

Manifest Destiny

Lesson 3 War With Mexico, *Continued*

The New Mexico Territory

The New Mexico Territory included all of present-day New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, Utah, and parts of Colorado and Wyoming. Mexico and the United States fought a war over this land.

Native Americans had lived in the area for thousands of years. Then Spanish explorers claimed it for Spain. They started a settlement at Santa Fe. In 1821, Mexico won its independence. New Mexico then became part of Mexico.

The Spanish did not want Americans to live in Santa Fe. They were afraid the Americans would take the land away from them. However, the new government of Mexico welcomed Americans. They hoped more trade would help the economy.

William Becknell was the first American trader to reach Santa Fe in New Mexico. He arrived in 1821. He brought many goods to sell. The route he took became known as the Santa Fe Trail. It began near Independence, Missouri. That was the western edge of the United States. The trail was mostly flat, so Becknell could use wagons to transport his goods.

Other American traders began to use the trail. It became a busy route. Settlers followed. Many people thought New Mexico was part of the country's Manifest Destiny.

California's Spanish Culture

The Spanish were the first Europeans to reach California. In the 1700s, Spanish explorers and Mexican missionaries settled there. Captain Gaspar de Portolá and Father Junipero Serra (hoo•NIP•uh•roh SEHR•uh) began building missions. Over time, there were many missions built between San Diego and Sonoma. Missions were built to convert Native Americans to Christianity and to teach them the Spanish way of life.

When California became a part of Mexico in 1821, Mexicans bought mission lands. They set up **ranchos**, or large estates. The estates were owned by wealthy **rancheros**. Native Americans worked on ranchos and in exchange, they received food and shelter. However, rancheros treated them almost like slaves.

In the 1840s, Americans came to California. One person was John C. Frémont, an army officer. He wrote about how nice the weather was there, and also described the vast natural resources. This attracted even more Americans.

Identifying

1. Who claimed New Mexico before 1821?

2. Who claimed it after 1821?

Reading Check

3. How did William Becknell affect American settlement in New Mexico?

Defining

4. Circle the definition of *rancho*. Who were *rancheros*?

Summarizing

5. What did John C. Frémont say about California?

Reading Check

6. Why did Americans want to add California to the United States?

Identifying

7. Where did the United States say the border between Texas and Mexico was? What did Mexico say?

Americans began to talk about adding California to the United States. If California became a state, the nation's western border would be the Pacific Ocean. Americans would not have to worry about sharing a western border with any other country. Shippers also wanted to build seaports on the coast. From there, they could trade with countries in Asia.

Conflict Begins

President Polk wanted to get both New Mexico and California from Mexico. He offered to buy the land, but Mexico would not sell it. Polk planned to get the land by going to war with Mexico. He hoped to get Mexico to start the fighting.

Mexico and the United States disagreed about where the border was between Texas and Mexico. The United States said it was the Rio Grande, the river to the south. Mexico said the border was the Nueces (nu • AY • sehs) River. It was 150 miles (241 km) farther north. Polk sent General Zachary Taylor to march his army into the area between the two rivers. He hoped that Mexican soldiers would fire first. On April 25, 1846, they did. On May 13, Congress voted to go to war with Mexico.

Polk had three goals to win the war.

U.S. Goals for War With Mexico

1. Push Mexican forces out of Texas
2. Take control of New Mexico and California
3. Capture Mexico City

General Taylor accomplished the first goal in Texas by 1847. General Stephen Kearney led American troops down the Santa Fe trail and captured Santa Fe, New Mexico's capital. Then Kearney headed toward California.

Meanwhile, General John C. Frémont was leading a revolt against Mexico in California. Frémont won. The rebels declared California independent of Mexico.

They named California the Bear Flag Republic. However, the Bear Flag Republic did not stay independent for long. American navy ships sailed into the ports of both San Francisco and San Diego. The Navy claimed California for the United States.

Mexico did not give up, however. Since Mexico had not given up yet, American soldiers were sent to Mexico.

Manifest Destiny**Lesson 3 War With Mexico, Continued**

Finally, General Winfield Scott and his troops captured Mexico City.

In 1848, the Mexicans stopped fighting. The treaty, or agreement, that ended the war was called the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo (GWAH•duh•loop he•DAHL•goh). Mexico gave up California and the New Mexico Territory. It also agreed that the Rio Grande was the border between Mexico and Texas. Mexico gave more than 500,000 square miles (1,295,000 sq. km) of land to the United States. The United States paid Mexico \$15 million dollars for the land. They also took on \$3.25 million in debts that Mexico owed to American citizens. The dream of Manifest Destiny had become a reality.

Check for Understanding

What did the Mexican War have to do with the idea of Manifest Destiny?

List three results of the Mexican War.

✓ Reading Check

8. What did America gain from the Mexican War?

FOLDABLES

9. Place a three-tab Venn diagram Foldable along the dotted line to cover Check for Understanding. Write *Compare* on the anchor tab. Label the three tabs *New Mexico Territory*, *Both*, and *California*. List two things you recall about each and what they had in common. Use the Foldable to help answer Check for Understanding.



