**The Mexican American War**

**Section 1**

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| 00:00:01 | TEACHER: You've learned that Mexico and the United States |
| 00:00:03 | disagreed about the border between the newly acquired Texas territory and Mexico. You will also learn how this is dispute ended up being one of the causes of the Mexican War. You will also look at the key events of the war and its results. But first, we'll look at how Manifest Destiny and the desire to expand westward led the US government to strike a |
| 00:00:25 | deal with Mexico. |

**Section 2**

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| 00:00:02 | James Polk served as the Speaker of the House and the |
| 00:00:05 | Governor of Tennessee. He defeated Henry Clay to win the presidential election of 1844. While running for president, he promised to annex Texas. He was also a strong proponent of westward expansion. He vocally called for war if Britain did not give up its claim to the Oregon territory. And he also believed in Manifest Destiny. |
| 00:00:27 | He also wanted to annex California, so he begin to make that happen. In 1845, President Polk sent diplomat James Slidell on a secret mission to Mexico. He gave Slidell two key tasks-- settle the border dispute with Mexico in the state of Texas, and offer to buy New Mexico and California for up to $30 million. |
| 00:00:49 | This way, the United States could get the western land it wanted. There was just one problem with this plan. Mexico was not interested. Mexican officials refused to meet with Slidell. The Mexican government was still angry that the United States had annexed Texas against Mexico's wishes. Polk was so angry at this refusal that in 1846 he sent |
| 00:01:11 | US troops into the disputed border area to enforce the American claim on the land. Led by General Zachary Taylor, the Americans set up camp on the north side of the Rio Grande. This land was claimed by both Mexico and the United States. Mexican officers demanded that Taylor leave. When he refused, the Mexicans attacked the US troops, killing 11. |
| 00:01:34 | Taylor sent a report to President Polk of the attack. Polk then began to publicly cry, or call out, for war. |

**Section 4**

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| 00:00:01 | Congress declared war on Mexico on May 13, 1846 by an |
| 00:00:06 | overwhelming vote. But soon, disagreements about the war surfaced. President Polk was a Democrat, and many of his fellow Democrats supported him and the war. In contrast, members of the opposing Whig party were some of the only congressmen who voted against the war. Supporters of annexation believed that the war was justified. |
| 00:00:28 | They said that Mexico was threatened to attack part of Texas. But others believed that Polk had provoked the war by sending American troops into the disputed border area. They thought that Mexico was too weak to be a real threat to the United States. One of the most vocal opponents of this was an Illinois congressman named Abraham Lincoln. |
| 00:00:49 | Finally, Southerners wanted to expand US territory into the Southwest by seizing land from Mexico. Any new states added in this area would be slave states under the Missouri Compromise of 1820. Abolitionists opposed the idea of expanding slavery, so they opposed the war with Mexico. The US military had to prepare quickly for war. The US Army that took the field was made up mostly of |
| 00:01:16 | volunteers. The regular American Army was not very big when the war began, with only about 7,000 troops. Officials called for 50,000 volunteers. Because the war was popular, thousands of men began to sign up. But there was a problem. They were very inexperienced. |
| 00:01:35 | The soldiers and many of the officers would have to learn on the battlefield. The US Army was smaller than the Mexican army when the war started, but the US troops did have the advantage of being better armed than the Mexican forces. |

**Section 6**

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| 00:00:01 | TEACHER: What were the causes and effects of the |
| 00:00:04 | Mexican-American War? You've learned about the causes of the war between Mexico and the United States. In this segment, you'll learn about the course of the Mexican-American War and the battles that took place. As soon as the war began, US forces turned its sights on seizing California. |

**Section 7**

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| 00:00:01 | The first fighting in California came from an |
| 00:00:03 | unexpected source. Although there were only a few hundred Americans living in California, a small group of them rebelled against the Mexican government there in June of 1946. The tiny rebel force gained control of Sonoma, then California's capital. They created the bear flag, similar to the one shown here, and declared themselves the Independent Republic of |
| 00:00:24 | California, also called the Bear Flag Republic. But the Republic of California would not last. US Naval forces arrived in San Francisco in July of 1864, and claimed the region for the United States. The fighting continued for a few months. But by January 1847, the entire region was under US control. |

