

Essential Question

How did Mexican lands in the West become part of the United States?

Reading Guide**Content Vocabulary**

rancho

(p. 374)

Californios

(p. 376)

ranchero (p. 374)

cede (p. 377)

Academic Vocabulary

resource

(p. 374)

commence

(p. 375)

Key People and Events

Santa Fe Trail (p. 373)

John C. Frémont (p. 374)

Winfield Scott (p. 377)

Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo (p. 377)

Mexican Cession (p. 377)

Gadsden Purchase (p. 377)

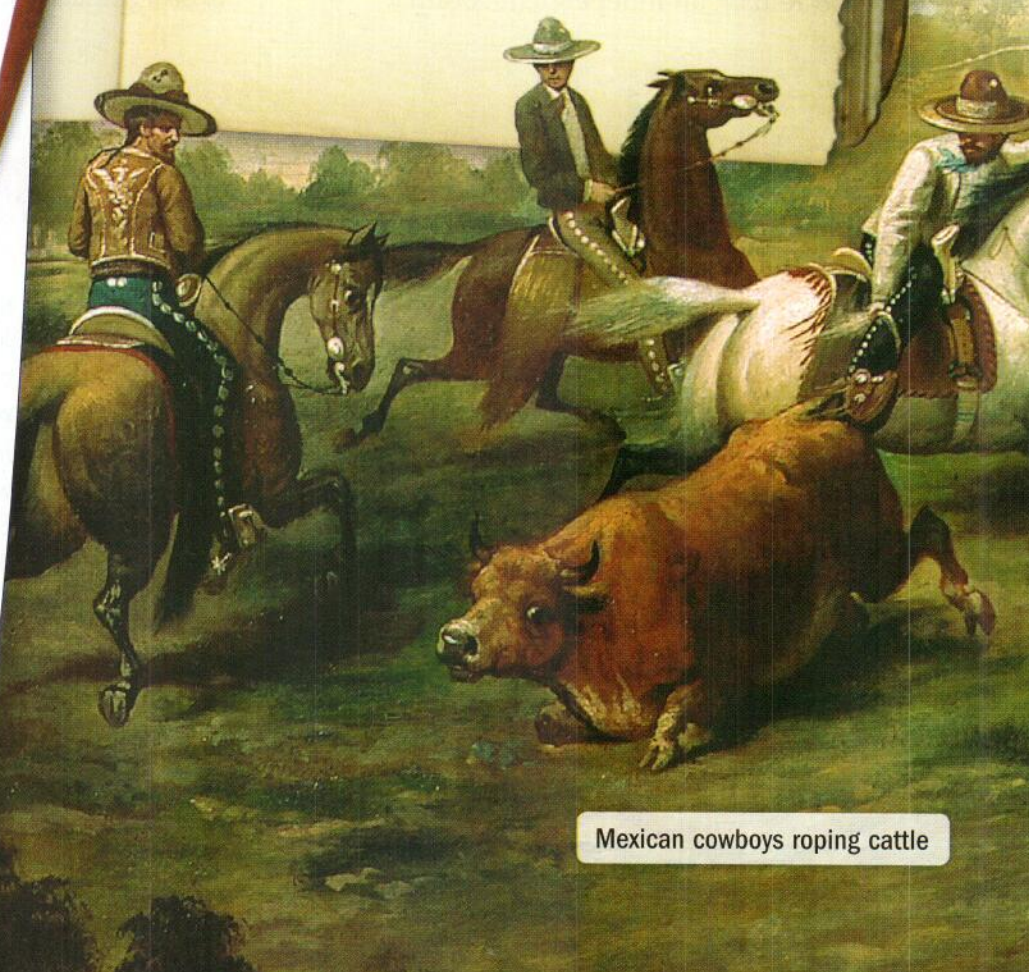
Reading Strategy

Taking Notes As you read, describe the achievements of each individual in the chart below.

