

REVIEW
CHAPTER
3

GUIDED READING *Manifest Destiny*

Section 3

A. As you read about expansion to areas of the West, fill out the charts.

Despite the hardships of the journey and the difficult living conditions at journey's end, numbers of Americans migrated west during the mid-19th century.

	Texas	Oregon	Utah
1. Who went?			
2. Why did they go?			
3. How did they get there?			
4. What did they find when they got there?			

Discuss the causes and effects of the treaty to end the war with Mexico.

5. Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo
<p>Causes:</p> <p>Results:</p>

B. On the back of this paper, briefly explain the relationship among the following:

Stephen F. Austin the Alamo Sam Houston

C. On the back of this paper, define the following:

manifest destiny Oregon Trail Republic of California



Section 3

SKILLBUILDER PRACTICE *Analyzing Assumptions and Biases*

During the mid-1800s, a number of Americans supported expansion of the United States to all points of the continent. Read the following passage, then follow the directions below. (See Skillbuilder Handbook, p. R15.)

After Texas became a U.S. territory, expansionists continued to look for new areas to bring under the wing of the United States. One such area, the Yucatán peninsula of Mexico, was especially appealing because of its geographical location enclosing the southern part of the Gulf of Mexico. In fact, the white population of Yucatán begged the United States for help in their defense against the native peoples there. American newspaper editors with expansionist views wrote enthusiastically about the possibility of adding another star—representing Yucatán—to the nation’s flag. An editorial in the New York *Herald* on May 12, 1848, expressed even more extreme views:

Mexico now lies at the feet of the United States, fit for nothing but to be moulded and shaped in such form as we choose to give it. In such a new position of things, it may be well to ascertain whether it would not be more advis-

able to make arrangements for the absorption of all Mexico, including Yucatán . . . in some shape or form calculated to preserve the integrity of our institutions, as well as to give Mexico a chance to redeem her character and pretensions to [being] a civilized people. She is full of everything that is valuable; but the present race which possesses control seems to be utterly incapable of developing her resources. Annexed to the United States as a territory and possessing such a stable government as we could give her previous to her ultimate admission, the influence from this country would be great . . . in giving an entirely new character to her resources and population.

Fill out the chart below to help you analyze the assumptions underlying the newspaper editorial.

Assumption about the United States:

This assumption is **directly stated** or **implied**. (circle one) It is based on **evidence** or **bias**. (circle one)

Assumption about Mexico:

This assumption is **directly stated** or **implied**. (circle one) It is based on **evidence** or **bias**. (circle one)



Section 3

RETEACHING ACTIVITY *Manifest Destiny*

A. Chronological Order Number the events of the nation’s expansion in the order in which they occurred.

- _____ 1. Mormons settle at the Great Salt Lake
- _____ 2. American stake claim to the Republic of California.
- _____ 3. Gadsden Purchase establishes current borders of U.S.
- _____ 4. Battle of the Alamo
- _____ 5. California’s population exceeds 100,000
- _____ 6. Texas joins the Union
- _____ 7. Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo
- _____ 8. Mexico wins independence from Spain

B. Reading Comprehension Choose the word that most accurately completes the sentences below.

- | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------|------------|
| War with Mexico | Horace Greeley | New Mexico |
| California | James Marshall | slavery |
| War for Texas Independence | land | Missouri |

- 1. Disputes between the Mexican government and American settlers in Texas arose over the issue of _____.
- 2. “Remember the Alamo!” became a powerful rallying cry in the _____.
- 3. The man who uttered the famous phrase, “Go west, young man!” was _____.
- 4. The abundance of _____ was the greatest attraction to western settlers.
- 5. Under the Treaty of Guadalupe Hildago, Mexico ceded the territories _____ and _____.

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GEOGRAPHY APPLICATION: REGION

Mexico Cedes Land to the United States

Section 3

Directions: Read the paragraphs below and study the map carefully. Then answer the questions that follow.