**Section 9**

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| 00:00:01 | In Mexico, US forces fought against Mexican commander |
| 00:00:04 | Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna. Santa Anna had a career full of dramatic changes in fortune. He began as a general in the Mexican army, and commanded their forces in their unsuccessful attempt to halt Texas's independence. He became dictator of Mexico in 1841 after leading a revolt. |
| 00:00:23 | But he was overthrown and forced into exile in 1845. When Mexico went to war with the US, Santa Anna returned to lead Mexico's army once again. After the war, he went into retirement. Facing Santa Anna at the start of the war was US General Zachary Taylor. Taylor was a veteran of the War of 1812, and many battles against American Indians. |
| 00:00:47 | He was put in command of US troops at the start of the war. Still, Taylor led the US to several key victories and became a war hero. He was nicknamed "Old Rough and Ready," for his willingness to fight even when outnumbered. Riding this popularity, he ran for president in 1848 and won as a member of the Whig Party. |
| 00:01:08 | Unfortunately, he died of cholera 16 months after taking office. Winfield Scott had been a war hero of the War of 1812, and he also was winning key battles. Scott was a skilled and popular leader. He got the nickname, "Old Fuss and Feathers," because he insisted on his troops acting in a formal military manner. In 1841, he was put in command of the entire US Army. |
| 00:01:35 | He served in this post until 1861. Scott went on to win key battles in the Mexican American War. Like Taylor, Scott ran for the presidency as a member of the Whig Party. But he was the seated in 1852. |

**Section 11**

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| 00:00:01 | TEACHER: The US won a series of battles as the war began. |
| 00:00:05 | Polk achieved one of his important aims of the war when American forces were successful in defeating Mexican forces in New Mexico at the Battle of Santa Fe. Next, Zachary Taylor captured the Mexican city of Monterrey. Another American commander, Winfield Scott, landed at the Mexican port city of Veracruz. He captured the city, then he marched 300 miles to the Mexican capital of Mexico City. |
| 00:00:32 | He captured the city and forced Mexico to surrender. The war ended in February with the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was signed. |

**Section 13**

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| 00:00:01 | TEACHER: Let's look one last time at the lesson question. |
| 00:00:03 | "What were the causes and effects of the Mexican-American War? You've learned how the United States defeated Mexico in the Mexican-American War. Now you'll learn how the US victory effected the United States. You will learn about the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo that ended the war, and how the newly-acquired territory |
| 00:00:22 | impacted the debate on slavery. |

**Section 14**

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| 00:00:01 | TEACHER: Even before the war ended, Congress was already |
| 00:00:04 | debating on what to do when Mexico was defeated. Supporters of the war agreed that the United States should take control of some of Mexico's territory. Just how much was not clear. Only the US claims in Texas? Or should the US try to gain the rest of the Southwest, including California? Some politicians wanted to take all of Mexico. |
| 00:00:25 | This raised another question. Should slavery be allowed in the new territory taken from Mexico? The debate over slavery in the new territory had been a contentious problem as the US expanded across the continent. First the Missouri Compromise of 1820 had tried to settle this issue. Remember, the compromise banned all slavery in the |
| 00:00:48 | Louisiana Territory to the north of Missouri's southern border. This was the 36 degree, 30 minute line of latitude, and it was later extended to the West. Slavery was allowed in the territories to the south of that line. But the addition of a Mexican territory caused new problems. What rules would govern slavery in this new territory? |
| 00:01:12 | The debate over the expansion of slavery heated up in Congress. Southern politicians wanted slavery to expand. The Southern economy was heavily dependent on slave labor for its agriculture. However, many Northern politicians opposed the expansion of slavery. By 1804, slavery was illegal in all Northern states. |
| 00:01:34 | One of these Northerners was Democratic congressman, David Wilmot. Looking ahead to the possibility of acquiring land from Mexico, Wilmot wrote the Wilmot Provisio, and he did that in 1846. This was right after the war started, well before any territory had been won. We're talking about the Republic of Mexico. |
| 00:01:56 | We're talking about, "neither slavery shall ever exist in any part of said territory." As you can see, the provisio attempted to ban slavery in any land gained in the war. The provisio was passed twice in the House, but rejected both times in the Senate. As a result, it was never adopted. However, the Wilmot Provisio and its debate in Congress |
| 00:02:22 | pointed to the trouble ahead in the national debate over slavery and its territory's spread. |

