

## Lesson 2: The Bear Flag Republic and the Mexican-American War 1846-1848

**Focus Question:** What were the causes and the events of the Bear Flag Republic and the Mexican-American War?

### Activity # 1 Bear Flag Republic and the Mexican-American War

**Materials needed for students:** copy of *Bear Flag Republic and Mexican-American War Statements* (Handout #2.1).  
Harcourt *Reflections*: Unit 3, Lessons 3 and 4, pages 206-217

**Procedure:** (Teacher Note: Refer to page 25 for an answer key.)

- Cut apart a copy of *Bear Flag Republic and Mexican-American War Statements* (Handout #2.1) and give one statement to each student. Some statements are true and some are false.
- Students form a line against one wall of the room if they think their statement is true and against the opposite wall if they think their statement is false.
- Students share their statements with each other in the line they have chosen. Ask if anyone wants to change his/her mind and join the other line now.
- Students return to their desks and refer to their textbook to find information on their statement to determine if their statement is true or false and record the page number on the copy of the statement that verifies whether the statement is true or false.
- Students line up again to demonstrate whether or not their statement is true or false. Students share and discuss the statements with their group. Finally, each student shares with the class proof as to why their particular statement is true or false.
- As an assessment, distribute a copy of Handout #2.1 to all students and have them record whether each statement is true or false. If the statement is false, students should correct it to make it true.

### Activity # 2 Living History Bio-sketches

Have the 6 students who are portraying the settler, President James L. Polk, the ranchero, General Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo, the Bear Flagger, and John D. Sloat present their *Living History Oral Presentation* to the class.

### Activity # 3 Time Line of the Mexican-American War.

**Materials needed for each student:** *The Mexican-American War* (Handout # 2.2)  
Harcourt *Reflections*: Lesson 4 The Mexican-American War pages 212-217

On Handout # 2.2, locate and write the page number for each event in the left-column. Cut the statements apart and arrange them in the correct order of events of the Mexican-American War. If desired, students number the events in the proper order.

**Answer Key:** 8, 10, 4, 3, 6, 1, 9, 2, 5, 7

## Activity # 4 Living History Bio-sketches

Have the 5 students who are portraying Robert F. Stockton, Steven Watts Kearney, Kit Carson, Pio Pico and Bernarda Ruiz present their *Living History Oral Presentation* to the class.

Following the oral presentations, ask the students questions to help them identify and interpret the multiple causes and effects of the historic events:

- What were the main events of the Bear Flag Revolt?
- What were the signs that the Mexican government of California was weakening?
- How did the views of Mexican and American leaders differ about Texas?
- What was the reason for the Mexican-American War?
- In regards to the historical era we have been studying, what is the significance of the location of California in relation to Mexico? In relation to the rest of the United States?
- Have the relative advantages and disadvantages of California's location changed over time? To what you attribute this change?
- How did the Mexican-American War affect the people living in California?
- Why did Stephen Watts Kearney send most of his soldiers back to New Mexico?
- What was the result of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo?

## Activity #5 Time Line of California History

With the help of the students, summarize the key events of the era. Select pertinent dates of key events and people and add them in chronological order to the class's **Time Line of California's History**. Identify the *decade* and *century* for each event.

## Assessment



The major assessment for this lesson is for the students who portray an historic person for the class and at the *Living History Museum*. Refer to *The Road to Statehood Living History Museum (pages 1-5)* for a description of the requirements. The prompt and rubric are shown on page 4.

Additional assessment of this lesson is integrated with the instruction and occurs throughout the lesson. The focus questions provide a framework for the evaluation of the lesson. If desired, assemble student's work into a unit portfolio.

- Mark *True* or *False* for each statement on *Bear Flag Republic and Mexican-American War Statements* (Handout #2.1). If the statement is False, correct it to make it True.
- Correctly number the events on *The Mexican-American War* (Handout # 2.2)

## **Bear Flag Republic and Mexican-American War Statements**

(Cut each event apart. Give one event to each student to determine if the statement is True or False.)

1. Many people felt that the United States should expand to reach from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean. This idea became known as manifest destiny.
2. Mexico refused to sell California to the United States.
3. The economy of Mexican California was very strong.
4. All of the landowners wanted Mexico to rule California.
5. The government in Mexico City did not have the money to pay soldiers in California.
6. During his first expedition to the West, John C. Fremont noticed that California was well defended.
7. John Fremont hoped to take control of California.
8. Squatters who lived on California land without permission worried that California's Mexican military leader, Jose Castro, would attack and make them leave.
9. American settlers rebelled and created the Bear Flag Republic.
10. The 30 settlers who marched into the town of Sonoma on June 14, 1846 called themselves the Osos. *Oso* is the Spanish word meaning "bear."
11. The Bear Flag Revolt began in Sacramento.
12. A republic is a form of government in which people elect their leaders.