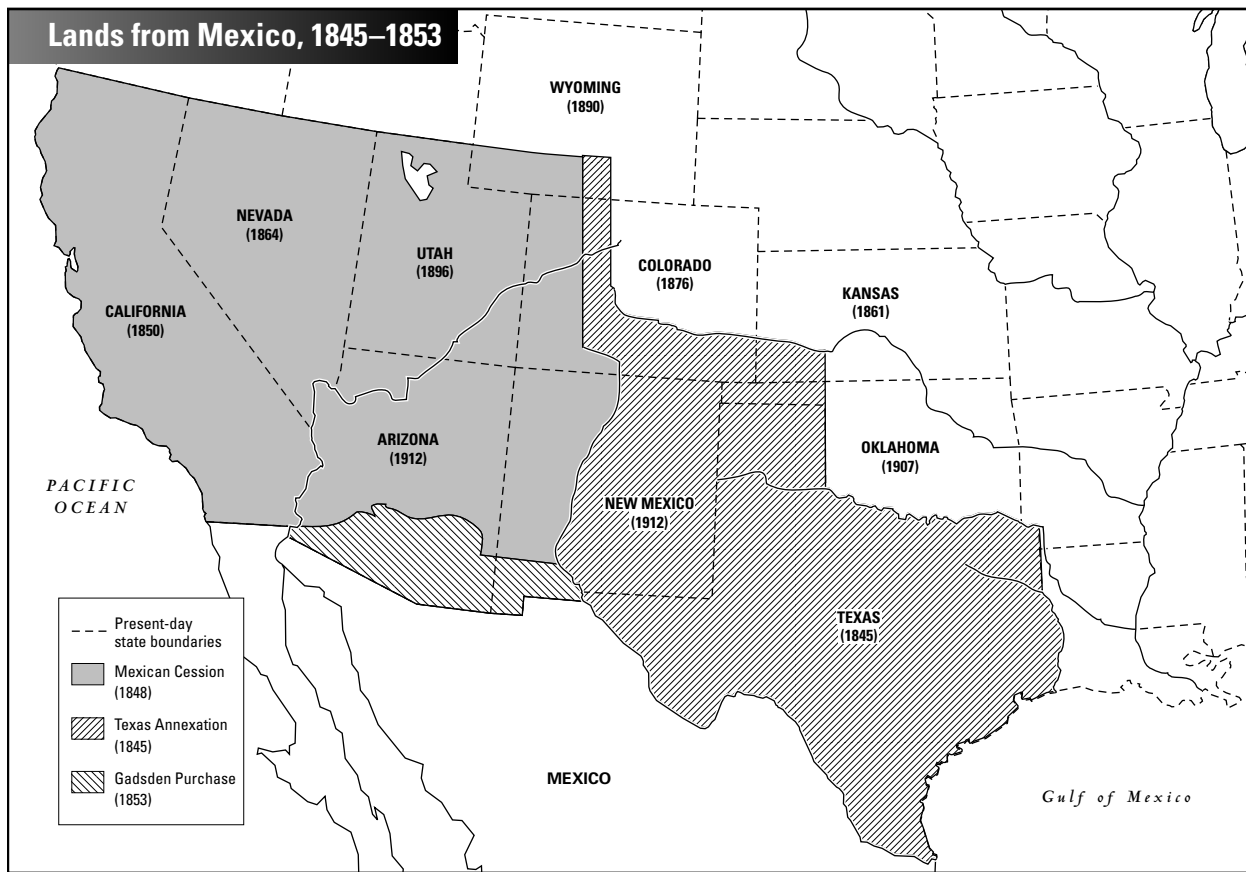
Long-standing tensions between the United States and Mexico erupted into warfare in 1846.

A year earlier the United States had angered Mexico by annexing the independent Republic of Texas and making it a state. Mexico and Texas were still in dispute over the exact borders of Texas, with Mexico refusing to concede that they extended down to the Rio Grande.

Then, when the United States sought to buy from Mexico the disputed Texas territory, as well as the territories of New Mexico and California, the Mexicans refused and war broke out.

The war with Mexico lasted until 1848. At its conclusion the two parties signed a treaty that ceded to the United States, for \$15 million, all the territory it sought. Five years later, seeking a low-mountain passage through which to build a trans-continental railroad, the United States bought, for \$10 million, a strip of land in a deal called the Gadsden Purchase. Thus, between 1845 and 1853 the United States gained more than a million square miles of land from Mexico.

The map below shows the states formed from the land and the years they achieved statehood.



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Interpreting Text and Visuals

1. How many present-day states are included, at least in part, in the acquisition from Mexico?

2. Look at the Mexican Cession and think about where the United States began back in 1776. What borders did the United States gain when it acquired this territory?

3. Which state acquired part of its land from the Mexican Cession, part from the Gadsden Purchase, and part from the Texas Annexation?

4. In what state is most of the land of the Gadsden Purchase found? _____

5. Which states were fashioned in their entirety from these territories? _____

6. How much did acquiring these three parcels of land cost the United States?

7. Statehood came early for some of the lands acquired from Mexico, such as California and Texas. For other lands, however, statehood came later and for some, not until the 20th century. What might account for the difference in the dates of statehood for these lands?