	Achievements
William Becknell	
John C. Frémont	
Winfield Scott	

American Diary

Spanish conquistadors brought the first cattle and horses to North America. As Mexicans settled in present-day California, many became cowhands. They herded cattle on California's large ranches. These Mexican cowhands were called vaqueros and were the first cowboys of the American West. People of other nationalities soon populated the region, but Spanish culture still influences California's people today.



Mexican cowboys roping cattle

The New Mexico Territory

Main Idea The Santa Fe Trail was a busy trade route from Missouri to the large Mexican province of New Mexico.

History and You Can you imagine finding your way from Missouri to New Mexico without roads? Read how a trader established the Santa Fe Trail.

In the early 1800s, New Mexico was the vast region between the Texas and California territories. It included all of present-day New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, and Utah and parts of Colorado and Wyoming. Native Americans had lived in the area for thousands of years. Spanish conquistadors began exploring there in the late 1500s and made it part of Spain's colony of Mexico. In 1610 the Spanish founded the settlement of Santa Fe. Missionaries followed soon after.

When Mexico won its independence in 1821, it inherited New Mexico from Spain. The Spanish had tried to keep Americans

away from Santa Fe, fearing that Americans would want to take over the area. The Mexican government, however, welcomed American traders. It hoped that the trade would boost the economy of the province.

William Becknell, the first American trader to reach Santa Fe, arrived in 1821 with a supply of goods. Becknell's route came to be known as the **Santa Fe Trail**. The trail started near Independence, Missouri, and crossed the prairies to the Arkansas River. It followed the river west toward the Rocky Mountains before turning south into New Mexico. The trail was mostly flat, and Becknell used wagons to transport his goods.

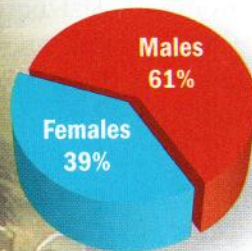
Other traders followed Becknell, and the Santa Fe Trail became a busy trade route. As trade with New Mexico increased, Americans began settling in the area. Many saw New Mexico as part of the Manifest Destiny of the United States.

Reading Check **Describing** Where did the Santa Fe Trail begin and end?

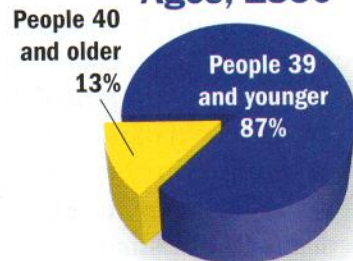
By the Numbers Los Angeles in 1850

Types of Employment A census of Los Angeles County, California, was taken in 1850. Many people in Los Angeles were farmers, miners, merchants, watchmakers, blacksmiths, and physicians.

Los Angeles Population, 1850



Los Angeles Ages, 1850



Source: 1850 Federal Census Los Angeles County, California

Critical Thinking

Analyzing Describe the characteristics of Los Angeles' population.

The Santa Fe Trail

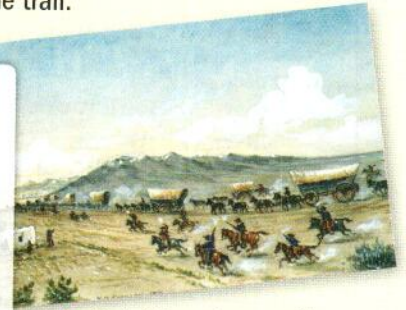
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC



Westward Trade When Mexico gained its independence from Spain in 1821, trade also opened up in New Mexico. That year, William Becknell set out from Missouri to trade with the Native Americans and traveled on to Santa Fe. By 1860, \$3.5 million in goods were transported along the trail.

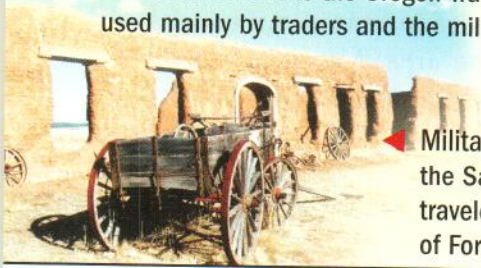
"I travelled from the Spanish village of Taos, to Fort Osage, on the Missouri, in thirty-four days. . . . By the route which I travelled on my return, I avoided the so much dreaded sand hills, where adventurers have frequently been forced to drink the blood of their mules, to allay their thirst."

