

Borders and Consequences

Trace how a border dispute changed the United States.

8.6.C “explain the causes and effects of the U.S.-Mexican War and their impact on the United States.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the actions or disagreements that caused the war. Circle each effect of the war, then write 1 beside effects that changed U.S. land and 2 beside effects that changed people or politics.

A War That Reshaped a Nation

- ① In the 1840s, many U.S. leaders supported Manifest Destiny, the belief that the United States should expand across North America. Texas had won independence from Mexico in 1836, and the United States annexed Texas in 1845. Mexico still viewed Texas as its territory. The two nations also disagreed about Texas's southern border. Mexico said the Nueces River was the boundary, while the United States claimed the Rio Grande. President James K. Polk sent troops into the disputed area, increasing tension between both nations.
- ② In April 1846, fighting broke out near the Rio Grande. Polk told Congress that Mexico had shed American blood on American soil, though Mexico saw the land as disputed. Congress declared war in May. U.S. forces won major battles, captured Mexico City in 1847, and pressured Mexico to negotiate. The 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ended the war. Mexico accepted the Rio Grande boundary and ceded a vast northern area, including present-day California, Nevada, and Utah, to the United States. The United States paid Mexico \$15 million.
- ③ The war greatly changed the United States. It gave the nation land reaching the Pacific Ocean, encouraging settlement, trade, and a rush for California gold after 1848. Yet the new territory reopened a fierce political question: would slavery expand westward? Arguments over that issue deepened sectional conflict between North and South before the Civil War. The treaty promised citizenship and property protections to Mexican residents living in the ceded lands, but many lost land or faced discrimination. The war also gave officers such as Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee experience later used in the Civil War.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did the disagreement over Texas's southern border help cause the U.S.-Mexican War?

2 What military events pressured Mexico to negotiate an end to the war?

3 Name two terms of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. Then explain how one term changed the United States.

4 How did land gained after the war contribute to later conflict within the United States?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a four-sentence claim about whether U.S. territorial gain from the war brought only benefits or also costs. Use two specific facts from the passage and explain how each fact supports your claim.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the actions or disagreements that caused the war. Circle each effect of the war, then write 1 beside effects that changed U.S. land and 2 beside effects that changed people or politics. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the disagreement over Texas's southern border help cause the U.S.-Mexican War?	Mexico claimed the Nueces River as the border, while the United States claimed the Rio Grande. Polk's decision to send troops into the disputed area increased tension and led to fighting.
2	What military events pressured Mexico to negotiate an end to the war?	U.S. forces won major battles and captured Mexico City in 1847, pressuring Mexico to negotiate.
3	Name two terms of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. Then explain how one term changed the United States.	Mexico accepted the Rio Grande boundary, ceded a vast northern area to the United States, and received \$15 million. The ceded land gave the United States territory reaching the Pacific Ocean.
4	How did land gained after the war contribute to later conflict within the United States?	The new territory raised the question of whether slavery would expand westward. Arguments over slavery deepened conflict between the North and South before the Civil War.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The territorial gain brought opportunities, but it also created serious costs. Land reaching the Pacific encouraged settlement and trade, which benefited the United States. However, the new territory intensified arguments about slavery between North and South. Many Mexican residents also lost land or faced discrimination, showing that expansion harmed people as well.

Accept claims that identify both opportunity and cost, or a well-supported claim focused on one side. Students should use two accurate passage details and explain the connection between each detail and the claim.