Section 3

PRIMARY SOURCE *from* James K. Polk's Speech on War with Mexico

President James K. Polk and his cabinet agreed to send the following war message to Congress before word of a Mexican attack on American soldiers at Matamoras had reached Washington. As you read this excerpt from Polk's message, think about why he supports a war with Mexico.

The strong desire to establish peace with Mexico on liberal and honorable terms, and the readiness of this Government to regulate and adjust our boundary and other causes of difference with that power on such fair and equitable principles as would lead to permanent relations of the most friendly nature, induced me in September last [1845] to seek the reopening of diplomatic relations between the two countries. Every measure adopted on our part had for its object the furtherance of these desired results. In communicating to Congress a succinct statement of the injuries which we had suffered from Mexico, and which have been accumulating during a period of more than twenty years, every expression that could tend to inflame the people of Mexico or defeat or delay a pacific result was carefully avoided. An envoy of the United States [John Slidell] repaired to Mexico with full powers, and bearing evidence of the most friendly dispositions, his mission has been unavailing. The Mexican Government not only refused to receive him or listen to his propositions, but after a long-continued series of menaces have at last invaded our territory and shed the blood of our fellow-citizens on our own soil. . . .

The grievous wrongs perpetrated by Mexico upon our citizens throughout a long period of years remain unredressed, and solemn treaties pledging her public faith for this redress have been disregarded. A government either unable or unwilling to enforce the execution of such treaties fails to perform one of its plainest duties.

Our commerce with Mexico has been almost annihilated. It was formerly highly beneficial to both nations, but our merchants have been deterred from prosecuting it by the system of outrage and extortion which the Mexican authorities have pursued against them, whilst their appeals through their own Government for indemnity have been made in vain. Our forbearance has gone to such an extreme as to be mistaken in its character. Had we

acted with vigor in repelling the insults and redressing the injuries inflicted by Mexico at the commencement, we should doubtless have escaped all the difficulties in which we are now involved.

Instead of this, however, we have been exerting our best efforts to propitiate her good will. Upon the pretext that Texas, a nation as independent as herself, thought proper to unite its destinies with our own she has affected to believe that we have severed her rightful territory, and in official proclamation and manifestoes has repeatedly threatened to make war upon us for the purpose of reconquering Texas. In the meantime we have tried every effort at reconciliation. The cup of forbearance had been exhausted even before the recent information from the frontier of the Del Norte [Rio Grande]. But now, after reiterated menaces, Mexico has passed the boundary of the United States, has invaded our territory and shed American blood upon the American soil. She has proclaimed that hostilities have commenced, and that the two nations are now at war.

As war exists, and, notwithstanding all our efforts to avoid it, exists by the act of Mexico herself, we are called upon by every consideration of duty and patriotism to vindicate with decision the honor, the rights, and the interests of our country.

from *Opposing Viewpoints in American History*, vol. 1, *From Colonial Times to Reconstruction* (San Diego: Greenhaven Press, Inc.), 217–220.

Discussion Questions

1. What reasons for war did Polk cite in his message?
2. According to Polk, what steps had the United States taken to avoid war with Mexico?
3. Why do you think that Polk's message convinced Congress to vote to go to war with Mexico?



Section 3

LITERATURE SELECTION *from Roughing It*
 by Mark Twain

Like other Americans who were lured by the promise of the western frontier, Mark Twain traveled to the Nevada Territory in 1861. He bought mining stock, entered timber claims, and prospected for silver. As you read this excerpt from Twain's travel book Roughing It (1872), think about the ups and downs of his get-rich-quick scheme.

Chapter XXVI

By and by I was smitten with the silver fever. "Prospecting parties" were leaving for the mountains every day, and discovering and taking possession of rich silver-bearing lodes and ledges of quartz. Plainly this was the road to fortune. The great "Gould and Curry" mine was held at three or four hundred dollars a foot when we arrived; but in two months it had sprung up to eight hundred. The "Ophir" had been worth only a mere trifle, a year gone by, and now it was selling at nearly *four thousand dollars a foot!* Not a mine could be named that had not experienced an astonishing advance in value within a short time. Everybody was talking about these marvels. Go where you would, you heard nothing else, from morning till far into the night. Tom So-and-So had sold out of the "Amanda Smith" for \$40,000—hadn't a cent when he "took up" the ledge six months ago. John Jones had sold half his interest in the "Bald Eagle and Mary Ann" for \$65,000, gold coin, and gone to the States for his family. The widow Brewster "struck it rich" in the "Golden Fleece" and sold ten feet for \$18,000—hadn't money enough to buy a crape bonnet when Sing-Sing Tommy killed her husband at Baldy Johnson's wake last spring. . . .