—from the journal of William Becknell



▲ Freight wagons on the Santa Fe Trail

▲ The 900-mile-long Santa Fe Trail served as the main highway between Missouri and New Mexico. Unlike the Oregon Trail, it was used mainly by traders and the military.



▲ Military forts were built along the Santa Fe Trail to protect travelers. These are the ruins of Fort Union in New Mexico.

Map Skills

Movement Which forts would you pass if you traveled from Independence to Fort Dodge?

Maps in Motion See StudentWorks™ Plus or glencoe.com.

California's Spanish Culture

Main Idea California was settled by Mexicans.

History and You Did you know that *Los Angeles* means "the angels" in Spanish? Read to learn about California's Spanish heritage.

Spanish explorers and missionaries from Mexico settled California in the 1700s. Captain Gaspar de Portolá and Father Junípero Serra built a chain of missions that eventually extended from San Diego to Sonoma.

The missions were used to convert Native Americans to Christianity. Native Americans also farmed the land and worked at weaving and other crafts. American mountain man Jedediah Smith described the missions as "large farming and grazing establishments."

After Mexico gained its independence from Spain in 1821, California became a state in the new Mexican nation. Mexican settlers bought

available mission lands and set up huge estates called **ranchos**. Native Americans worked the land in return for food and shelter. **Rancheros**—ranch owners—treated Native Americans almost like slaves.

In the 1840s, more Americans reached California. **John C. Frémont**, an army officer, wrote of the region's mild climate and vast natural **resources**. Americans began to talk about adding California to the Union. They argued that the nation would then be safely bordered by the Pacific Ocean rather than by a foreign country. Shippers also hoped to build ports on the Pacific coast for trade with East Asia.

✓ **Reading Check** **Examining** What was the purpose of the California missions?

History ONLINE

Student Web Activity Visit glencoe.com and complete the Chapter 12 Web Activity about California missions.

War With Mexico

Main Idea War broke out between the United States and Mexico.

History and Green Think about how important California is to the United States. Read to find out how the United States acquired this land from Mexico.

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President Polk saw New Mexico and California as belonging to the United States. After Mexico refused to sell the lands, Polk plotted to gain them through war. Polk, however, wanted to provoke Mexico to strike first so that he could justify a war.

Relations between the two countries were strained. Mexico still claimed Texas as its own. The two nations also disagreed about the Texas-Mexico border. The United States insisted that the Rio Grande formed the border. Mexico claimed that the border lay along the Nueces (nu•AY•suhs) River, 150 miles (241 km) farther north.

