CHAPTER FOURTEEN
THE TERRITORIAL EXPANSION
OF THE UNITED STATES, 1830s–1850s

CHAPTER OVERVIEW
This chapter covers the territorial growth of the United States. Supported by the ideology of manifest destiny, Americans added Oregon, Texas, California and the Southwest. By both diplomacy and the war, the U.S. became a continental nation. Settlers followed the old pattern of initial friendliness and then hostility to the earlier peoples. Adding new territory also caused intensification of sectional hostility over extending slavery into new territory.

CHAPTER OBJECTIVES
After reading the chapter and applying the study methods recommended, students should be able to:

1. Use the Texan and Tejano community groups to illustrate the recurring pattern in American occupation of the frontier.
2. Trace the patterns and causes of exploration and include its effects on the Indians.
3. Explain manifest destiny and its effects on Oregon and Texas settlement.
4. Outline the causes and results of the Mexican War including its connection to manifest destiny.
5. Discuss American involvement in California and the effects of the Gold Rush.
6. Connect the issues of expansion and manifest destiny to politics including the progress and outcome of the election of 1848.
7. Making Connections: (Chapters Nine and Fourteen) Trace the territorial expansion of the U.S. from the Louisiana Purchase territory to the Pacific coast.

CRITICAL THINKING/READING SKILLS

AMERICAN COMMUNITIES: Texans and Tejanos: “Remember the Alamo”: Who were the Tejanos, and what community did American settlers form with them? What was the eventual outcome? What was the pattern of stages of American occupation of new territory? How did Sequin’s experience illustrate that pattern?

EXPLORING THE WEST: What territory and states did America hold by 1840? What western areas did Americans look toward?

The Fur Trade: What was the importance of the fur trade to exploration?

Government-Sponsored Exploration: What was the role of the federal government in the exploration and development of the West?

Expansion and Indian Policy: What effect did expansion have on Indian policy? Where was the “Indian Territory” and what quickly happened to it? How did the fate of the
northern half of the Indian Territory compare to the southern half? What Indian problem still remained?

THE POLITICS OF EXPANSION: What was the politics of expansion? What is the Turner thesis?

**Manifest Destiny, an Expansionist Ideology:** What was the justification of manifest destiny for Americans? What was John O’Sullivan’s meaning for this famous phrase? What things promoted expansionist sentiment? How was it connected to economics, religion, and politics?

**The Overland Trails:** What were the Overland trails and what type of a trip was it for pioneers? What were the major dangers?

**Oregon:** What events encouraged Oregon fever? What was the early presence of Americans in the region? How did the career of Narcissa Whitman demonstrate the best and worst of missionary efforts? What happened to U.S. claims and what was the eventual result? What types of governmental and personal bonds of community did the Oregon settlers develop?

**The Santa Fe Trade:** Why was the United States able to become involved in the Santa Fe trade? What effect did this have for American traders? When did Mexico gain independence and what problems developed? How did these problems encourage American expansionists?

**Mexican Texas:** Why did the Spanish set up a frontier post in Texas?

**Americans in Texas:** Why did Mexico invite Americans? Who was Stephen Austin and what did he contribute to Texas immigration? How did expansion connect to cotton and large land grants? How was Texas settlement different from the other settlement patterns of the U.S.? What policy shift of the Mexican government happened in 1830? How well did the cultures blend? What happened in 1830 to break the balance between the populations? How did the Revolt in Texas develop? What were the major events of the revolt? What was the outcome? Identify: Santa Anna, Alamo, Sam Houston.

**The Republic of Texas:** What problems did Texas have despite its military victory? What was the issue in the U.S. and U.S. response? What happened to the balance between the Anglo-Tejano communities? What happened with Indian residents?

**Texas Annexation and the Election of 1844:** What connection was there between the annexation of Texas and the 1844 election? How did Tyler and Calhoun complicate the issue? Who were the presidential candidates in 1844 and what were their positions on new territory? What was the significance of the Liberty Party? How did Texas enter the Union?

THE MEXICAN-AMERICAN WAR: What areas did Polk add as the “manifest destiny” president? How did his goals cause a war with Mexico?