I would have been more or less than human if I had not gone mad like the rest. Cart-loads of solid silver bricks, as large as pigs of lead, were arriving from the mills every day, and such sights as that gave substance to the wild talk about me. I succumbed and grew frenzied as the craziest.

Every few days news would come of the discovery of a brand-new mining region; immediately the papers would teem with accounts of its richness, and away the surplus population would scamper to take possession. By the time I was fairly inoculated with

the disease, "Esmeralda" had just run and "Humboldt" was beginning to shriek for attention. "Humboldt! Humboldt!" was the new cry, and straightway Humboldt, the newest of the new, the richest of the rich, the most marvellous of the marvellous discoveries in silver-land, was occupying two columns of the public prints to "Esmeralda's" one. I was just on the point of starting to Esmeralda, but turned with the tide and got ready for Humboldt. . . .

Chapter XXVIII

After leaving the Sink [river basin], we traveled along the Humboldt river a little way. People accustomed to the monster mile-wide Mississippi, grow accustomed to associating the term "river" with a high degree of watery grandeur. Consequently, such people feel rather disappointed when they stand on the shores of the Humboldt or the Carson and find that a "river" in Nevada is a sickly rivulet which is just the counterpart of the Erie canal in all respects save that the canal is twice as long and four times as deep. One of the pleasantest and most invigorating exercises one can contrive is to run and jump across the Humboldt river till he is overheated, and then drink it dry.

On the fifteenth day we completed our march of two hundred miles and entered Unionville, Humboldt county, in the midst of a driving snow-storm. Unionville consisted of eleven cabins and a liberty-pole. Six of the cabins were strung along one side of a deep canyon, and the other five faced them. The rest of the landscape was made up of bleak mountain walls that rose so high into the sky from both sides of the canyon that the village was left, as it were, far down in the bottom of a crevice. It was always daylight on the mountain tops a long time before the darkness lifted and revealed Unionville.

Cart-loads of solid silver bricks, as large as pigs of lead, were arriving from the mills every day.

We built a small, rude cabin in the side of the crevice and roofed it with canvas, leaving a corner open to serve as a chimney, through which the cattle used to tumble occasionally, at night, and mash our furniture and interrupt our sleep. It was very cold weather and fuel was scarce. Indians brought brush and bushes several miles on their backs; and when we could catch a laden Indian it was well—and when we could not (which was the rule, not the exception), we shivered and bore it.

I confess, without shame, that I expected to find masses of silver lying all about the ground. I expected to see it glittering in the sun on the mountain summits. I said nothing about this, for some instinct told me that I might possibly have an exaggerated idea about it, and so if I betrayed my thought I might bring derision upon myself. Yet I was as perfectly satisfied in my own mind as I could be of anything, that I was going to gather up, in a day or two, or at furthest a week or two, silver enough to make me satisfactorily wealthy—and so my fancy was already busy with plans for spending this money. The first opportunity that offered, I sauntered carelessly away from the cabin, keeping an eye on the other boys, and stopping and contemplating the sky when they seemed to be observing me; but as soon as the coast was manifestly clear, I fled away as guiltily as a thief might have done and never halted till I was far beyond sight and call. Then I began my search with a feverish excitement that was brimful of expectation—almost of certainty. I crawled about the ground, seizing and examining bits of stone, blowing the dust from them or rubbing them on my clothes, and then peering at them with anxious hope. Presently I found a bright fragment and my heart bounded! I hid behind a boulder and polished it and scrutinized it with a nervous eagerness and a delight that was more pronounced than absolute certainty itself could have afforded. The more I examined the fragment the more I was convinced that I had found the door to fortune. I marked the spot and carried away my specimen. Up and down the rugged mountain side I searched, with always increasing interest and always augmenting gratitude that I had come to Humboldt and come in time. Of all the experiences

I confess, without shame, that I expected to find masses of silver lying all about the ground. I expected to see it glittering in the sun on the mountain summits.

of my life, this secret search among the hidden treasures of silver-land was the nearest to unmarred ecstasy. It was a delirious revel. By and by, in the bed of a shallow rivulet, I found a deposit of shining yellow scales, and my breath almost forsook me! A gold mine, and in my simplicity I had been content with vulgar silver! I was so excited that I half believed my overwrought imagination was deceiving me. Then a fear came upon me that people might be observing me and would guess my secret. Moved by this thought, I made a circuit of the place, and ascended a knoll to reconnoiter.

