

Trails West

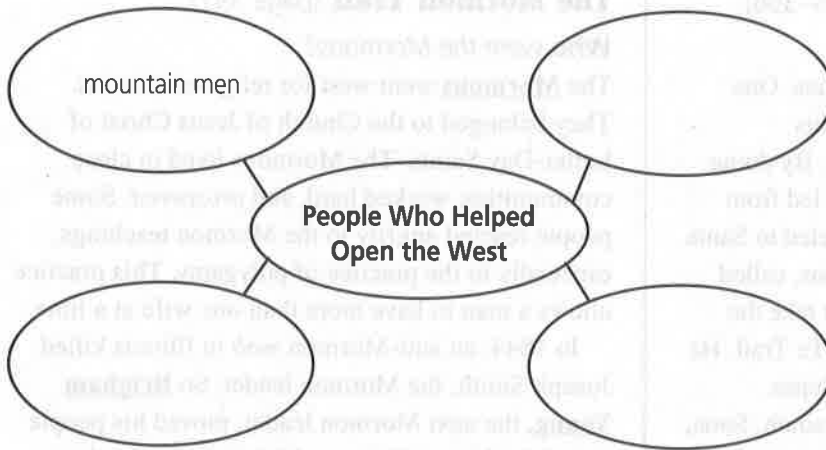
BEFORE YOU READ

In the last chapter, you read about the economic problems facing the United States in the 1840s.

In this section, you will learn how Americans continued to move westward.

AS YOU READ

Use this diagram to take notes on the people who helped open the West.



TERMS & NAMES

mountain man A fur trapper or explorer who discovered trails through the Rocky Mountains

Jedediah Smith Famous mountain man

Jim Beckwourth Famous mountain man

land speculator A person who buys land in the hope that it will increase in value and bring in a profit

Santa Fe Trail Trail from Missouri to Santa Fe, New Mexico

Oregon Trail Trail from Missouri to the Oregon Territory

Mormon A member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

Brigham Young Mormon leader

Mountain Men and the Rendezvous (pages 393–394)

Who were mountain men?

During the early 1800s, daring fur trappers and explorers, known as **mountain men**, helped open up the West by discovering the best trails through the Rocky Mountains. **Jedediah Smith** and **Jim Beckwourth** were two famous mountain men. These men were tough and resourceful. They spent most of the year alone, trapping small animals, such as beavers. Easterners wanted furs from these animals to make men's hats that were in fashion at that time.

The mountain men were connected to the businessmen who bought their furs. They created a trading arrangement called the *rendezvous* system. Under this system, individual trappers came to a chosen site to meet with traders from the East. The trappers bought supplies from the traders and paid them with

furs. This rendezvous took place every summer from 1825 until 1840. In that year, silk hats replaced beaver hats as the fashion, and the fur trade died out.

1. Who were the mountain men connected with in the rendezvous system?

Mountain Men Open the West; The Lure of the West (page 394)

How did mountain men open the West?

Mountain men killed off so many beavers from some streams that they had to find new streams where beavers lived. The explorations of these men provided Americans with some of the earliest knowledge of the Far West. The trails these men *blazed* helped make it possible for later pioneers to move west.

Many people moved west to make money. **Land speculators** bought huge areas of land. They divided their land holdings into smaller sections. They made great profits by selling those sections to thousands of settlers who wanted to own their own farms. Manufacturers and merchants followed the settlers west. They hoped to make money by making and selling items that the farmers needed.

2. How did land speculators make a profit?

The Trail to Santa Fe (pages 395–396)

What was the Santa Fe Trail?

Traders also went west in search of markets. One Missouri trader, William Becknell, took his *merchandise* to Santa Fe in New Mexico. By doing so, he opened the **Santa Fe Trail**, which led from Missouri to Santa Fe. Becknell then traveled to Santa Fe by loading his goods in covered wagons, called prairie schooners. However, he could not take the wagons over the mountains on the Santa Fe Trail. He found a shortcut that avoided the steep slopes. Instead, it passed through a desert to the south. Soon, hundreds of prairie schooners used the shortcut, or cutoff, to make the journey from Missouri to New Mexico each year.

