bureau attempted to reduce Native American land claims. In the 1850s the government advocated confining Native Americans on reservations, or lands set aside for Native Americans. Despite Native Americans' fierce resistance to this policy, by 1858 the bureau had created eight reservations in California.

The Search for the Gold Mountain

Immigrants from China also felt the heavy hand of prejudice. Lured by tales of the American's *Gam San*, or "Gold Mountain," hundreds of Chinese peasants poured into California from 1849 to 1851. By 1852 their numbers had swelled into the thousands.

The rising tide of immigration from Asia alarmed the miners in the United States. In 1852 they convinced state lawmakers to tax foreign-born miners who did not plan to become citizens. Federal law limited citizenship to whites, so Chinese miners had to pay the tax or quit mining. Under the law, the government took a total of \$5 million from the pockets of Chinese prospectors.

Forced out of mining, the Chinese opened other businesses. Chinese laundries, restaurants, and boardinghouses became familiar sights in the mining towns. In San Francisco these shops made up a city within a city called Chinatown.

The End of the Gold Rush

Although the Gold Rush continued into the 1850s, latecomers found little gold left in rivers and streams. After a few years, large companies took over most of the mining in California. Many forty-niners settled down as farmers, shopkeepers, or city workers in towns like San Francisco. When the mines ran dry, smaller towns went bust and people moved on. Many towns became abandoned ghost towns. Some people continued the search for gold, however. Their search carried them north to British Columbia, east to Colorado, and across the Pacific Ocean to Australia.

★ SECTION 4 REVIEW ★

Checking for Understanding

1. Identify Brigham Young, John Sutter, Bidy Mason, Salt Lake City, San Francisco, Isthmus of Panama.
2. Define forty-niner, prospector, vigilante.
3. Why did the Mormons settle in the deserts of Utah?
4. How did the Gold Rush help California grow?

Critical Thinking

5. Making Comparisons How was the establishment of a settlement in Utah in the 1840s similar to the founding of the Massachusetts Bay Colony in the 1620s?

ACTIVITY

6. Draw or create a scene of a California mining town.