Manifest Destiny

Lesson 4 California and Utah

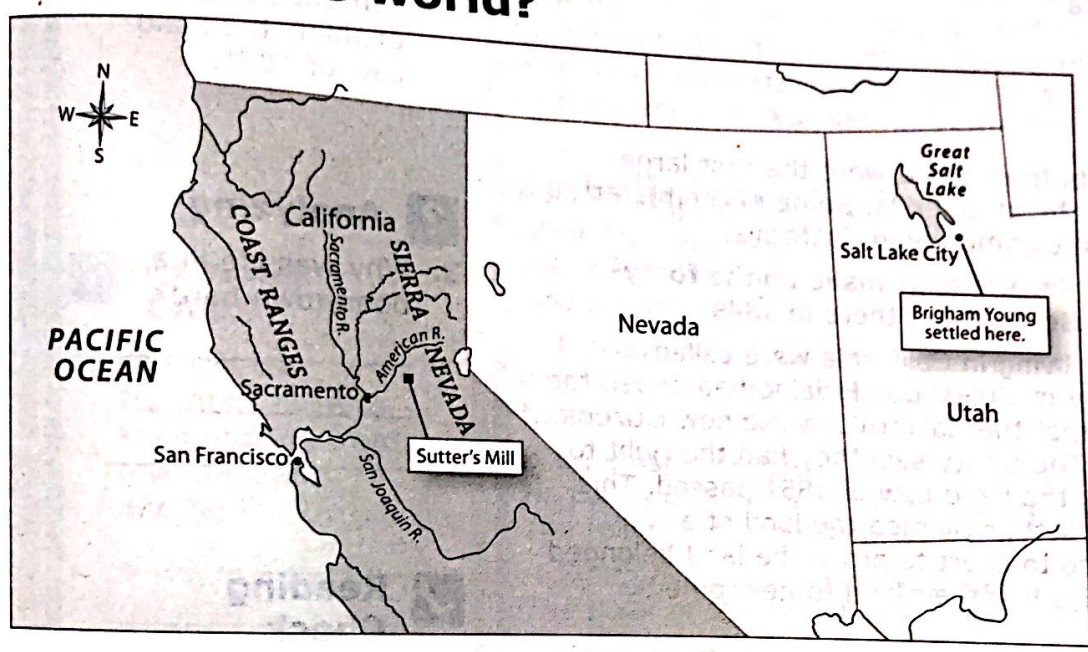
ESSENTIAL QUESTION
How do new ideas change the way people live?

- GUIDING QUESTIONS**
1. *How did the discovery of gold help California?*
 2. *Why did the Mormons settle in Utah?*

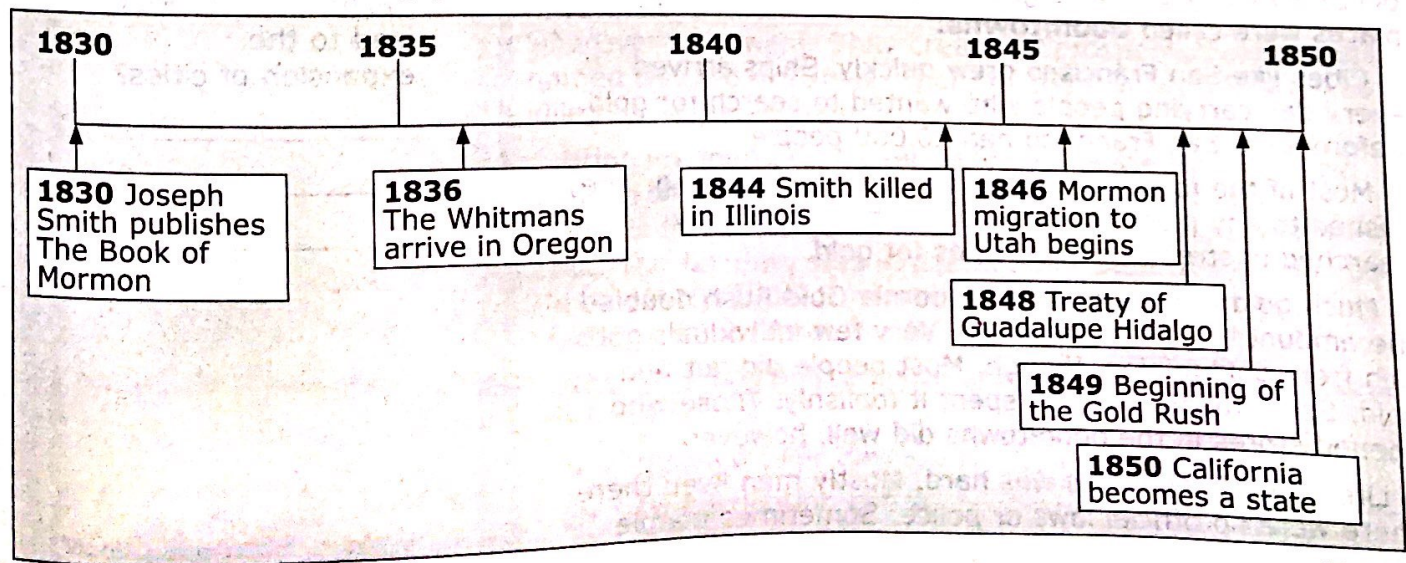
Terms to Know

- forty-niner** person who came to California to find gold in 1849
- boomtown** a fast-growing community
- vigilante** person who takes it on himself to bring law and order to a place

Where in the world?