3. Where did the Santa Fe Trail run?

Oregon Fever; One Family Heads West (pages 396–397)

What was the Oregon Trail?

Many settlers traveled west on the **Oregon Trail**. It ran from Independence, Missouri, to the Oregon

Territory. The first white people to cross into the Oregon Territory were missionaries. Their reports of rich land in Oregon encouraged many other American settlers to make the 2,000-mile journey.

Traveling on the Oregon Trail was dangerous. So, settlers joined wagon trains. Before setting out, the wagon train members agreed on rules and elected leaders to enforce them.

4. Where did the Oregon Trail run?

The Mormon Trail (page 397)

Who were the Mormons?

The **Mormons** went west for religious reasons. They belonged to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. The Mormons lived in close communities, worked hard, and *prospered*. Some people reacted angrily to the Mormon teachings, especially to the practice of polygamy. This practice allows a man to have more than one wife at a time.

In 1844, an anti-Mormon *mob* in Illinois killed Joseph Smith, the Mormon leader. So **Brigham Young**, the next Mormon leader, moved his people out of the United States to Utah, which was then part of Mexico. In 1847, about 1,600 Mormons followed part of the Oregon Trail to Utah, where they built a new settlement by the Great Salt Lake. The Mormons built dams and canals to bring water to their farms. Through teamwork, they made their desert homeland bloom.

5. Why did the Mormons move west?

The Texas Revolution

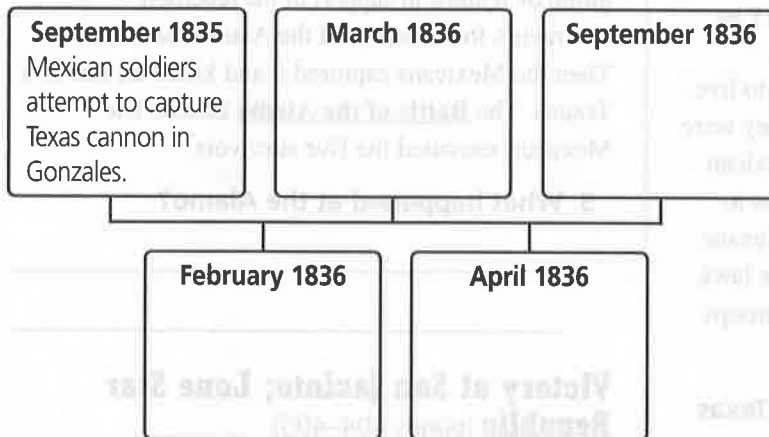
BEFORE YOU READ

In the last section, you read about how Americans continued to move westward.

In this section, you will learn how Texas gained independence from Mexico.

AS YOU READ

Use this time line to take notes on the events that resulted in the independence of Texas.



Spanish Texas (pages 400–401)

Where was Tejas located?

The Spanish land called *Tejas* bordered the U.S. territory called Louisiana. Although *Tejas* was a Spanish colony, it had few Spanish settlers. In 1821, only about 4,000 *Tejanos* lived in Texas. *Tejanos* are people of Spanish *heritage* who consider Texas their home. The Native Americans who lived in *Tejas* fought against Spanish settlement.

The Spanish wanted more people to settle there to help defend against the Native Americans and the Americans who illegally entered Texas. The Spanish government offered huge pieces of land to *empresarios*. However, they were still not able to attract settlers. So, when Moses Austin, a bankrupt Missouri mine owner, asked for permission to start a colony in Texas, Spain agreed. When Moses Austin died, his son **Stephen Austin** took over. Spain promised Austin a large section of land. He agreed that the settlers on the land would follow Spanish laws.

TERMS & NAMES

Tejano A person of Spanish heritage who considers Texas his or her home

Stephen Austin Started American colony in Texas

Antonio López de Santa Anna President of Mexico

Sam Houston First president of the Republic of Texas

William Travis Army leader at the Battle of the Alamo

Juan Seguín *Tejano* leader at the Battle of the Alamo

Battle of the Alamo Key battle for Texan independence

Lone Star Republic Nickname of the Texas republic

1. Why did Spain give Moses Austin permission to start a colony in Texas?

Mexican Independence Changes Texas

(page 401)

Why did Mexico take over Texas?