Solitude. No creature was near. Then I returned to my mine, fortifying myself against possible disappointment, but my fears were groundless—the shining scales were still there. I set about scooping them out, and for an hour I toiled down the windings of the stream and robbed its bed. But at last the descending sun warned me to give up the quest, and I turned homeward laden with wealth. As I walked along I could not help smiling at the thought of my being so excited over my fragment of silver when a nobler metal was almost under my nose. In this little time the former had so fallen in my estimation that once or twice I was on the point of throwing it away.

The boys were as hungry as usual, but I could eat nothing. Neither could I talk. I was full of dreams and far away. Their conversation interrupted the flow of my fancy somewhat, and annoyed me a little, too. I despised the sordid and commonplace things they talked about. But as they proceeded, it began to amuse me. It grew to be rare fun to hear them planning their poor little economies and sighing over possible privations and distresses when a gold mine, all our own, lay within sight of the cabin and I could point it out at any moment. Smothered hilarity began to oppress me, presently. It was hard to resist the impulse to burst out with exultation and reveal everything; but I did resist. I said within myself that I would filter the great news through my lips calmly and be serene as a summer morning while I watched its effect in their faces. I said:

“Where have you all been?”

“Prospecting.”

“What did you find?”

“Nothing.”
 “Nothing? What do you think of the country?”
 “Can’t tell, yet,” said Mr. Ballou, who was an old gold miner, and had likewise had considerable experience among the silver mines.

“Well, haven’t you formed any sort of opinion?”
 “Yes, a sort of a one. It’s fair enough here, may be, but overrated. Seven thousand dollar ledges are scarce, though. That Sheba may be rich enough, but we don’t own it; and besides, the rock is so full of base metals that all the science in the world can’t work it. We’ll not starve, here, but we’ll not get rich, I’m afraid.”

“So you think the prospect is pretty poor?”

“No name for it!”
 “Well, we’d better go back, hadn’t we?”

“Oh, not yet—of course not. We’ll try it a raffle, first.”

“Suppose, now—this is merely a supposition, you know—suppose you could find a ledge that would yield, say, a hundred and fifty dollars a ton—would that satisfy you?”

“Try us once!” from the whole party.
 “Or suppose—merely a supposition, of course—suppose you were to find a ledge that would yield two thousand dollars a ton—would that satisfy you?”

“Here—what do you mean? What are you coming at? Is there some mystery behind all this?”

“Never mind. I am not saying anything. You know perfectly well there are no rich mines here—of course you do. Because you have been around and examined for yourselves. Anybody would know that, that had been around. But just for the sake of argument, suppose—in a kind of general way—suppose some person were to tell you that two-thousand-dollar ledges were simply contemptible—contemptible, understand—and that right yonder in sight of this very cabin there were piles of pure gold and pure silver—oceans of it—enough to make you all rich in twenty-four hours! Come!”

“I should say he was as crazy as a loon!” said old Ballou, but wild with excitement, nevertheless.

“Gentlemen,” said I, “I don’t know anything—I haven’t been around, you know, and of course don’t know anything—but all I ask of you is to cast your eye on *that*, for instance, and tell me what you think of it!” and I tossed my treasure before them.

There was an eager scramble for it, and a closing of heads together over it under the candle-light. Then old Ballou said:

“Think of it? I think it is nothing but a lot of granite rubbish and nasty glittering mica that isn’t worth ten cents an acre!”

So vanished my dream. So melted my wealth away. So toppled my airy castle to the earth and left me stricken and forlorn.

Moralizing, I observed, then, that “all that glitters is not gold.”

Mr. Ballou said I could go further than that, and lay it up among my treasures of knowledge, that *nothing* that glitters is gold. So I learned then, once for all, that gold in its native state is but dull, unornamental stuff, and that only low-born metals excite the admiration of the ignorant with an ostentatious glitter. However, like the

rest of the world, I still go on underrating men of gold and glorifying men of mica. Commonplace human nature cannot rise above that.

“Suppose you could find a ledge that would yield, say, a hundred and fifty dollars a ton—would that satisfy you?”

Research Options

1. With a small group of classmates, research how 19th-century prospectors like Mark Twain mined gold and silver. What tools did they use? What different techniques were used to mine gold or silver? (Refer to pages 212–213 in your textbook.) Plan and present a short demonstration for the class.
2. Find out more about 19th-century mining booms that lured pioneers to the West, including the California gold rush and the discovery of the Comstock Lode in Nevada. Then make a cause-and-effect diagram illustrating the effects of mining booms. Share your diagram with classmates.
3. Bret Harte wrote about the California gold rush and Jack London wrote about the Alaskan gold rush in the late 1800s. Find and read a story by either Harte or London. Then write a comparison-and-contrast essay to compare Twain’s account with one of their stories.