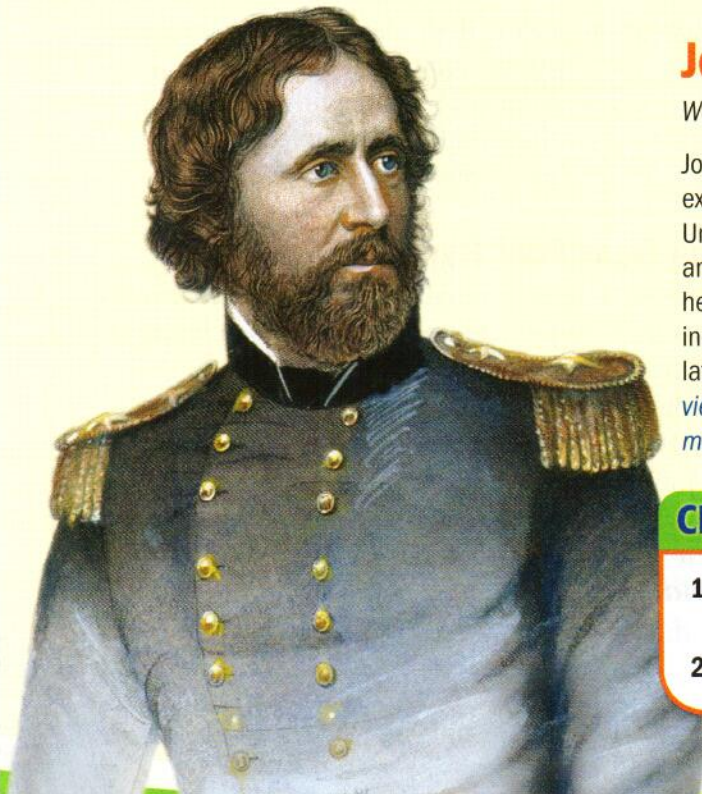
Conflict Begins

Polk sent John Slidell to Mexico to propose a deal. Slidell was authorized to offer \$30 million for California and New Mexico in return for Mexico's acceptance of the Rio Grande as the Texas boundary. In addition the United States would take over payment of Mexico's debts to American citizens. The Mexican government refused to discuss the offer and announced its intention to reclaim Texas for Mexico.

Polk ordered General Zachary Taylor to march his soldiers across the disputed borderland. On April 24, 1846, Mexican soldiers attacked Taylor's force. Taylor sent the report the president wanted to hear: "Hostilities may now be considered as **commenced** [begun]."

On May 11, the president told Congress that Mexico had "invaded our territory and shed American blood upon the American soil." Congress passed a declaration of war against Mexico.

People IN HISTORY



John C. Frémont

Western Explorer and Supporter of the Bear Flag Revolt

John C. Frémont was a mapmaker who led several western expeditions. He set out on his third expedition in 1845 when the United States was on the verge of a war with Mexico over the annexation of Texas. In June 1846, during the Bear Flag Revolt, he supported a small group of Americans who declared the area independent. They named it the Bear Flag Republic. Frémont later wrote that he saw their actions as "*movements with the view of establishing a settled and stable government, which may give security to their persons and property.*"

CRITICAL Thinking

- Theorizing** Based on Frémont's quotation, how do you think the Mexican government treated California settlers?
- Speculating** Why do you think Frémont supported the revolt?



The American people were divided over war. Polk's party, the Democrats, generally supported the war. Many Whigs opposed it, calling Polk's actions aggressive and unjust. Northerners accused Democrats of waging the war to spread slavery.

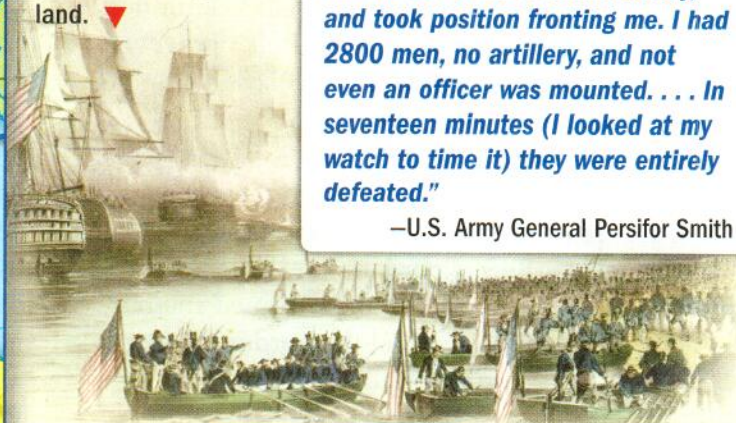
U.S. Army officer's hat ▶



United States naval forces blockaded Mexican ports and supported troops on land. ▼

"In the meantime Santa Anna came out from [Mexico City] with 12000 men about 5000 of them cavalry, and took position fronting me. I had 2800 men, no artillery, and not even an officer was mounted. . . . In seventeen minutes (I looked at my watch to time it) they were entirely defeated."

—U.S. Army General Persifor Smith



After the war, Mexico was forced to give up half of its territory.