Shortly after Stephen Austin arrived in Texas in 1821, Mexico gained independence from Spain. *Tejas* was now part of Mexico. So the land grant that Austin received from Spain was worthless. He then persuaded the Mexican government to let him start his colony. The Mexican government would agree only if settlers would become Mexican citizens and Roman Catholics.

By 1827, Austin attracted 297 families to his colony. The success of the colony attracted more settlers and speculators to Texas. By 1830, Americans outnumbered *Tejanos* six to one.

2. What did American settlers have to agree to do in order to settle in Austin's colony?

Rising Tensions in Texas (pages 401–402)

Why did tension increase between Americans and Tejanos?

Conflicts arose between the Americans and *Tejanos*. Americans did not like following Mexican laws and dealing with documents that were in Spanish. Mexico also upset American slave owners by outlawing slavery in 1829. The Americans wanted slavery so they could grow cotton.

The *Tejanos* found the Americans difficult to live with. They thought the Americans believed they were superior and seemed unwilling to adapt to Mexican laws. So the Mexican government closed Texas to further settlement by Americans. It required Texans to pay taxes for the first time. To enforce these laws, the Mexican government sent more Mexican troops to Texas.

3. Why were the American settlers in Texas upset with Mexico?

Texans Revolt Against Mexico

(page 402)

Why did Stephen Austin meet with the Mexican president?

In 1833, Stephen Austin took a petition to Mexico City. The document listed changes that were supported by both Americans and *Tejanos*.

In Mexico City, Austin met the Mexican president, General **Antonio López de Santa Anna**. At first, he agreed to Austin's requests. But then Santa Anna found out that Austin had said that if Santa Anna did not approve the changes, he would support breaking away from Mexico. Santa Anna jailed Austin for a year. When they found out about Austin, the Texans wanted to rebel. Santa Anna responded by sending more troops to Texas.

4. Why did Santa Anna jail Stephen Austin?

The Fight for the Alamo (pages 402–404)

What was the Alamo?

In 1836, the Texans decided to declare Texas an independent *republic*. **Sam Houston** took command of the small Texas army. One small company was stationed at a fort in southeast Texas. The second company, headed by **William Travis**, stood at the Alamo, an old mission in San Antonio. In addition, **Juan Seguín** led a group of *Tejanos* in support of the rebellion.

Travis's force defended the Alamo for 12 days. Then the Mexicans captured it and killed all but five Texans. The **Battle of the Alamo** ended. The Mexicans executed the five survivors.

5. What happened at the Alamo?

Victory at San Jacinto; Lone Star Republic (pages 404–405)

How did Texas win its independence?

Under Sam Houston's command, the Texans captured Santa Anna near the San Jacinto River in April 1836. Houston forced Santa Anna to sign a treaty giving Texas its independence.

In September 1836, Texans proclaimed Texas an independent nation and adopted the nickname **Lone Star Republic**. Texans elected Sam Houston as president. Many Americans wanted Texas to be a part of the United States. So in 1836, the Texas government asked Congress to *annex* Texas into the Union.

Many Northerners objected because they did not want another slave state. Other people feared that annexing Texas would lead to war with Mexico. Congress voted against annexation, and Texas remained a republic for almost ten years.

6. Why were Northerners against annexing Texas?

The War with Mexico

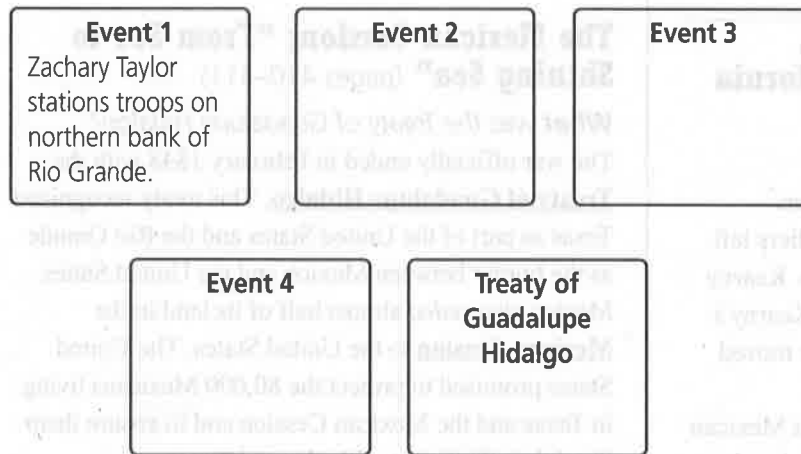
BEFORE YOU READ

In the last section, you read about how Texas gained its independence from Mexico.

