

The Growth of a Young Nation

Section 3

Manifest Destiny

Terms and Names

manifest destiny Belief that the United States would expand across the continent

Santa Fe Trail Trail from Missouri to Santa Fe, New Mexico

Oregon Trail Trail from Missouri to Oregon

Stephen F. Austin Most successful land agent in Texas

Texas Revolution Texas's war for independence from Mexico

the Alamo Site of a key battle in the Texas Revolution

Sam Houston First president of the Republic of Texas

James K. Polk 11th president

Republic of California Proclaimed by American settlers who rebelled against Mexico

Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo Treaty ending the War with Mexico

Before You Read

In the last section, you learned about politics in the 1820s and 1830s. In this section, you will see how Americans continued to move westward and gained new territory through diplomacy and war.

As You Read

Use a chart to take notes on boundary changes of the United States.

SETTLING THE FRONTIER

(Pages 130-133)

Why did Americans move west?

Many Americans believed that God wanted the United States to expand across the continent. They felt that Americans were meant to control the West. This belief was called **manifest destiny**.

People went west for economic reasons. Many went in order to get cheap land. After the Panic of 1837, many Americans wanted a fresh start on the frontier.

Americans took several trails to the West. The **Santa Fe Trail** was a trade route between Independence, Missouri, and Santa Fe, New Mexico. The **Oregon Trail** stretched from Independence to Portland, Oregon.

The Mormons followed the Oregon Trail to Utah. This religious group had been persecuted in the East. They settled on the edge of the Great Salt Lake.

1. Give two reasons why Americans moved west.

TEXAN INDEPENDENCE

(Pages 133-135)

What caused the revolution in Texas?

In the 1820s Mexico encouraged Americans to settle in Texas. They offered land to settlers. They hoped these settlers would make the area more stable.

Section 3, *continued*

Stephen F. Austin, a land agent, set up a colony of American settlers in Texas. Soon Anglos, or English-speaking settlers, outnumbered Spanish-speaking Texans. There was conflict over cultural issues.

First, the Anglo settlers spoke English instead of Spanish. Second, the Anglos tended to be Protestant instead of Catholic. Third, many of the settlers were Southerners who brought their slaves with them. Mexico had outlawed slavery in 1829. They unsuccessfully tried to get the Texans to free their slaves.

Mexico tried to prevent more American settlers from coming to Texas, but the settlers came anyway. Austin asked Mexico for more self-government for Texas.

In 1836 a war broke out that became known as the **Texas Revolution**.

A small Texan force tried to defend **the Alamo**, a mission in San Antonio. When the Mexicans captured it, they killed all 187 of the Americans. "Remember the Alamo" became a rallying cry for Texas rebels. Under their commander **Sam Houston**, the Texans captured Mexican leader Santa Anna and won their independence.

James K. Polk was elected president in 1844. He was a slaveholder and favored westward expansion. In 1845, Texas was admitted to the union.

2. Name three conflicts between Anglo settlers and Mexico.

THE WAR WITH MEXICO

(Pages 135-137)

What did the United States gain in the Mexican War?

The United States and Mexico had a dispute over the northern region of

Mexico. President Polk sent the U.S. army to blockade the Rio Grande River.

War broke out between the United States and Mexico. New Mexico immediately asked to join the United States. American settlers in California declared their independence from Mexico. They set up the **Republic of California**. American troops won victory after victory.

The **Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo** gave almost half of Mexico's land to the United States. The United States bought more land from Mexico with the Gadsden Purchase in 1853. This set the current borders of the lower 48 states.

3. Identify two states that became part of the United States as a result of the Mexican War.

THE CALIFORNIA GOLD RUSH

(Pages 137-138)

How did the Gold Rush change California?

In 1848 gold was discovered in California. People streamed into California in the rush for gold. These "forty-niners" came from all over the United States as well as from foreign countries. California's population exploded. San Francisco became a boom town.

The Gold Rush brought thousands of people to California and spurred the development of farming, manufacturing, shipping, and banking.

4. How did the Gold Rush affect California?