13. The Mexican-American War was partly about a disagreement over the state of Arkansas.
14. The United States invited Texas to become a state which made Mexico angry since they considered Texas to be part of Mexico even though Texas had declared themselves independent in 1836.
15. The United States declared war on Mexico on May 13, 1846.
16. President George W. Bush ordered John D. Sloat, a commander in the United States Navy, to sail to Monterey, the capital of Mexican California.
17. John D. Sloat sailed into Monterey on July 2, 1846 and took over the city without firing a shot.
18. After John D. Sloat, Robert F. Stockton became the leader of the fight for California.
19. Stockton made the Bear Flaggers a part of the United States Army.
20. The Californios lost the Battle of San Pasqual.
21. The Mexican governor Pio Pico and his brother, General Andres Pico, organized the surrender of Californians with John Fremont.
22. The Treaty of Cahuenga ended the fighting in California.
23. The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo officially ended the Mexican-American War.
24. Because of advice from Bernarda Ruiz, John Fremont decided to punish the Californios who had fought against the Americans.
25. After the Mexican-American War the Californios became citizens of the United States and were allowed to keep the land they had owned before the war.

## **Bear Flag Republic and Mexican-American War Statements (Teacher's Guide)**

1. Many people felt that the United States should expand to reach from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean. This idea became known as manifest destiny. **True**
2. Mexico refused to sell California to the United States. **True**
3. The economy of Mexican California was very strong. **False (weak)**
4. All of the landowners wanted Mexico to rule California. **False (some)**
5. The government in Mexico City did not have the money to pay soldiers in California. **True**
6. During his first expedition to the West, John C. Fremont noticed that California was well defended. **False (not well defended)**
7. John Fremont hoped to take control of California. **True**
8. Squatters who lived on California land without permission worried that California's Mexican military leader, Jose Castro, would attack and make them leave. **True**
9. American settlers rebelled and created the Bear Flag Republic. **True**
10. The 30 settlers who marched into the town of Sonoma on June 14, 1846 called themselves the Osos. *Oso* is the Spanish word meaning "bear." **True**
11. The Bear Flag Revolt began in Sacramento. **False (Sonoma)**
12. A republic is a form of government in which people elect their leaders. **True**
13. The Mexican-American War was partly about a disagreement over the state of Arkansas. **False (Texas)**
14. The United States invited Texas to become a state which made Mexico angry since they considered Texas to be part of Mexico even though Texas had declared themselves independent in 1836. **True**
15. The United States declared war on Mexico on May 13, 1846. **True**
16. President George W. Bush ordered John D. Sloat, a commander in the United States Navy, to sail to Monterey, the capital of Mexican California. **False (President James K. Polk)**
17. John D. Sloat sailed into Monterey on July 2, 1846 and took over the city without firing a shot. **True**
18. After John D. Sloat, Robert F. Stockton became the leader of the fight for California. **True**
19. Stockton made the Bear Flaggers a part of the United States Army. **True**
20. The Californios lost the Battle of San Pasqual. **False (won)**
21. The Mexican governor Pio Pico and his brother, General Andres Pico, organized the surrender of Californian with John Fremont. **True**
22. The Treaty of Cahuenga ended the fighting in California. **True**
23. The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo officially ended the Mexican-American War. **True**
24. Because of advice from Bernarda Ruiz, John Fremont decided to punish the Californios who had fought against the Americans. **False (not to punish)**
25. After the Mexican-American War the Californios became citizens of the United States of America and were allowed to keep the land they had owned before the war. **True**

## The Mexican-American War

Locate and write the page number for each event in the left-column. Cut the statements apart and arrange them in the correct chronological order of events.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Mexican Governor Pio Pico and General Andres' Pico arrange the surrender of California.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The United States and Mexico sign the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, ending the Mexican-American War.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Robert F. Stockton sends a group of the Bear Flaggers to take control of other California cities.
- \_\_\_\_\_ John D. Sloat sails to Monterrey and takes over the city.
- \_\_\_\_\_ American troops fight the Californios at Dominguez Rancho, and the Californios win.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Texas wins its independence from Mexico.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Mexican and American leaders sign the Treaty of Cahuenga, ending the fighting in California.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The United States declares war on Mexico.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Robert F. Stockton leaves Archibald Gillespie in charge of Los Angeles, and some Californios rebel.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Californios surprise the American troops and win the Battle of Pasqual.

Source: Harcourt Reflections: Homework and Practice Book page 54

## Mexican-American War Timeline

### Page Number and Correct Order

(Teacher Key)

1836 p. 212- 213	<u>1</u>	Texas wins its independence from Mexico.
May 13, 1846 p. 213	<u>2</u>	The United States declares war on Mexico.
July 2 1846 p. 213	<u>3</u>	John D. Sloat sails to Monterey and takes over the city.
p. 214 Para #2	<u>4</u>	Robert F. Stockton sends a group of the Bear Flaggers to take control of other California cities.
p. 214 Para #4	<u>5</u>	Robert F. Stockton leaves Archibald Gillespie in charge of Los Angeles, and some Californios rebel.
p. 214 Para #4	<u>6</u>	American troops fight the Californios at Dominguez Rancho, and the Californios win.
p. 215	<u>7</u>	Californios surprise the American troops and win the Battle of Pasqual.
p. 216 Para #2	<u>8</u>	Mexican Governor Pio Pico and General Andres' Pico arrange the surrender of California.
p. 216 Para #4	<u>9</u>	Mexican and American leaders sign the Treaty of Cahuenga, ending the fighting in California.
p. 216 Para #4	<u>10</u>	The United States and Mexico sign the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, ending the Mexican-American War.