In this section, you will learn how the War with Mexico extended the United States westward.

AS YOU READ

Use this diagram to take notes on the events that led to the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.



Americans Support Manifest Destiny

(pages 406–407)

What was manifest destiny?

Many Americans believed that the United States was meant to stretch across the continent from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean. A journalist named this belief **manifest destiny**. The idea of manifest destiny became government policy after Americans elected **James K. Polk** as president in 1844.

The idea of manifest destiny was not a new one. By the 1840s, thousands of Americans had moved into the Oregon Territory. Both the United States and Britain occupied this area. In his campaign, Polk had talked of taking over all of Oregon. However, in 1846 the United States and Britain agreed to divide Oregon at the 49th parallel. This line determined the boundary between the United States and Canada.

TERMS & NAMES

manifest destiny Belief that the United States would expand across the continent

James K. Polk 11th president of the United States

Zachary Taylor U.S. General in the War with Mexico

Bear Flag Revolt Rebellion by Americans against Mexican rule in California

Winfield Scott U.S. General in the War with Mexico

Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo Treaty ending the War with Mexico

Mexican Cession Vast region given up by Mexico to the United States after the War with Mexico

1. How was Oregon divided?

Troubles with Mexico (pages 407–409)

Why did the United States go to war with Mexico?

In 1845, Congress admitted Texas as a slave state. However, Mexico still claimed Texas as its own. In addition, Texas and Mexico could not agree on the official border between them. Texas claimed the Rio Grande, a river south of San Antonio, as its southern boundary. Mexico insisted on the Nueces River as the border. Polk sent General **Zachary Taylor** and the U.S. army to blockade the Rio Grande. A Mexican *cavalry* unit crossed the Rio Grande and *ambushed* an American patrol, killing or wounding 16 American soldiers. Two days later, Congress declared war, and the War with Mexico began.

Not everyone favored war. Some people felt that the conflict was unjust and did not see the need to declare war. Slavery also became an issue. Southerners saw expansion into Texas as an opportunity to extend slavery. Antislavery representatives introduced a bill that would prevent slavery in any lands taken from Mexico. Despite opposition, the United States plunged into war. In May 1846, General Taylor led troops into Mexico.

2. Why did some people oppose a war with Mexico?

Capturing New Mexico and California

(page 409)

Who was Stephen Kearny?

Shortly after the war began, General Stephen Kearny—a U.S. army officer—and his soldiers left Kansas with orders to occupy New Mexico. Kearny took New Mexico without a fight. Part of Kearny's forces then marched to California, and part moved south toward Mexico.

In California, Americans rebelled against Mexican rule in the **Bear Flag Revolt**. The rebels declared California independent of Mexico and named it the Republic of California. The U.S. army reached California in the fall and joined forces with the rebels. Within weeks, Americans controlled all of California.

3. What happened in New Mexico and California?

The Invasion of Mexico (pages 409–410)

Who led the invasion of Mexico?

U.S. forces invaded Mexico from two directions. General Taylor marched south from Texas to the

Mexican city of Monterrey. Near a ranch called Buena Vista, Taylor met 15,000 Mexican soldiers led by Santa Anna. After two days, Santa Anna retreated. The war in northern Mexico ended.

In southern Mexico, a second force led by General **Winfield Scott** landed at Veracruz and moved toward Mexico City. Despite fierce resistance by Mexican soldiers, Mexico City fell to Scott in September 1847.

4. How did the United States invade Mexico?

The Mexican Cession; “From Sea to Shining Sea” (pages 410–411)

What was the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo?

The war officially ended in February 1848 with the **Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo**. This treaty recognized Texas as part of the United States and the Rio Grande as the border between Mexico and the United States. Mexico also *ceded* almost half of its land in the **Mexican Cession** to the United States. The United States promised to protect the 80,000 Mexicans living in Texas and the Mexican Cession and to ensure them the rights of citizens of the United States.

