1836

Texas Independence

1845

December 29th

Texas Annexation

1846

April 25th

1st shots fired by Mexico

U.S. - Mexican War Research

1846-1848
Mexico disputed the southern boundary of Texas

- Mexico claimed the Nueces River as the border between Texas & Mexico.
- The U.S. agreed with Texans view that the Rio Grande was the border (citing the Treaty of Velasco)
In 1845 U.S. President James K. Polk sent John Slidell to negotiate the purchase of this disputed area & Mexico’s Western territory (Present-day California, Arizona, & New Mexico) Slidell is prepared to offer Mexico $30 Million.
Negotiating the Disputed Territory

Mexico’s President Jose Joaquin de Herrera & other officials refused to meet with Slidell. They feared that meeting with the U.S. & agreeing to terms would make his presidency look weak & cost him the support of the Mexican people.

Polk views this refusal to meet as an insult to the U.S.
Negotiating the Disputed Territory

Polk is furious at the Mexican government & orders the U.S. Army into the disputed area in Texas.
Negotiating the Disputed Territory

• Polk has General Zachary Taylor set up the U.S. troops right along the Rio Grande

• The Mexican Troops were set up on the other side

General Zachary Taylor

Taylor was a career officer in the United States Army, rising to the rank of major general. Taylor’s status as a national hero as a result of his victories in the U.S.- War won him election to the White House & served as the 12th President after the war from March 4, 1849 – July 9, 1850.
Negotiating the Disputed Territory

- Mexican government viewed General Taylor’s crossing the Nueces as an invasion force on Mexican territory
- U.S. views Texas’ southern border as the Rio Grande
- Taylor refused to move & April 25, 1846 Mexican troops attacked General Taylor’s soldiers
- 16 U.S. soldier casualties
May 11th Polk’s declaration of war message to Congress stated that Mexico had invaded U.S. territory & shed American blood on U.S. soil.

Congress approves war against Mexico on May 13th 1846.
Negotiating the Disputed Territory

- Over 5,000 Texans join the U.S. Army
- Texas Governor J. Pinckney Henderson took a leave of absence to command Texas troops

**Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna**
Born 1794. During his long military/political career, he served as general at crucial points and served eleven non-consecutive presidential terms over a period of 22 years. Served as a General during the U.S.-Mexican War

**J.J. Pinckney Henderson**
1st Governor of Texas
He took office on February 19, 1846. When the U.S.-Mexican War broke out in April of that year, Henderson took a leave of absence as governor to command a troop of Texas Rangers. He served with the rank of major general under Zachary Taylor. He returned home to resume his duties as governor, but did not run for a second term. He later served in the United States Senate from November 9, 1857 until his death on June 4, 1858.
The War’s Biggest Critic

- The invasion of Mexico was one of the first U.S. conflicts to spawn a widespread anti-war movement. Political opponents labeled “Mr. Polk’s War” a shameless land grab, while abolitionists viewed it was a scheme to add more slave states to the Union. Among the more notable critics was Illinois congressman Abraham Lincoln, who took to the House floor in 1847 and introduced a series of resolutions demanding to know the location of the “spot of soil” where the war’s first skirmish took place. Lincoln maintained that the battle had been provoked on Mexican land, and he branded Polk a cowardly seeker of “military glory.” The so-called “Spot Resolutions” helped put Lincoln on the map as a politician, but they also damaged his reputation with his pro-war constituents. One Illinois newspaper even branded him “the Benedict Arnold of our district.”
• Fill out the **Key Battles** according to the date
May 8 - 9th General Taylor wins victories at Palo Alto & Resaca de la Palma

Key Battle in the U.S.-Mexican War
Key Battle in the U.S.-Mexican War

- September 1846, Taylor wins the Battle of Monterrey. Agrees to an armistice but U.S. President Polk wants him to continue invading Mexico.
February 1847, Taylor defeats General Santa Anna’s forces at Buena Vista. Santa Anna retreats toward Mexico City.
Mexico’s General that Lost the Battle of Monterrey

- Pedro de Ampudia, Mexican general during the U.S.-Mexican War. Earlier in his military career he was an artillery officer & participated in the capture of the Alamo and, after the Mexican defeat at San Jacinto, retreated with José de Urrea's army. Ampudia was commander of the units of the Mexican army stationed at Matamoros at the time of the Mier expedition, defeated the Texans at Mier in December 1842, and in January 1843 marched them as prisoners to Matamoros. He was appointed general in chief of the Mexican Army of the North just before the outbreak of the Mexican War and arrived at Matamoros on April 11, 1846, where he demanded that Gen. Zachary Taylor retreat to the Nueces River. After being succeeded in command by Mariano Arista, who arrived at Matamoros on April 24, 1846, Ampudia fought in the battles of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma, regained command of the army, and was the commanding officer at the siege and fall of Monterrey. He surrendered the city of Monterrey to General Taylor on September 23, 1846.
Texas Rangers in the Mexican War

• Many Texans served in key roles for General Zachary Taylor’s Army.
  – “Them Texas troops are the damndest troops in the world. We can’t do without them in a fight, & we can’t do anything with them out of a fight.”