Map Skills

Movement What information on the map can you use to infer which side won the war?

Maps In Motion See StudentWorks™ Plus or glencoe.com.

Polk's War Plan

Polk's war plan had three parts. First, American troops would drive Mexican forces out of the disputed border region in Texas and secure the border. Second, the United States would seize New Mexico and California. Finally, American forces would take Mexico City, the capital of Mexico.

Zachary Taylor accomplished the first goal. By early 1847, his army had captured the towns of Matamoros, Monterrey, and Buena Vista. The Texas border was secure.

While Taylor made progress in northern Mexico, American forces also advanced farther west. General Stephen Watts Kearny led about 1,500 troops along the Santa Fe Trail from Fort Leavenworth to New Mexico. The

Mexican governor fled, allowing the Americans to capture New Mexico's capital, Santa Fe, on August 18, 1846, without firing a shot. Kearny then led his army across the deserts toward California.

The Bear Flag Republic

In June 1846, a small group of Americans seized the town of Sonoma north of San Francisco and proclaimed the independent Republic of California. They called the new country the Bear Flag Republic.

John C. Frémont and mountain man Kit Carson also met in Sonoma. Frémont declared that he would conquer California. Many **Californios**, the Mexicans who lived in California, were outraged by his declaration.

They might have supported a revolt for local control, but they opposed what looked like an attempt to seize land.

In July 1846, a United States Navy force under Commodore John Sloat captured the ports of Monterey and San Francisco. Sloat declared California annexed to the United States. Sloat's fleet sailed for San Diego, carrying Frémont and Carson. The Americans captured San Diego and moved north to Los Angeles.

After Sloat's ships left, many Californios in San Diego rose up against the Americans who had taken over the city. General Kearny and his troops put down the revolt. By January 1847, California was fully controlled by the United States.

The Capture of Mexico City


President Polk gave the task of capturing Mexico City to General **Winfield Scott**. In March 1847, Scott's army landed near the Mexican port of Veracruz. The army captured Veracruz after a three-week siege and then

fought its way some 300 miles to Mexico City. By mid-September 1847, the Americans had taken Mexico City. The Mexican government surrendered. It would also be forced to surrender half of its territory.

The United States Expands

The **Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo** (GWAH•duhl•oor hih•DAL•goh) was signed in February 1848. Mexico gave up Texas and agreed to the Rio Grande as the border between Texas and Mexico. In what was called the **Mexican Cession**, Mexico **ceded**, or gave, California and New Mexico to the United States for the price of \$15 million.

In 1853 the United States paid Mexico \$10 million for the **Gadsden Purchase**, a strip of land along the southern edge of present-day Arizona and New Mexico. With the Gadsden Purchase, the U.S. mainland reached its present size.

 **Reading Check** **Evaluating** Was President Polk's war plan successful? Explain.

Section 3 Review

History ONLINE
Study Central™ To review this section, go to glencoe.com.

Vocabulary

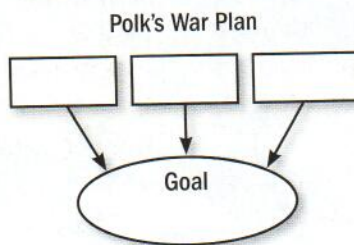
1. Define each of the following terms in a sentence: **rancho**, **ranchero**, **resource**, **commence**, **Californios**, **cede**.

Main Ideas

2. **Specifying** What was the original purpose of the Santa Fe Trail?
3. **Explaining** Why did Americans want to acquire California?
4. **Identifying** What issues existed between the United States and Mexico before they went to war?

Critical Thinking

5. **Analyzing** Describe how trade promoted United States territorial growth.
6. **Organizing** Use a diagram like the one below to describe each part of Polk's war plan and the goal he was trying to achieve.



7. **Creative Writing** Write the words to a short national anthem for the Bear Flag Republic. Include details designed to evoke pride among the citizens of the country.

8. Answer the Essential Question

How did Mexican lands in the West become part of the United States?