

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mexican American War Activity

**Part 1 – War & Expansion Crash Course Video**

Directions: Please watch the video and answer the following questions. The video can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tkdF8pOFUfl> .

1. What phrase refers to America's God given right to take over the land from the Atlantic to Pacific Oceans regardless of who lived there?
2. Why did this expansion happen?
3. How many people had moved West before the Mexican American War started?
4. How did so many Americans end up in Texas?
5. Why did Texas end up as an independent republic?
6. Why was the US hesitant to annex Texas as a state?
7. Why was the division of Oregon and its subsequent statehood important?
8. What did President Polk decide to do when Mexico declined to sell California?
9. Where was most of the Mexican American War fought?
10. What was Mexico forced to give up in the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo?
11. How much money was Mexico given in return?
12. What problem resulted from the Mexican and American Indian population left in Texas?
13. Why did so many settlers move to California?

14. How did the California Constitution of 1850 limit civic participation?
15. How did Henry Clay solve the problem of California becoming a state (just give its name, you'll have to know more about this and all its parts in the next unit)?

**Part 2 – “America’s Forgotten War, South of the Border”, CBS Sunday Morning Video**

Directions: Please watch the video and answer the following questions. The video can be found here: <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/americas-forgotten-war-south-of-the-border/> .

16. According to Penn State historian Amy Greenberg, what was different about the reason the Mexican American War was fought vs. other wars in American history?
17. What was President James K. Polk’s purpose for fighting the war?
18. What group was trained during this war?
19. How did many members of that group remember the war?
20. What happened at the battle at Chapultepec Castle?
21. This war was the first in American history where what kind of movement was created back in the United States?
22. What famous American future President was opposed to this war?
23. How do Mexicans view this war? Why?
24. According to Greenberg, why does this war matter today?

**Part 3 – The Wilmot Proviso**

Directions: Using the information and exhibits below, please answer the questions.

25. Consider the map you created for the Territorial Acquisitions assignment. How much territory did the United States gain as a result of the Mexican American War?

26. During this period, the balance of free and slave states in the Union was a considerable source of argument. The Missouri Compromise helped maintain this balance in 1820, but it only covered land that was a part of the Louisiana Purchase. What would have been a major concern of existing states and members of Congress upon the acquisition of this territory?

27. David Wilmot, a Representative from Pennsylvania, introduced the proposition below in 1846.

“ Provided, That, as an express and fundamental condition to the acquisition of any territory from the Republic of Mexico by the United States, by virtue of any treaty which may be negotiated between them, and to the use by the Executive of the moneys herein appropriated, neither slavery nor involuntary servitude shall ever exist in any part of said territory, except for crime, whereof the party shall first be duly convicted.  
”  
- The Wilmot Proviso, 1846

What does the Wilmot Proviso say? Why would Southern states have been opposed to it?

28. The Wilmot Proviso was passed by the House of Representatives several times but never by the Southern-dominated Senate. Therefore, it never became law. What conclusions can you make from this incident? How will Manifest Destiny contribute to the coming of the Civil War?

**Part 3 – Summarization**

Directions: Answer the questions below.

29. Using what you've learned in class and from your homework this week, summarize the Mexican American War. Why was it important to the United States? Why was it important to Mexico? How did the United States benefit from victory in this war? What goals did the United States achieve through victory in this war?

30. How does your perspective influence your view of history? Specifically, how does your perspective influence your view of the Mexican American War? How might someone from Mexico view it differently?