The United States bought more land from Mexico with the Gadsden Purchase in 1853. This strip of land crossed what is now southern New Mexico and Arizona.

5. What ended the War with Mexico?

The California Gold Rush

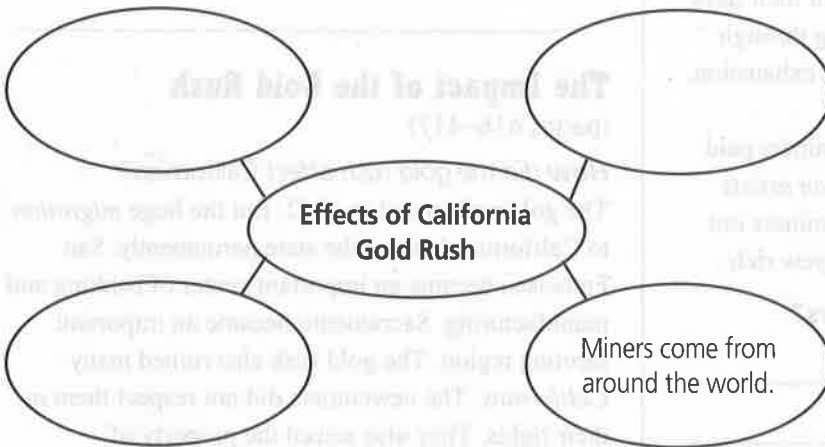
BEFORE YOU READ

In the last section, you read how the War with Mexico extended the United States westward.

In this section, you will learn how the gold rush affected California.

AS YOU READ

Use this diagram to take notes on the effect of the California gold rush.



California Before the Rush

(pages 412–413)

Who were the *forty-niners*?

After gold was discovered in California, many people decided to become **forty-niners**, or people who went to California to find gold, starting in 1849. Before the forty-niners came, California had about 150,000 Native Americans and 6,000 **Californios**—California settlers of Spanish or Mexican descent. Most **Californios** lived on huge cattle ranches. One important **Californio** was **Mariano Vallejo**. He was a member of one of the oldest Spanish families in America and owned 250,000 acres of land.

Mexico did not give land to foreigners. But **John Sutter**, a Swiss immigrant, persuaded the Mexican governor of California to grant him 50,000 acres in the Sacramento Valley. In 1848, Sutter sent a carpenter named **James Marshall** to build a sawmill on the nearby American River. One day, as he was inspecting the canal that brought water to Sutter's Mill, Marshall found gold.

TERMS & NAMES

forty-niner A person who went to California to find gold, starting in 1849

Californio A California settler of Spanish or Mexican descent

Mariano Vallejo A *Californio* and a member of one of the oldest Spanish families in America

John Sutter A California settler on whose land gold was found

James Marshall A carpenter who found gold at Sutter's Mill

California gold rush Occurred when large numbers of people moved to California to find gold, starting in 1849

1. On whose land was gold found in California in 1848?

Rush for Gold (page 413)

What happened after Marshall's discovery?

Once news of Marshall's discovery spread, people raced to the American River. This started the **California gold rush**. A gold rush occurs when large numbers of people move to a site where gold has been found.

Miners soon found gold in other streams flowing out of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Thousands of gold seekers set out to find their fortune. Forty-niners traveling from the East faced a dangerous journey on one of three routes. Some sailed around South America and up the Pacific coast. Others sailed to the Isthmus of Panama, crossed overland, and then sailed to California. Still others traveled the trails across North America.

2. How did forty-niners reach California?

Life in the Mining Camps (page 414)

What was life like in the mining camps?

Mining camps started out as rows of tents. Gradually, the tents gave way to rough wooden buildings that housed stores and saloons. Life in the mining camps was dangerous and hard. Although a few miners grew rich overnight, most did not. Miners spent their days standing knee-deep in icy streams, sifting through mud and sand to find gold. Miners faced exhaustion, poor food, and disease.

In addition to having a difficult life, miners paid high prices for supplies. Gamblers and *con artists* worked the mining camps and *swindled* miners out of their money. As a result, few miners grew rich.

