

Reform and Expansion

Part Three



Part One

Part Two

Part Three

Thematic Icons



Economics



Geography



Historical concepts



Government

Icons



Flash activity (these activities are not editable)



Teacher notes included in the Notes page

For more instructions, see the *User Guide*.



In 1821, **Mexico** won its independence from Spain. The newly liberated country included modern-day California, Texas and the land between.



At first, the Mexican government encouraged immigration to its northern provinces.

The settlers were mainly Protestant and many owned slaves. As more Anglos came to Texas, Mexico's ties to its northern provinces began to weaken.





When Texas became the 28th state in 1845, Mexico ended **diplomatic relations** with the United States. This meant discussions between Mexican and American diplomats stopped.

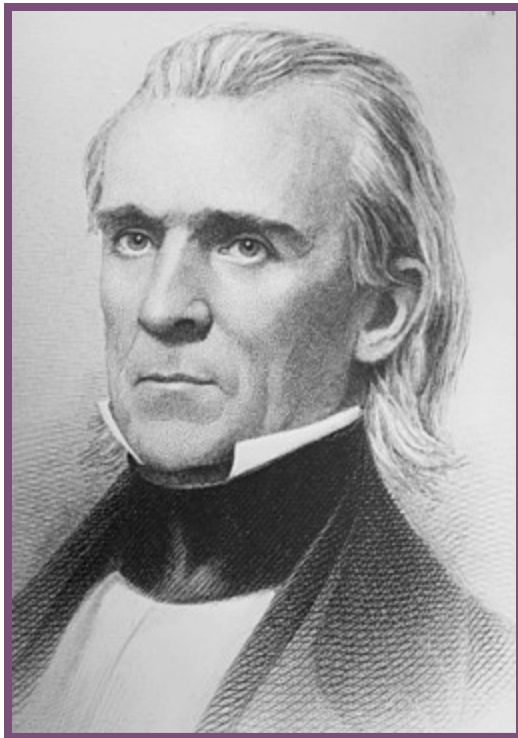
The Mexicans were further enraged when President **James Polk** supported Texas's claim that their border extended to the **Rio Grande**.

According to Mexico, its border was the Nueces River, which was much further north.





Polk was a strong believer in manifest destiny. He hoped a war with the politically unstable Mexico would extend U.S. borders.



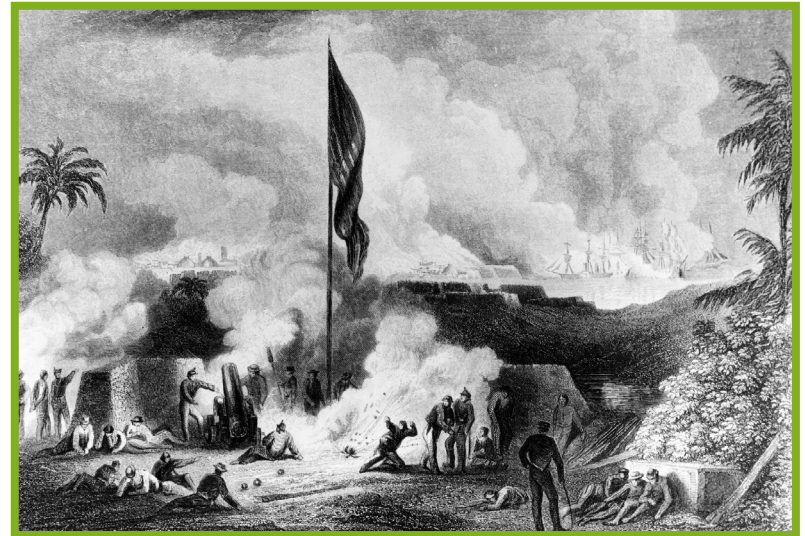
Polk ordered General **Zachary Taylor** to blockade the Rio Grande. Mexican troops met the invasion and killed nine U.S. soldiers.

Polk claimed that the Mexicans had shed “American blood on American soil,” and declared war.

Do you think Polk's actions were right?

On May 13, 1846, large American forces advanced on Mexico and Mexican held territory. At first, large areas were conquered easily by American soldiers.

Due to these losses, the Mexican government turned to the exiled general **Antonio de Santa Anna**. Under de Santa Anna, Mexican forces put up more resistance to the advancing Americans.



However, armed with better weapons and training, American forces captured Mexico City which quickly ended the war.





The **Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo** officially ended the war in 1848.

Mexico accepted the Rio Grande border and gave up California and New Mexico (which included modern-day Utah, Nevada and Arizona) to the United States for \$15 million.



In 1853, the **Gadsden Purchase** paid \$10 million to Mexico for a portion of land that established the modern borders of the continental United States.



Review



