

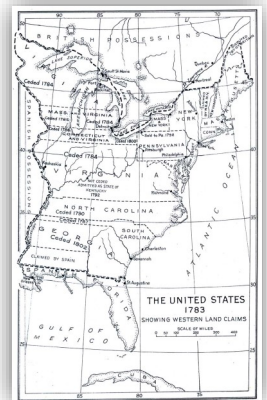
# AMERICA MOVES WEST STATION 1

Directions: Read the passage, complete the graphic organizer and summarize the information on the America Moves West Map Activity.



## **THE UNITED STATES IN 1783**

After the American Revolution (1783) the United States received a vast amount of land from Great Britain. The new territory stretched from the Appalachian Mountains to the Mississippi River and from Canada to Spanish Florida. For the next twenty year span following the Revolution, no new territory was added. However, from 1803 to 1853 through negotiations and war, America acquired seven new territories. In this era of expansion, early Americans believed it was their “manifest destiny”, or their God-given right to expand from the Atlantic coast to the Pacific coast.



1783

# AMERICA MOVES WEST STATION 2

Directions: Read the passage, complete the graphic organizer and summarize the information on the America Moves West Map Activity.

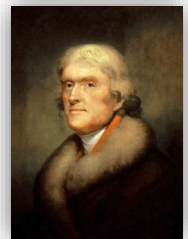


## **LOUISIANA PURCHASE (1803)**

1800: France controlled this vast area in the middle of the U.S. from 1699 until 1762, the year it ceded (gave up) the territory to Spain. Under Napoleon Bonaparte's leadership, France took back the territory in 1800 in the hope of re-establishing an empire in North America. However, a slave revolt in the French colony of Haiti and an impending war with Britain led French officials to abandon these plans and sell the entire territory to the United States.



1803: President Thomas wanted New Orleans as a key port in the South and a transportation hub at the end of the Mississippi River. In 1803 he negotiated with France to buy New Orleans and the whole Louisiana Territory (828,000 square miles) for \$15 million, which equated to four cents per square acre. The Louisiana Purchase secured a major port in New Orleans and doubled the size of the United States.



1804-1806: Jefferson appointed Meriwether Lewis and William Clark to explore the Louisiana Territory. They traced the Missouri River to its source in the Rocky Mountains, then followed the Columbia River to the Pacific Ocean.

1805-1807: Zebulon Pike led the Pike Expedition, sent out by President Thomas Jefferson. The purpose of this expedition was to explore and document the southern portion of the Louisiana Territory.

1803

# AMERICA MOVES WEST STATION 3

Directions: Read the passage, complete the graphic organizer and summarize the information on the America Moves West Map Activity.



## **LAND ABOVE THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE (1818)**

1818: In this era, Britain owned Canada. The British and American governments both claimed land along the boundary between Canada and the Louisiana Territory. Finally, an agreement was negotiated to divide the land. The United States was given a small area just above the Louisiana Territory. In exchange, Britain received a small piece of land farther north in what is now Canada.



1818



# AMERICA MOVES WEST STATION 4

Directions: Read the passage, complete the graphic organizer and summarize the information on the America Moves West Map Activity.



## ***SPANISH CESSION (1819)***

**1818:** Florida had been under Spanish control since the expedition of Ponce de Leon in the 1500s. By the early 1800s it had become a trouble spot for the United States for a few reasons. First, hundreds of runaway slaves went there to escape. Second, Seminole Indians of Florida often crossed into Georgia and attacked American settlers.

President James Monroe sent General Andrew Jackson to drive the Indians out. During the War of 1812 Jackson chased the Seminoles into Florida and captured two Spanish forts.

**1819:** At the time Spain was busy trying to fight revolutionaries in its Latin American colonies. This coupled with the inability to keep Americans from attacking this era forced Spain to reconsider ownership of Florida. America negotiated to buy the Florida Cession from Spain for \$5 million. The land included Florida and parts of Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana.



1819

# AMERICA MOVES WEST STATION 5

Directions: Read the passage, complete the graphic organizer and summarize the information on the America Moves West Map Activity.



## TEXAS ANNEXATION (1845)

1822: Hoping to gain more population in this territory, Mexico decided to open Texas (northern Mexico) to settlers. They gave land to the new settlers if they promised to obey Mexican laws. Stephen Austin led the first American families into Texas.

1830: New immigrants largely ignored Mexican law. For example, even though slavery was against the law in Mexico, many settlers brought their slaves. This resulted in Mexico closing the border to future settlers.

1836: Texas declared its independence from Mexico. General Santa Anna led the Mexican army north into Texas. Several thousand Mexican soldiers surrounded less than 200 Americans at the Alamo, a mission in San Antonio. William Travis, Davey Crockett, Jim Bowie, and other Texans fought a courageous two week battle before being killed. General Sam Houston was named commander of the Texan army. The battle cry became "Remember the Alamo!". General Houston defeated Santa Anna at the battle of San Jacinto, and the Texan Revolution came to an end.



When Texas won its independence from Mexico, it asked Congress to be admitted into the Union as a state. The northern states voted not to admit Texas as a state. This was largely because they believed that the admittance of another slave state would tip the delicate balance of slave vs. non-slave states in congress. Many also feared a war with Mexico since Mexico never truly acknowledged Texas as an Independent. Thus, for a short period, Texas remained an independent country known as the Lone Star Republic. Sam Houston was elected president of the new nation.