**Origins of the War:** How did the war begin? What larger goals did Polk have and how did he ensure reaching them?

**Mr. Polk’s War:** What groups called the war Mr. Polk’s and why did they question the president? How did the term also connect to Polk’s role as commander in chief? What territories did the U.S. gain? Why did Polk decide to invade Veracruz? What were the terms of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo and what was Polk’s view of the treaty? Who and where were the opposition groups to the war?

**The Press and Popular War Enthusiasm:** Why was this America’s first popular war? What was the role of the press?
THE CALIFORNIA GOLD RUSH: What peoples inhabited California in the early 1840s and how did the gold rush change this? Who were the Californios?

**Russian-Californio Trade:** What was the basis of trade between Russia and California residents? How did this relationship change in 1822 and in 1841?

**Early American Settlement:** How did the first American settlement take place?

Gold: What effect did the gold discovery at Sutter’s Mill have on California? Who were the “forty-niners” and what groups made up the numbers? Where was the real money to be made as evidenced by Levi Strauss and Jerusha Marshall?

**Mining Camps:** What were most mining camps like? What different groups were there and what type of community developed? What were the effects on California? What were the major characteristics of mining frontiers evident in California and other “rushes” that followed?

THE POLITICS OF MANIFEST DESTINY: What were the political issues involved in expansion? What were the results in the election of 1848?

**The “Young America” Movement:** What was the Young America movement and what were their goals? How did the Mexican War continue to be divisive? What was Calhoun’s view on continued expansion into Mexico? What worldwide effects did the American successes have?

**The Wilmot Proviso:** Who was Wilmot and what was the issue expressed in his proviso? What happened to the proviso itself? How was the debate over the proviso ominous and what effect did it have on the political parties?

**The Free-Soil Movement:** Why had Wilmot brought up the proviso and what actually resulted? What were the programs of the Liberty Party and the Free-Soil Party? What views did most Free-Soilers have of blacks and of the South? How did their platform repudiate the Missouri Compromise?

**The Election of 1848:** What emotions were riding high in the election of 1848? How did these affect the campaign? What was the popular sovereignty doctrine proposed by candidate Lewis Cass? What were the parties and presidential candidates and their platforms? What happened in the election?

CONCLUSION: If the election of 1848 is seen as a referendum on manifest destiny, what was the result? What rivalry and fear was again present?

**KEY TERMS/VOCABULARY**
Identify the following terms:

1. Coahuila y Texas
2. Davy Crockett
3. vaqueros
4. peones
5. Juan Seguin
6. William Travis
7. Lorenzo de Zavala
8. fur trade
9. Hudson Bay Company
10. metis
11. William Henry Ashley
12. Rocky Mountain Fur Company
13. rendezvous
14. mountain men
15. Jim Beckwourth
16. Jedediah Smith
17. Lewis & Clark
18. Zebulon Pike
19. John C. Fremont
20. Stephen Long
21. Major John Wesley Powell
22. Karl Bodmer
STUDY SKILLS ACTIVITIES

1. Making Connections: Use a graphic organizer (see p. 200) to guide students through the chain of events that lead to Westward Expansion in United States history. The chain might begin with colonial American and continue through the California Gold Rush.

2. Primary Sources: Select the primary source documents that students will be required to read from the Documents Set. These might include: Texas Independence, Thoreau and Civil Disobedience, The Bear Flag Insurrection, and a View of Polk’s War. After completing the reading assignment have students list the pros and cons of the Mexican-American War. Then assist students in making the connection to the Vietnam War. Would the list of pros and cons for Vietnam be similar? Although student information about the Vietnam War may be sketchy try to assist them in using analytical skills and research to aid in the comparison.

3. Cooperative Learning: After reading Chapter Fourteen and class discussion of westward expansion and reading the Documents Set about the Donner party, have students create a signature or graffiti boulder. As people headed westward, many passed along the same trails. The trails often traveled past large outcroppings of rock or boulders. Members of the wagon train carved their names, the date, and a message on the boulder. Divide the
Westward Expansion in United States History

Chain of Events

1. [Blank]
2. [Blank]
3. [Blank]
4. [Blank]
5. [Blank]
6. [Blank]
7. [Blank]
8. [Blank]
9. [Blank]
10. [Blank]
class into groups and have them create messages for future adventurers on a section of the chalkboard. Allow students to illustrate feelings and attitudes about the trip west.