• Texas Rangers led by Jack Hays & Ben McCulloch served as effective fighters & scouts

• Jack Hays & his Rangers were referred to as ‘los Tejanos diablos’ (The Devil Texans) by the Mexicans
(April 1847) U.S. invades Mexico from the Gulf Coast & bombards Veracruz, Mexico
Mexico is defeated

- General Santa Anna marched with thousands of soldiers to meet the U.S. invaders.
- April 17-18, 1847 - Battle of Cerro Gordo
- U.S. won decisive victory & Mexican Army retreats back to Mexico City
Battle of Chapultepec Castle

- Chapultepec Castle – Mexico’s National Military Academy
- September 12-13 1847
- Last battle of the U.S.-Mexican War
- U.S. Army overruns the fort; Santa Anna & rest of Mexican Army abandon Mexico City
Battle of Chapultepec Castle
The Battle of Chapultepec

- A famous legend in Mexico.
- When they arrived in Mexico City in September 1847, U.S. forces found the western route into the capital blocked by Chapultepec Castle, an imposing fortress that was home to Mexico’s military academy. General Scott ordered an artillery bombardment, and on September 13 his troops stormed the citadel and used ladders to scale its stone façade. Most of the Mexican defenders soon withdrew, but a group of six teenaged military cadets remained at their posts and fought to the last. According to battlefield lore, one cadet prevented the capture of the Mexican flag by wrapping it around his body and leaping to his death off the castle walls. While Chapultepec was lost, Mexicans hailed the six young students as the “Niños Heroes,” or “Hero children.” They were later honored with a large monument in Mexico City.
U.S. troops enter Mexico City
• September 14, 1847 fighting ends when the U.S. raise their flag over the National Palace in Mexico City
• It had one of the highest casualty rates of any American war.
• The U.S. never lost a major battle during the Mexican-American War, but the victory still proved costly. Of the 79,000 American troops who took part, 13,283 died for a mortality rate of nearly 17 percent—higher than World War I and World War II. The vast majority were victims of diseases such as dysentery, yellow fever, malaria and smallpox. According to scholar V.J. Cirillo, a higher percentage of U.S. troops died from sickness during the Mexican invasion than any war in American history. Mexican casualties were also high, with most historians estimating as many as 25,000 dead troops and civilians.
Yellow fever is a serious, potentially deadly flu-like disease spread by mosquitoes. It’s characterized by a high fever and jaundice. Jaundice is yellowing of the skin and eyes, which is why this disease is called yellow fever. This disease is most prevalent in certain parts of Africa and South America. It isn’t curable, but you can prevent it with the yellow fever vaccine.

Dysentery is caused by intestinal bacteria. Dysentery may occur through infected objects or food. The most commonly infected are those who do not observe the rules of personal hygiene. Sometimes individuals that eat unwashed or contaminated food will get sick with dysentery.

Symptoms of Dysentery
- abdominal pain
- fever and chills
- nausea and vomiting
- watery diarrhea, which can contain blood, mucus or pus
- painful passing of stools
- fatigue
- intermittent constipation
Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo

- February 2, 1848
- Representatives from the U.S. & Mexico sign a peace treaty at the Mexican town of Guadalupe Hidalgo
Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo

- Officially ends the U.S.-Mexican War
- Mexico would give up all claims to Texas
- Mexico agrees that Rio Grande is the border between the U.S. & Mexico
- U.S. agrees to pay $3.25 million in damage claims by U.S. citizens against Mexican Government during the war.
- Mexico had to give 529,000 square miles of its northern territory for $15 million known as the Mexican Cession
- Mexicans living in the ceded territory were guaranteed all rights of U.S. citizenship.
Modern day: Texas – Mexico Border

- What established this modern day border?
What modern day U.S. states are now what was previously, Mexican owned lands?

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When Texas was officially recognized as a state in 1845, it included the light-gray area, which was also claimed by México. The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo resolved this dispute, with Texas claiming the disputed land. In 1850, Texas transferred part of this land to the federal government, which became the eastern portion of the territory of New Mexico.
Compromise of 1850

Problem:
Southerners wanted new lands gained from the U.S.-Mexican War open to slavery. Many Northern politicians opposed the idea.

Texas also claimed half of what is now New Mexico, including Santa Fe. The people living there did not want to be part of Texas. Northerners feared that the Texans would introduce slavery into the area.
Solution:
Congress called it the Compromise of 1850. In this agreement, California would enter as a free state & all the other territory gained by the U.S.-Mexican War could decide the issue of slavery for themselves (by voting). As part of this plan Texas would give up its claim to New Mexico for $10 million. The money would be used to pay of Texas public debt.
Texas before the Compromise of 1850

Texas after the Compromise of 1850
Explain the impact of the annexation of Texas causing a war between the U.S. & Mexico.