1845: After Texas threatened to become a territory of Britain, Congress annexed (added on) Texas as the 28<sup>th</sup> state.



1845



# AMERICA MOVES WEST STATION 6

Directions: Read the passage, complete the graphic organizer and summarize the information on the America Moves West Map Activity.



1846

## **OREGON COUNTRY (1846)**

1818-1843: The United States and Britain agreed to have shared ownership of the Oregon Country (northwestern U.S. and land that is part of modern Canada). Initially, the population of this territory was predominately fur traders who became known as mountain men. However, by the 1840s thousands of pioneer settlers migrated to the Oregon Country. They traveled together in wagon trains for protection against the Indians. The Oregon Trail (as it became known) stretched for 2,000 miles from Independence, Missouri to the Willamette Valley of Oregon.

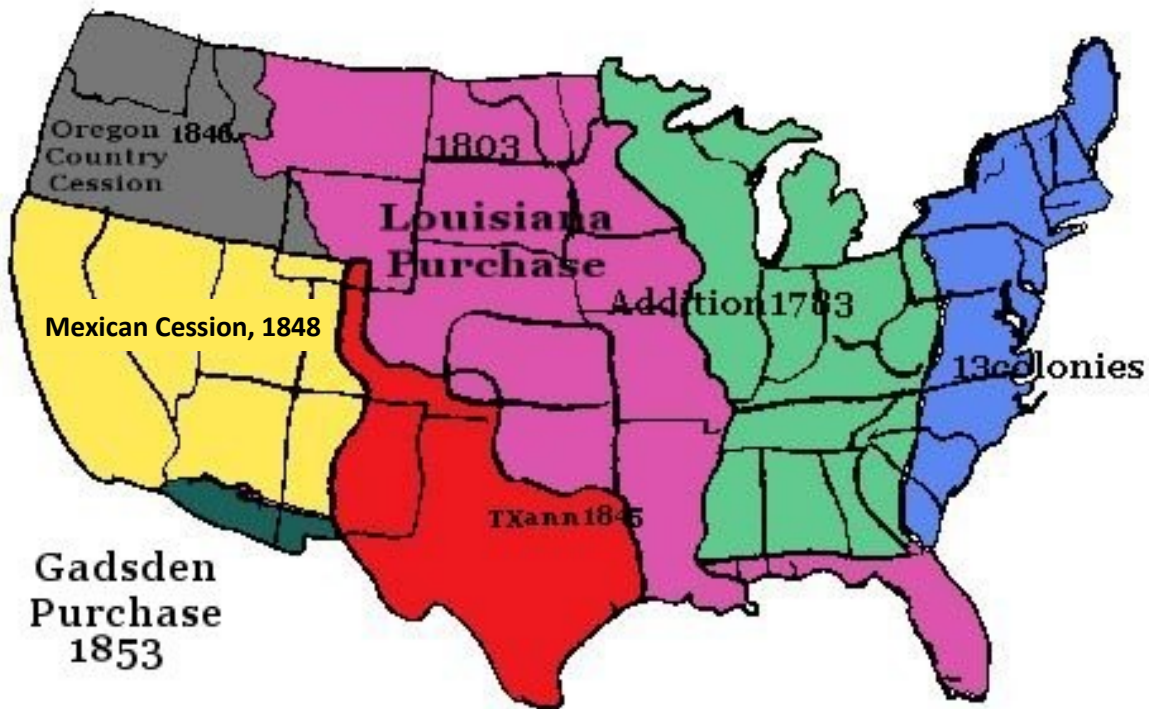
1844: In the election of 1844, James K. Polk ran with the promise to acquire the northwest territory from Britain.

1846: President Polk negotiated with Britain to divide the Oregon Country into two parts. The United States was given the southern half, and Britain took control of the northern half. The boundary line was the 49th latitude line.



# AMERICA MOVES WEST STATION 7

Directions: Read the passage, complete the graphic organizer and summarize the information on the America Moves West Map Activity.



## **MEXICAN CESSION (1848)**

1846: A boundary dispute arose between the United States and Mexico. Initially, the U.S. offered to buy New Mexico and California from Mexico for \$30 million, but Mexico refused. An altercation was provoked at the border near the Rio Grande causing shots to be fired. Two days later, congress declared war on Mexico. The war is called the Mexican-American War.

1846-1848: General Zachary Taylor defeated Santa Anna at the Battle of Buena Vista. In addition, Colonel Stephen Kearney marched to California and helped American settlers overthrow the Mexicans in the Bear Flag Revolt. General Winfield Scott captured Veracruz and Mexico City, and Mexico surrendered.

1848: America acquired the Mexican Cession, a large land that comprises the southwestern region of the United States today. The states of Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada and California were all carved out of the Mexican Cession. To ensure the territory was won fairly, the United States also paid Mexico \$15 million for the territory.



1848

# AMERICA MOVES WEST STATION 8

Directions: Read the passage, complete the graphic organizer and summarize the information on the America Moves West Map Activity.



## ***GADSDEN PURCHASE (1853)***

1853: In order to build a railroad from New Orleans westward to California, the U.S. needed a direct southern route. Congress negotiated with Mexico, spending \$10 million for a small strip of land at the southern end of the Rocky Mountains. This land provided a level route to the West Coast. The Gadsden Purchase, as it was called, is now part of southern Arizona and New Mexico. The purchase of this territory completed the acquisition of land that today makes up the continental United States.



1853