Three Paths West

Trace how three different decisions added land to the United States.

8.C.9.2.A "Summarize the series of events and the processes used to annex Texas, as well as acquire the Mexican Cession and the Gadsden Purchase."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Number the three land acquisitions in the order they happened. For each one, underline the words that tell how the United States acquired the land.

How the Land Was Added

1. In 1836, Texas declared independence from Mexico after a war. Mexico did not recognize the new republic, but Texas governed itself and later sought to join the United States. Many Americans argued over annexation, or adding land to a country, because Texas allowed slavery. A treaty to annex Texas failed in the U.S. Senate in 1844. Congress then chose a different path: a joint resolution, which needed a simple majority in each house. Texas accepted the offer and became a U.S. state in December 1845.

2. Annexation sharpened a border dispute. Texas claimed that its southern boundary was the Rio Grande; Mexico said the boundary was farther north, at the Nueces River. President James K. Polk sent U.S. troops into the disputed area. Fighting there in 1846 led Congress to declare war on Mexico. After U.S. forces captured Mexico City, the two countries signed the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848. Mexico recognized the Rio Grande border and ceded a vast western region, called the Mexican Cession, to the United States. The United States paid Mexico $15 million.

3. The treaty did not settle every land question. U.S. leaders wanted a route for a southern railroad, but a possible path crossed land still held by Mexico. In 1853, U.S. minister James Gadsden negotiated a purchase of land south of the Mexican Cession. The two governments revised the agreement, and the U.S. Senate approved the treaty in 1854. The United States paid Mexico $10 million for land now in southern Arizona and New Mexico. Unlike Texas, this land did not enter as a state; it was added by a purchase treaty.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Texas go from a self-governing republic to a U.S. state? Include the method that failed and the one that worked.

2. Trace the events from the Texas border disagreement to the Mexican Cession.

3. What did the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo change, and what did the United States pay?

4. Why did U.S. leaders seek the Gadsden Purchase, and how did they acquire it?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write an 80 to 100 word museum label titled “Three Paths to New Land.” Connect all three acquisitions in order, explain how each happened, and show one way an earlier event led to a later one.

ANSWER KEY

Three Paths West

GRADE 8 · 8.C.9.2.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Number the three land acquisitions in the order they happened. For each one, underline the words that tell how the United States acquired the land. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Texas go from a self-governing republic to a U.S. state? Include the method that failed and the one that worked.	**Texas sought to join the United States. An annexation treaty failed in the Senate, but Congress passed a joint resolution that Texas accepted, and Texas became a state in 1845.**
2	Trace the events from the Texas border disagreement to the Mexican Cession.	**Texas and Mexico claimed different borders. Polk sent troops into the disputed area, fighting began, and Congress declared war. After U.S. forces captured Mexico City, the countries signed a treaty that ceded the Mexican Cession.**
3	What did the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo change, and what did the United States pay?	**Mexico recognized the Rio Grande border and ceded the Mexican Cession to the United States. The United States paid Mexico $15 million.**
4	Why did U.S. leaders seek the Gadsden Purchase, and how did they acquire it?	**They wanted land for a southern railroad route. Gadsden negotiated a purchase, the Senate approved the revised treaty in 1854, and the United States paid Mexico $10 million.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Three Paths to New Land: Texas governed itself after declaring independence from Mexico. When an annexation treaty failed, Congress offered statehood through a joint resolution, and Texas joined in 1845. Its disputed border with Mexico helped lead to war. The 1848 peace treaty ended that war, set the Rio Grande as the border, and transferred the Mexican Cession to the United States for $15 million. Later, leaders sought land for a southern railroad route. A purchase treaty approved in 1854 added the Gadsden Purchase for $10 million.

Accept summaries that distinguish Texas annexation by joint resolution, the Mexican Cession by a treaty ending war, and the Gadsden Purchase by a purchase treaty. The museum label should place them in order and include a supported cause-and-effect link.