3. Why was life difficult for miners?

Miners from Around the World; Conflicts Among Miners (pages 414–416)

Where did miners come from?

Most of the forty-niners were Americans. However, Native Americans, free blacks, and enslaved African Americans also worked the mines. In addition, miners came from Mexico, Europe, South America, Australia, and China. Most of the Chinese miners were farmers who left China because of several crop failures there. By the end of 1851, one of every ten immigrants was Chinese.

Often the Chinese miners took over sites that American miners had *abandoned* because the easy-to-find gold was gone. Through hard work, the Chinese yielded profits from the used sites. American miners resented the success of the Chinese, and anger toward the Chinese miners grew.

Once the easy-to-find gold was gone, Americans began to force Native Americans and foreigners out of the gold field to reduce competition. After California became a state in 1850, it passed the Foreign Miners tax. This called for miners from other countries to pay \$20 a month. Most foreigners could not pay it and were forced to leave the mine fields.

4. Why did Americans resent Chinese miners?

The Impact of the Gold Rush

(pages 416–417)

How did the gold rush affect Californios?

The gold rush ended in 1852. But the huge *migration* to California changed the state permanently. San Francisco became an important center of banking and manufacturing. Sacramento became an important farming region. The gold rush also ruined many *Californios*. The newcomers did not respect them or their rights. They also seized the property of *Californios*. However, Spanish heritage became an important part of California culture.

Many Native Americans died from diseases brought by newcomers. The miners hunted down and killed thousands more. As a result, by 1870 the Native American population fell from 150,000 to 58,000.

By 1849, California had enough people to apply for statehood. The United States admitted California as a free state in 1850. This upset the balance between free states and slave states, with free states outnumbering slave states.

5. What happened to Native Americans as a result of the gold rush?

Glossary/After You Read

abandon To leave behind

ambush To attack from a hidden place

annex To add to something else

blaze To mark new trails

cavalry Military troops that were trained to fight on horseback

cede To give up

con artist A person who cheats others out of money

empresario A person who agreed to recruit settlers for the land they were given

heritage Something handed down to later generations from earlier generations

merchandise Things that are bought and sold

migration A group moving together from one place to another

mob A large disorderly crowd

prosper To be fortunate or successful

rendezvous A meeting; from a French word meaning "present yourselves"

republic A form of government in which power lies with the voters

swindle To cheat of money or property

Terms & Names

A. Write the letter of the best description or definition of the word.

_____ 1. Mountain men were

- a. farmers.
- b. trappers and explorers.
- c. miners.
- d. ranchers.

_____ 2. Brigham Young was

- a. a Mormon leader.
- b. a mountain man.
- c. a forty-niner.
- d. a *Tejano*.

_____ 3. Antonio López de Santa Anna was

- a. the president of Mexico.
- b. a forty-niner.
- c. a Mormon leader.
- d. the president of the Lone Star Republic.

_____ 4. Sam Houston was

- a. the president of Mexico.
- b. a forty-niner.
- c. a Mormon leader.
- d. the president of the Lone Star Republic.

_____ 5. James Marshall was

- a. a soldier at the Alamo.
- b. a mountain man.
- c. a carpenter who discovered gold at Sutter's Mill.
- d. a famous *Californio*.

B. Write the letter of the name or term that matches the description.

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| a. land speculators | d. manifest destiny |
| b. Mormons | e. John Sutter |
| c. <i>Tejanos</i> | f. <i>Californios</i> |

- _____ 1. People of Spanish heritage who consider Texas their home
- _____ 2. Belief that the United States would expand across the continent
- _____ 3. Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
- _____ 4. People who buy huge areas of land in hope that it will increase in value
- _____ 5. Swiss immigrant who received a land grant in the Sacramento Valley on which gold was found

Main Ideas

1. What was the rendezvous system?

2. What caused tensions between the *Tejanos* and Americans in Texas in the late 1820s?

3. What happened at the Alamo?

4. What were some provisions of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo?

5. Why did California's becoming a state create conflict in the United States?

Thinking Critically

Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper.

1. What do you think would have been the most difficult hardship facing the people who moved westward on the Santa Fe and Oregon trails? Explain.
2. What were some of the causes of the War with Mexico?