4. Free Response Prompts: Chapter Fourteen gives many writing opportunities. Continue to emphasize concise, factual writing. Prompts include:
   a. From the time of the American Revolution to the Civil War, American writers and artists sought to express a unique American spirit and culture. Assess the statement for the period of 1775–1860.
   b. Analyze the importance of three of the following factors prompting the United States to war in 1848:
      - Boundary issues
      - Expansion of slavery
      - The election of 1844
      - The media

5. Writing Skills: Use the prompt at the end of Chapter Fourteen.

NOTE TO TEACHERS: The question contains an element of danger for students who will be tempted to fall into the trap of merely describing the Wilmot Proviso, or the Free-Soil party. Make certain students realize the need to analyze rather than describe. The author provides an excellent example when he discusses the differences between Americans who immigrated to Texas before and after 1830. Have students examine the section and discuss any bearing it might have upon the eventual divisiveness that engulfed the nation. Make certain that students understand that the patriotic fever of the Mexican War glossed over strong differences of opinion as to the ethical nature of American involvement in that conflict. Continue your stress on a strong thesis statement and good use of the facts.

6. Enrichment Activity: Westward expansion offers an opportunity for movie critiques and reviews. A good teaching tool is the website http://www.teachwithmovies.org. It gives a complete list of movies that can be used in the classroom, a description, the benefits of the movie, and possible problems with the movie. Hollywood’s depiction of the West can lead to a good class discussion. Use such classic movies as *Barbary Coast* for the California gold rush or *Jeremiah Johnson* for the life of a mountain man.

**MAP SKILLS/Critical Viewing Activities**

1. *Exploration of the Continent, 1804–1830*
   a. What modern-day states did the following explorers travel? Lewis and Clark, Pike, Long and Smith?
   b. How did Long view the Plains?
   c. What was the significance of Jedediah Smith as an explorer?
   d. How much area did he travel compared to the others?

2. *Indian Territory before the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854*
   a. Which Native Americans were on Indian Territory and why?
   b. What modern states made up Indian Territory?
   c. What problems did Native Americans confront?

3. *The Overland Trails, 1840*
   a. Where did the major trails begin?
   b. Which trail branched into Idaho?
   c. What did the Santa, Gila River and Old Spanish Trails connect?
   d. What kinds of locations and landmarks were on each trail?
4. **Texas: From Mexican Province to U.S. State**
   a. How did Texas change from 1836 to 1845 to 1850?
   b. What happened in 1850 to give Texas its present shape?

5. **The Mexican-American War, 1846–1848**
   a. Where did the Mexican War begin?
   b. What did Americans actually claim by stressing the Rio Grande as the boundary?
   c. Locate the Battles of Palo Alto, Buena Vista, Veracruz and Mexico City?
   d. Which areas did Taylor, Scott, Kearney and Fremont secure?

6. **Territory Added: 1845–1853**
   a. From 1845 to 1848, what happened to the size of the United States?
   b. What did the Gadsden Purchase add?

7. **California in the Gold Rush**
   a. Where and when was gold discovered?
   b. Where was the Mother Lode concentrated?
   c. In what part of California were the gold camps concentrated?
   d. Where were the gold fields in relation to Spanish-Mexican settlement?

8. **Overland Emigration to Oregon, California, and Utah, 1840–1860**
   a. What was the peak year of emigration to California according to the graph?
   b. What year was the peak year of emigration to Oregon? Utah?
   c. From 1849 to 1860 what was the number of emigrants?

9. **Where the Forty-Niners Came From**
   a. What percentage of forty-niners were European and Asian?
   b. What percentage were Mexican and Latin American?
   c. What inference can you make from the graph?

10. **Western Art - Chapter Fourteen**
    a. Which artists' works are found in Chapter Fourteen?
    b. Why did the West play such a prominent role in American art?
    c. List four artists of the West.

**READING QUIZ**

**MULTIPLE CHOICE:**

1. Which one of these has the least in common with the others?
   a. Tejano
   b. rico
   c. California
   d. empresario

2. By 1840 all of the land east of the Mississippi had been organized into statehood except
   a. Wisconsin and Minnesota.
   b. Florida and Wisconsin.
   c. Maine and Florida.
   d. Vermont and Maine.

