

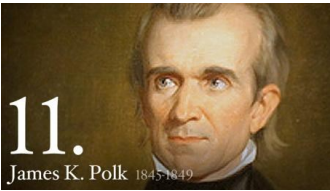
U.S.-Mexican War

BY
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President James K. Polk

President Polk was a strong believer in Manifest Destiny and Westward expansion. He wanted the United States to expand from sea to sea.



Causes of the U.S.-Mexican War

The war between the United States and Mexico began after the United States annexed (added) Texas in 1845. In fact, the annexation of Texas as the 28th state contributed to the start of the U.S.- Mexico War. Mexico did not fully accept the loss of Texas and refused to honor its independence or annexation to the United States. As far as the Mexican government was concerned Texas was still a Mexican territory.



President James K. Polk asked Mexico if the U.S. could buy New Mexico and California. However, Mexican officials refused to even meet with him. Mexico believed that the United States had stolen Texas and the idea of giving up more land to the United States was unthinkable.

U.S President James Polk was upset that Mexico had refused to meet with him and sell California and New Mexico to the United States. He decided he would declare war on Mexico so he could take the land by force. He just needed an excuse for war.



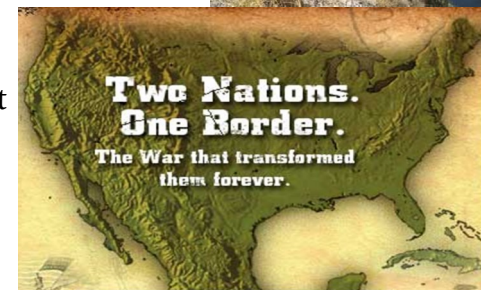
Polk Wants War With Mexico

President Polk paid close attention to the boundary between Texas and Mexico. He knew that the border was an area of tension between the United States and Mexico. If he was going to get his excuse for war it would happen along the border.

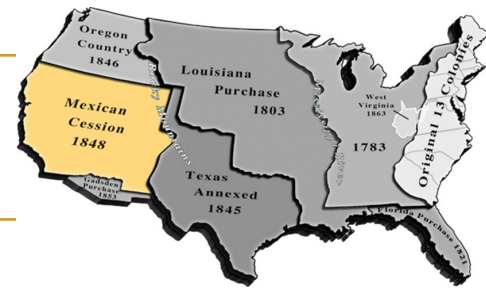
The border was an disputed area. The United States argued that the Rio Grande marked the boundary(border) between Texas and Mexico. Mexico argued that the border was further north

at the Nueces River. In April of 1846, President Polk got the excuse he had been waiting for.

Sixteen Americans had been killed in a shoot-out along the Rio Grande River. Several others men were captured by the Mexican army. Polk quickly asked Congress to declare war on Mexico.



U.S.-Mexican War



Effects of the U.S. Mexican War

The U.S. Mexico war lasted two years. After a strong fight, Mexico was forced to surrender. The two countries would be forever changed.

To officially end the U.S- Mexico war, Mexico and the United States signed a treaty called the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848.

Under the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, Mexico had to cede (give up) more than half of its territory. This large area was called the Mexican Cession..



Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo and the Mexican

The Mexican Cession included the present-day states of California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico, as well as parts of Colorado and Wyoming. In return the United States agreed to pay Mexico \$15 million dollars and promised to

protect the 100,000 Mexicans living in Texas and the Mexican Cession.

After the U.S.- Mexican War and the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo the United States now extended from one ocean to the other. America had tripled in size and now reached from coast to coast.