When did it happen?



Copyright by The McGraw-Hill Companies.

Manifest Destiny**Lesson 4 California and Utah, Continued****California Gold Rush**

Gold was discovered at Sutter's Mill in California in 1848. The news traveled fast. Soon many people came to California to see if they could get rich.

Where did they come from?

- About 80 percent of these people were American.

Others were from:

- Mexico
- South America
- Europe
- Australia
- China

The 300 immigrants from China were the first large group of Asians to settle in America. Some of them started the Chinese American community in California.

Taken together, all these groups made up the **forty-niners**. That is because most got there in 1849.

The people already living in California were called Californios. The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo had ended the Mexican War. It said that the Californios were now citizens of the United States. The treaty said they had the right to keep their land. Then, the Land Law of 1851 passed. This law said that if a new settler claimed the land of a Californio, he had to go to court to prove the land belonged to him. Many Californios lost their land to newcomers because of this law.

When miners rushed to new areas to look for gold, they built new villages. These grew quickly into cities. Such places were called **boomtowns**.

Cities like San Francisco grew quickly. Ships arrived every day carrying people who wanted to search for gold. Before long, San Francisco had 20,000 people.

Most of the forty-niners had no experience mining. They rushed to any place that they heard had gold. They searched in streams and hillsides for gold.

Much gold was found. The California Gold Rush doubled the amount of gold in the world. Very few individuals got rich from gold mining, though. Most people did not find gold. Some found gold and spent it foolishly. Those who opened stores in the boomtowns did well, however.

Life in the boomtowns was hard. Mostly men lived there. There were no official laws or police. Sometimes people

Defining

1. Why were miners called *forty-niners*?

Mark the Text

2. Underline the sentence that explains the Land Law of 1851.

Analyzing

3. Why was life in a boomtown hard?

Reading Check

4. How did the California Gold Rush lead to the expansion of cities?

Lesson 4 California and Utah, Continued

Identifying

5. Who was Joseph Smith?

6. What happened to him in Illinois?

Reading Check

7. Why did the Mormons have to keep moving from one place to another?

formed groups of **vigilantes** to protect themselves. Vigilantes took the law into their own hands. They acted as police, judge, and jury.

The Gold Rush had many lasting effects:

- Agriculture, shipping, and trade grew
- Many people who came to look for gold stayed
- Those who stayed went into farming or business
- In 1849 California asked to become a state

Californians wrote a new constitution. The new constitution banned slavery. Southern states did not want California to join the Union. Congress wanted an equal number of slave states and free states. In 1850 a compromise was reached. California became a state.

A Religious Refuge in Utah

While the Gold Rush was taking place in California, change was also taking place in Utah. Mormons were building a new community there.

Joseph Smith founded the Mormon religion. He founded it during the religious awakenings that took place during the 1830s and 1840s.

Smith said he had visions that led him to build a church. He called it the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The religion is also known as the Mormon religion.

Smith began to preach his ideas in 1830. He published *The Book of Mormon* that year as well.

Smith wanted to build an ideal community. Mormons believed in hard work. They also believed that a man could have more than one wife. This belief made them unpopular wherever they went. They created a prosperous community named Nauvoo in Illinois. Then, in 1844, Joseph Smith was killed by an angry mob.

Brigham Young took over as leader of the Mormons. He decided that the Mormons should move again to find religious freedom. He led them westward to the Great Salt Lake. The territory was in present-day Utah. It was part of Mexico at the time. However, no Mexicans lived there. The land was dry and harsh.

The Mormons built a successful community through hard work. They:

- planned their towns,
- built irrigation canals,

Manifest Destiny

Lesson 4 California and Utah, *Continued*

- taxed property,
- regulated natural resources,
- founded industries, and
- sold supplies to forty-niners who were on their way to California.

In 1850 Congress set up the Utah Territory. Brigham Young was named governor.

The Mormons often had conflicts with the U.S. government. Utah did not become a state until 1896.

////// Glue Foldable here ///////////////

Check for Understanding

Read each statement. Write **T** if it is true. If it is false, write **F**.

___ Mormons worked hard to grow crops in Utah.

___ Utah became a state soon after it was settled.

In what ways did the Gold Rush affect California?

FOLDABLES®

- Place a two-tab Foldable along the dotted line to cover Check for Understanding. Write the title *Go West* on the anchor tab. Label the left tab *Gold Rush: California* and the right tab *Religious Refuge: Utah*. List what you remember about each and the movement west. Use the Foldable to help answer Check for Understanding.