3. The greatest spur to exploration of the North American continent from the 1670s to the
   1840s was searching for
   a. furs.
   b. water routes.
   c. gold.
   d. cattle land.
4. Which one of the following explorers is NOT correctly paired with the area explored for the U.S.?
   a. Pike/Colorado  c. Fremont/Texas
   b. Powell/Grand Canyon  d. Long/Great Plains

5. In the early years, the U.S. government named the supposedly undesirable area of the Great American Desert as Indian Territory. This was the
   a. eastern edge of the Great Plains.
   b. western part of Texas and the Southwest.
   c. Utah and Idaho territories.
   d. northern Great Plains and Old Northwest.

6. Which one of the following was NOT a reason that the Indians lost the northern half of Indian Territory from the 1820s to the 1850s?
   a. faster than expected white westward expansion
   b. pressure of transcontinental railroad interests
   c. increased lobbying of fur trading interests
   d. increased travel on Santa Fe and Overland Trails

7. Which one of the following has the LEAST in common with the others?
   a. Moses Austin  c. manifest destiny
   b. O’Sullivan  d. Thomas Hart Benton

8. James K. Polk’s belligerent slogan, “Fifty-four Forty or Fight,” was a reference to U.S. claims to
   a. a Texas border at the Rio Grande, not Nueces.
   b. California south to Baja.
   c. Oregon to the Russian Alaska boundary.
   d. New Mexico/Arizona border deeper into Mexico.

9. The Mexican government invited settlers like Stephen Austin’s colonists because they wanted a buffer between themselves and the

10. Which one of the following was NOT part of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo?
    a. California and New Mexico ceded to the U.S.
    b. U.S. paid Mexico $15 million
    c. Tejanos granted political rights
    d. Rio Grande established as Texas border

11. When James K. Polk wanted to intervene in Mexico’s civil war in the Yucatan, even this ardent expansionist urged caution:
    a. Thomas Hart Benton  c. John O’Sullivan
    b. John C. Calhoun  d. Lewis Cass

12. Although defeated, the essence of the 1846 Wilmot Proviso was that in any territory acquired from Mexico, there must be
    a. an even number of slave and free states created.
    b. adequate compensation to Mexico’s citizens.
    c. popular sovereignty applied to slavery.
    d. no extension of slavery.
13. At the minimum, free soil meant
   a. status quo in the South but no slavery in new lands.
   b. new states would choose by popular sovereignty.
   c. extending the Missouri Compromise line to California.
   d. no slavery west of the Missouri River.

CHRONOLOGY AND MAP QUESTIONS:

14. The first Spanish settlements in New Mexico, Texas and California had taken place by
   a. 1608. c. 1769.
   b. 1670s. d. 1803.

15. Which one of the following did NOT occur in 1821?
   a. Mexico seizes independence from Spain.
   b. Santa Fe Trail opens.
   c. Stephen Austin is first American empresario in Texas.
   d. Texas revolts against Mexico.

16. John C. Fremont maps trails to Oregon and California in

17. Much of Pike’s explorations were in
   a. Texas, the Rio Grande headwaters and the Colorado River.
   b. California and Oregon.
   c. the Great Plains and along the Missouri River.
   d. New Mexico and Arizona.

18. If you took the Santa Fe Trail and the Gila River trail west, you would eventually arrive in

19. From 1849 to 1860, the most common destination on the Overland trails was
   a. Utah. c. Indian Territory.

20. From 1845 to 1848, the size of territory added to the U.S. grew by this percent:
   a. 25 c. 90
   b. 70 d. 125

SHORT ESSAY:

21. Who benefited and who was harmed by the U.S. westward expansion?

22. Why were many Texas settlers anti-Mexican?

23. Why was the Mexican-American War politically divisive?

EXTENDED ESSAY:

24. What role did the press play in the Mexican-American War?

25. How did the Wilmot Proviso add to sectional controversy and strife?

26. Which arguments in the popular sovereignty discussion were most persuasive with respect to free/slave states? Defend your answer carefully.