Land and Consequences

Trace how U.S. territory grew and who was affected.

8.C.9.2 "Analyze the territorial growth of the United States of America and the consequences of westward expansion. Summarize the series of events and the processes used to annex Texas..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three ways the United States gained western land, circle two consequences for people already living there, and number two sentences that show how expansion fueled political conflict.

A Changing West

1. In 1836, Texas declared independence from Mexico after a war. Mexico did not recognize Texas as independent, yet in 1845 the United States annexed it as a state. Disputes over the border helped spark the Mexican-American War in 1846. The 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ended the war: Mexico ceded a vast region, including California, to the United States. The treaty offered U.S. citizenship and protected property rights for Mexicans living there, but many Mexican Americans later lost land through costly court battles, fraud, or forced displacement.

2. In 1853, the United States paid Mexico for the Gadsden Purchase, a strip of land south of the Mexican Cession sought for a possible southern railroad route. Expansion also came through migration. In Oregon, farming families followed trails to claim land and build communities. In California, gold seekers hoped for quick wealth, but many faced dangerous work and little profit. Mormon migrants traveled to the Great Salt Lake Valley to build a community where they could practice their religion. Each group sought opportunity, but their goals and daily experiences differed.

3. For American Indian nations, newcomers' claims to land were not empty spaces on a map. Settlers, miners, and soldiers entered Native homelands, disrupted food sources and cultural practices, and challenged Tribal sovereignty, the power of nations to govern themselves. Meanwhile, each new territory raised a question in Congress: Would slavery be allowed there? Leaders tried to preserve a balance of free and slave states to protect political power in the Senate. Arguments over slavery in lands taken from Mexico deepened the divide between North and South, even as migration continued.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the annexation of Texas help lead to the Mexican Cession?

2. How did the later experiences of many Mexican Americans differ from what the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo offered?

3. Compare what drew gold seekers to California with what drew Mormon migrants to the Great Salt Lake Valley. How did their experiences differ?

4. How did westward expansion create conflict for American Indian nations and between leaders in Congress?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a five-sentence museum label that links the annexation of Texas, the Mexican Cession, and the Gadsden Purchase as a chain of territorial growth. Explain one consequence for people already living in the West and how expansion increased conflict over slavery.

ANSWER KEY

Land and Consequences

GRADE 8 · 8.C.9.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three ways the United States gained western land, circle two consequences for people already living there, and number two sentences that show how expansion fueled political conflict. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the annexation of Texas help lead to the Mexican Cession?	**After the United States annexed Texas, a border dispute helped spark the Mexican-American War. Mexico ceded land to the United States in the treaty that ended the war.**
2	How did the later experiences of many Mexican Americans differ from what the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo offered?	**The treaty offered citizenship and protected property rights, but many Mexican Americans later lost land through court battles, fraud, or displacement.**
3	Compare what drew gold seekers to California with what drew Mormon migrants to the Great Salt Lake Valley. How did their experiences differ?	**Gold seekers hoped for quick wealth, but many found dangerous work and little profit. Mormon migrants sought a place to practice their religion and built a community there.**
4	How did westward expansion create conflict for American Indian nations and between leaders in Congress?	**Newcomers entered Native homelands and challenged Tribal sovereignty. In Congress, leaders argued over slavery in new territories and the balance of free and slave states.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The United States annexed Texas in 1845, and a border dispute with Mexico helped lead to war. After the war, Mexico ceded a vast region to the United States in the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. In 1853, the United States bought the Gadsden Purchase for a possible southern railroad route. As newcomers moved west, American Indian nations faced threats to their homelands and self-government. The new territories also led to arguments over slavery and the balance of free and slave states.

Accept other accurate links between the three acquisitions and their consequences. For the treaty question, students may note that citizenship was offered, while land protections were not always upheld.