Manifest Destiny

Objective: To understand the causes and effects of the Mexican-American War
The Westward Pioneers

- Between the 1830s and 1860s, 250,000 Americans began migrating to the Midwest and beyond to California and Oregon Territory.
- Many Americans believed in Manifest Destiny, the idea that the nation as meant to spread to the Pacific.
- The first pioneers were called squatters, because they settled on lands they did not own.
The United States and Great Britain agreed to jointly occupy Oregon in 1818.

By 1840, Americans began to settle the area after enthusiastic reports from American Missionaries.

The most popular route to the west coast was the Oregon Trail. Other trails used were the California Trail and the Santa Fe Trail.

The federal government negotiated the Treaty of Fort Laramie in 1851, which promised defined territories that would belong to the Native Americans forever.
Americans Settle in Texas

- **Tejanos** (Spanish-speaking inhabitants), lived in the southern part of Texas while the Apache, Comanche, and other Native Americans lived to the north.
- Mexico offered cheap land and a 10 year tax exemption to foreigners willing to settle in Texas.
- In exchange, the settlers were to become Mexican citizens, live under Mexican law, and convert to Roman Catholicism.
- **Empresarios**, or agents contracted by the Mexican government convinced Americans to settle the area in exchange for grants of Texas land.
- Mexico closed its borders to further American migration in 1830.
Texas Fights for Independence

- Settlers at the convention in San Felipe asked Mexico to reopen Texas to American immigrants and to loosen the taxes on imports.
- Stephen Austin traveled to Mexico City to meet with President Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna.
- Austin was arrested after sending a letter suggesting that Texas should become independent of Mexico.
- The Texans raised an army and drove the Mexican army out of San Antonio in 1835.
The Alamo and Battle of San Jacinto

- Santa Anna led a Mexican army of about 6,000 to put down the rebellion.
- They arrived at San Antonio defeated 182 rebels in a former Spanish mission called the Alamo.
- At Goliad, the Mexican army defeated Texan troops and executed over 300 prisoners.
- Sam Houston attacked Santa Anna’s soldiers napping near the San Jacinto River.
- The Texans killed thousands of Mexicans and took over 700 prisoners, including Santa Anna.
Texas and Oregon Enter the Union

- After gaining independence, the Lone Star Republic (nickname for Texas) existed for roughly ten years before becoming a state.
- James K. Polk was elected president in 1844. He promised to annex, or add Texas, the Oregon Territory, and California.
- His campaign slogan was “Fifty-four Forty or Fight” in reference to the boundary of Oregon.
- In June 1846, US and Britain agreed to dividing the Oregon Territory along the 49th parallel.
- In February 1845, Congress passed a joint resolution to annex Texas.
War with Mexico

- Strenuous tensions went higher because the United States and Mexico could not agree on Texas’s southwest border.
- Polk ordered **General Zachary Taylor** into the disputed territory, which led Mexico to attack the US troops.
- On May 13, 1846 the US congress declared war on Mexico.
- Taylor defeated Santa Anna twice in Mexico.
- General **John C. Fremont** led an uprising in California and established the **Bear Flag Republic**.
Winfield Scott landed at Veracruz, marched to Mexico City and captured the capital in September 1847.

The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo gave the United States the territory that included present day states California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico.

In exchange, the United States paid Mexico $15 million and paid $3.25 million to American citizens owed by Mexico.