**Section 16**

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| 00:00:01 | TEACHER: After much argument in conversation between the |
| 00:00:03 | two nations, in February 1848, the US and Mexico signed the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. This is the cover of the treaty, and the medallion that accompanied it. The treaty ended the Mexican American War, recognized the US claim to Texas, and established the border at the Rio Grande. Mexico was forced to give up land in |
| 00:00:25 | return for $15 million. The Mexican Cession gave the US most of what is today known as the southwestern United States. The land the US received from Mexico was known as the Mexican Cession. The cession territory included the present day states of California, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and parts of Arizona, Colorado, and Wyoming, as |
| 00:00:50 | indicated on the map. This added up to more than 500,000 square miles of territory. Mexico was unhappy to lose so much of its territory. This led to poor relations with the United States for many years. The United States was not quite done expanding, however. In 1853, the US negotiated a deal for $10 million for |
| 00:01:13 | 30,000 additional square miles of Mexico's territory. This purchase added part of Arizona and New Mexico to the United States, as you can see on the map where its indicated the Gadsden Purchase. The US government wanted this land so that they could build a railroad. They wanted to connect the Rio Grande to the Pacific Ocean, via a southern railroad route. |
| 00:01:37 | The Gadsden Purchase completed the expansion of the continental United States, the US not including Alaska and Hawaii. |

**Section 18**

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| 00:00:01 | TEACHER: The end of the war left many unresolved problems. |
| 00:00:04 | To begin with, thousands of Mexicans living in the Mexican Cession found themselves with an unclear status. Were they Americans or Mexicans? Families were divided by the new political border that separated the US and Mexico. Under the terms of the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, many mexicans living in the Mexican Cession became US citizens. Disputes over property were common. |
| 00:00:28 | The treaty protected the property rights of Mexican Americans. But as more white American settlers and prospectors came West, Mexican Americans were outnumbered. They were forced to prove ownership of their land and many were unable to do so to the satisfaction of American courts. Many faced other types of discrimination as well. |
| 00:00:48 | When the US acquired its southwestern territories, some Americans thought the land was useless. They claimed it was too dry and rocky for many people to live there. They were proved wrong. Today, the Southwest is a key part of American society and economy. The states of Arizona, California, Nevada, New |
| 00:01:07 | Mexico, and Utah had a combined population of over 50 million people in the year 2010. About 35% of that population was Hispanic compared to 16% for the US as a whole during that same period. California has the largest state economy. The region also has a strong cultural influence over the rest of the United States affecting food, music, and art. |

**Section 20**

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| 00:00:02 | TEACHER: The debate over whether slavery should be |
| 00:00:04 | allowed in the new western territories continued to divide the nation between the pro-slavery South and the anti-slavery North. Author Ralph Waldo Emerson saw the danger of acquiring new western lands from Mexico. "The United States will conquer Mexico, but it will be as the man that swallows the arsenic, which brings him down in turn. |
| 00:00:26 | Mexico will poison us." Emerson and others knew the expansion would just make the arguments between the North and South worse. If you can see where he says, "poison us"-- this is what he meant when he said the US would be poisoned by defeating Mexico. The debate between the North and South would not be resolved until the two sides fought a bitter and |
| 00:00:48 | bloody Civil War. |