• Americans believed in the rightful expansion of the United States from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean as they increasingly moved west. This concept is known as “Manifest Destiny.”
The Frontier Draws Settlers

- Manifest Destiny
- Overland Trails to the West
Manifest Destiny

- Idea that the United States should expand from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean in order to create a vast republic that would spread democracy and civilization across the North American continent.
  - Americans believed this expansion was destined and approved of by God
  - Americans moved west to look for economic opportunity – plenty of land in the west for farming
Overland Trails to the West

- Santa Fe Trail – Missouri to New Mexico
- Oregon Trail – Missouri to Oregon in the Willamette Valley
- Mormon Trail – Illinois to Utah at the Great Salt Lake
Main Idea

• Mexico offered land grants to Americans settlers, but cultural conflicts eventually led to Texas rebelling against the Mexican government to gain its independence.
Americans Settle in Texas

• In the 1820s, Mexico encouraged Americans settlers to move into Texas
  – Mexican government gave land grants to “empresarios” = land agents in charge of attracting American settlers
  – Stephen Austin – empresario who attracted the first group of 300 families of American settlers to Texas
Texas Fights for Independence

- Cultural conflicts between Mexico and Texans emerged
- Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna
- The Battle of the Alamo
- Battle of San Jacinto
- Texas Joins the Union
Cultural Conflicts between Texas and Mexico

- Southerners had brought slaves to Texas, which was illegal in Mexico
- Most settlers spoke English rather than Spanish
- Most settlers were Protestant rather than Catholic
Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna

• absolute ruler of Mexico
  – Attempted to centralize control over Texas
  – Texas Revolution – def. – rebellion in Texas against the Mexican government to gain independence as a republic
The Alamo

- (1836) – Spanish mission in San Antonio used as a fort
  - Attacked by Santa Anna’s Mexican army
  - All 187 Texan defenders of the Alamo were killed by the Mexican army
    - William Travis – commander of Texas forces at the Alamo
    - Jim Bowie - famous gambler known for side knives
    - Davy Crockett – famous woodsman from Tennessee
- SIG – “Remember the Alamo!” = war cry for Texans fighting for independence
- The Alamo
Battle of San Jacinto (1836)

- Santa Anna’s army vs. Texan army led by Sam Houston
- Texans won the battle and captured Santa Anna
- SIG – Santa Anna forced to sign the Treaty of Velasco, which gave Texas its independence
- SIG – established the Republic of Texas (Lone Star Republic) – new, independent country with Sam Houston as president
Texas Joins the Union

- Eventually, in 1845 Texas was annexed (incorporated) into the United States as a new state when James K. Polk was president.
Chapter 9 - Section 4

THE WAR WITH MEXICO
The War with Mexico

- Main Idea – Tensions between the U.S. and Mexico over the U.S. annexation of Texas, combined with the American belief in “Manifest Destiny” led to the Mexican-American War. This conflict resulted in huge territorial gains for the United States under the leadership of President James K. Polk.
Polk Urges War with Mexico

- James K. Polk
- Nationalism in the face of war
- Sectionalism in the face of war
James Polk

- expansionist president, believer in “Manifest Destiny”
  - Encouraged Texas annexation in 1845
  - Settled dispute with Great Britain over the Oregon Territory
  - Wanted to purchase or take California from Mexico
Nationalism in the face of war

- Many Americans supported war due to belief in Manifest Destiny
- Encouraged economic opportunities and land for farming
Sectionalism in the face of war

- **Sectionalism** is a concern for local or regional as opposed to those of the whole nation
- Many Northerners feared that slavery would spread to any new territories added to the U.S. as a result of war with Mexico
The Mexican-American War (1846-1848)

- U.S. declared war when General Zachary Taylor’s army was attacked
- Stephen Kearny invaded and captured New Mexico without bloodshed
- John C. Fremont invaded and captured California
  - Established the Republic of California (The Bear Republic)
- Winfield Scott invaded Mexico and captured Mexico City
America Gains the Spoils of War

- The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo – officially ended the Mexican-American War
  - Mexico agreed to the Rio Grande as the southern border of Texas
  - Mexican Cession – California, New Mexico, and Utah Territories ceded from Mexico to the U.S.
  - U.S. paid Mexico $15 million for the Mexican Cession
- Effects
The California Gold Rush

- Gold found in California in 1848, led to the Gold Rush of 1849
- Forty-niners – people who moved to California in 1849 to search for gold
  - Population of San Francisco exploded as a result
- SIG – California applied for statehood in 1850 = major sectional crisis
- **Gold Rush**
6 Flags over Texas Activity! 50 pts

Answer in writing on a sheet of Paper:
• Have you ever heard of the amusement part “Six Flags Over Texas”? Did you know that the “Six Flags” name comes from the fact that six nations have ruled over the territory occupied by the state of Texas today? How many of these flags/countries can you name?

• In your assigned group create a poster sized version of your flag with a summary of how it came to fly over Texas. 25 minutes

• Then individually complete the timeline about the history of Texas using the information on the posters that are now hanging around the room.

• Please make sure your poster meets all requirements on the rubric!