

Mexican-American War Quiz Study Guide

Name _____ Period _____ Date _____

Circle the correct answer:

1. From what war did the United States acquire most of its land in the southwest?
 - A. Southwest War
 - B. Mexican-Texas War
 - C. Mexican-American War
 - D. War of Texas Independence
2. What was the main reason that Texas remained an independent republic after winning freedom from Mexico instead of immediately joining the United States?
 - A. Most Southerners did not want another Free State in the Union
 - B. Most Northerners did not want another Slave State in the Union
 - C. Texas wanted to stay a free republic and did not want to join the United States
 - D. Mexican pressure on the United States kept Texas from being admitted as a state
3. What was the belief by many Americans that the United States was obviously meant to expand and spread across the North American continent?
 - A. God's Will
 - B. Common Sense
 - C. Manifest Destiny
 - D. The Republic's Right
4. What was the main reason that the United States fought against Mexico?
 - A. Mexico wanted to take territory that America had gained from the Louisiana Purchase
 - B. France wanted to take over Mexico and the Americans would not let it happen
 - C. Disputes about trade between Mexico and the United States
 - D. Disputes about the border between Texas and Mexico
5. What American group considered the war to be a Southern plot to add more slave states to the Union?
 - A. Abolitionists
 - B. Federalists
 - C. States' Rights Advocates
 - D. Whigs
6. What river did Texas claim as its southern boundary?
 - A. Gulf of Mexico
 - B. Nueces River
 - C. Colorado River
 - D. Rio Grande

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7. What American general attacked Mexico from the North and won the Battle of Buena Vista?

- A. Robert E. Lee
- B. Jefferson Davis
- C. Winfield Scott
- D. Zachary Taylor

8. What American general landed soldiers at Vera Cruz, and then marched inland and captured Mexico City?

- A. Robert E. Lee
- B. Jefferson Davis
- C. Winfield Scott
- D. Zachary Taylor

9. What treaty ended the Mexican-American war, and gave the United States the land known as the “Mexican Cession?”

- A. Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo
- B. Treaty of Ghent
- C. Treaty of Paris
- D. Treaty of Mexico City

10. What agreement allowed the United States to acquire land for a proposed southern route of a transcontinental railroad? This agreement completed the acquisition of land in the “lower 48” states.

- A. Mexican Purchase
- B. Gadsden Purchase
- C. Louisiana Purchase
- D. Southwest Purchase

11. On a separate sheet of paper write your name and section and answer the following question, using at least three examples:

During America’s Manifest Destiny years our nation grew from coast to coast. Our size and power grew tremendously. There were many positives to this growth, but there were negatives as well.

In your opinion, was America doing right to expand past our Rocky Mountain borders the entire way to the Pacific Coast? Would America be the nation it is today without acquiring that land? Should we have gone even further by taking Canada and Mexico like some Americans at the time believed we should? Explain.

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Answers:

1. C. Mexican-American War
2. B. Most Northerners did not want another Slave State in the Union
3. C. Manifest Destiny
4. D. Disputes about the border between Texas and Mexico
5. A. Abolitionists
6. D. Rio Grande
7. D. Zachary Taylor
8. C. Winfield Scott
9. A. Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo
10. B. Gadsden Purchase