

speak in public. They won over thousands of converts to the abolitionist cause.

Women, however, were not welcome to the cause—they were believed to be intruding into the male sphere. In Massachusetts ministers spoke out against the women reformers. When abolitionists Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton tried to attend an Anti-Slavery Convention in London, they were denied recognition. Mott, Stanton, and the Grimké sisters all came to the same conclusion: to be effective reformers they would have to achieve a broader role for women in society. In Sarah Grimké's words, "All I ask our brethren is that they will take their heels from our necks and permit us to stand upright on that ground which God designed us to occupy."

In 1848 the women's rights movement formally began when Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton called for a meeting at Seneca Falls, New York. The gathering of some 100 men and women endorsed a Declaration of Women's Rights. Among the rights they called for was the right to vote. It would be a long time in coming.

### ★ Historical Documents

For an excerpt from the Seneca Falls Declaration of Sentiments, see page R19 of this book.

### SECTION REVIEW

- 1. KEY TERMS** lyceum, utopia, abolitionist
- 2. PEOPLE** Sarah Hale, William Lloyd Garrison, Sarah and Angelina Grimké, Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton
- 3. COMPREHENSION** By what means did reformers seek to influence public opinion?
- 4. COMPREHENSION** What was the relationship between the abolitionist movement and the women's rights movement?
- 5. CRITICAL THINKING** How were the calls for reform a response to problems created by the Industrial Revolution?

## 5 Heading West

### ★ Section Focus

★ **Key Terms** Oregon Trail ■ Santa Fe Trail  
★ ■ manifest destiny ■ Mexican War  
★ ■ Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo

★ **Main Idea** As a result of both diplomacy and  
★ a war with Mexico, the borders of the  
★ United States expanded south to the Rio  
★ Grande and west to the Pacific Ocean.

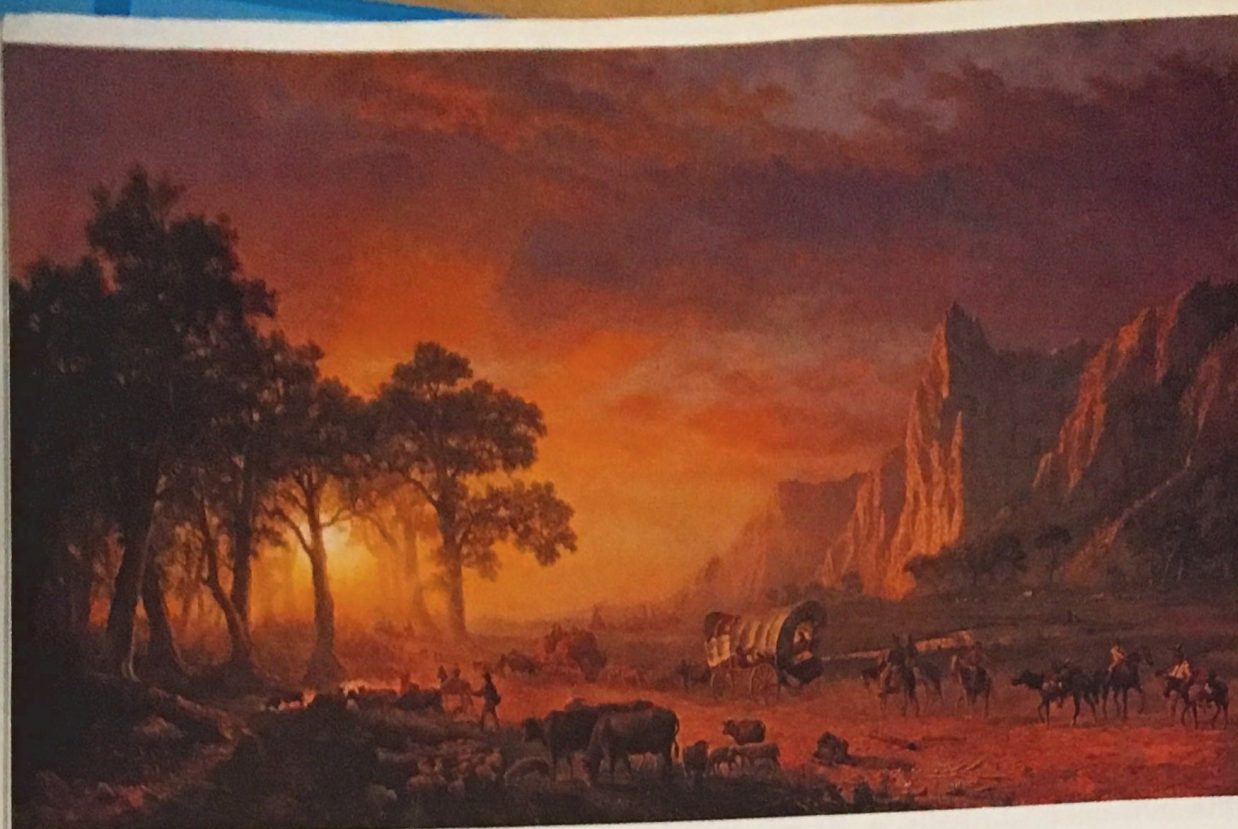
★ **Objectives** As you read, look for answers to  
★ these questions:

- ★
- ★ 1. What was the role of traders in the expansion of the frontier?
  - ★ 2. Why did the United States go to war with Mexico?
  - ★ 3. What caused massive migrations to the Great Salt Lake basin? To California?
- ★

Westward-moving Americans had always been a step ahead of their government. Restless, eager, adventurous, and greedy, the Americans of the Jacksonian era pushed beyond the borders of the United States. This westward thrust was three-pronged: into New Mexico, into Texas, and into California and Oregon. With the exception of Oregon, it was a thrust into Mexican territory.

### OREGON COUNTRY

Since the 1790s both Britain and the United States had claimed the Oregon Country (map, page 219). In 1811 John Jacob Astor's American Fur Company set up a trading post at Astoria at the mouth of the Columbia River. The British soon took it over, however, in the War of 1812. After the war, the British and the Americans agreed



Beginning in the 1840s, thousands of Americans made the grueling six-month trek on the Oregon Trail from Independence, Missouri, to the Willamette Valley. The stream of settlers became so heavy that the wheels of their ox-drawn wagons wore grooves in the trail that are still visible. Landscape artist Albert Bierstadt painted this image of life on the trail.

**CULTURE** How would you describe Bierstadt's attitude toward nature?

that settlers from both countries could move into the Oregon Country.

By the 1820s the Hudson's Bay Company, a British fur-trading firm, had Oregon firmly in its control. Managing the company's fur-trading enterprise in Oregon was John McLoughlin. The huge, white-haired Scotsman ruled with such firmness and fairness that the Indians called him "White Eagle."

American fur traders—called mountain men—were reluctant to challenge McLoughlin. From their base at St. Louis they turned their attention to the Rocky Mountains. The towering Rockies, however, presented a problem. No one knew a good way to cross the range.

In 1823 mountain man Jedediah Smith was on the lookout for a route into the mountains. While spending the winter with the Crow Indians in Wyoming, Smith learned about a pass over the mountains. So excited was he at the prospect of crossing the mountains, he set out in winter and indeed found South Pass. The result of Smith's trailblazing was the **Oregon Trail**.

In the 1830s, with mountain men as guides, American missionaries traveled the route to Oregon. Their glowing reports of Oregon's fertile Willamette River valley had great impact. A wagon train of 800 men, women, and children arrived in 1843. Over the following four years, some 4,000 settlers moved into Oregon.

### INTO MEXICAN TERRITORY

Spain had discouraged trade, or contact of any kind, between its colonial outposts and Americans. American traders who ventured into Spanish territory were jailed or expelled. That changed with Mexican independence in 1821.

The news of Mexican independence inspired William Becknell of Franklin, Missouri. For a decade American traders had eyed Santa Fe, an outpost in the Mexican province of New Mexico. With a caravan of pack animals and four companions, Becknell set out for Santa Fe carrying such goods as hardware, cloth, needles, and china. He made a handsome profit and became known as the father of the **Santa Fe Trail**. Thereafter, trading caravans crossed the plains each year until 1844 when Mexico closed Santa Fe to Americans. Mexico's action came too late. Americans had already seen that Mexico's hold on its northern provinces was weak.

Mexican independence also opened California (then part of Mexico) to American traders. Yankee ship traders arrived in California to trade with the *Californios*, the Spanish-speaking residents of the region. The *Californios* ran huge ranches on land given to them by the Mexican government. Cattle and horses thrived with little care on California's fertile grasslands. Indian laborers performed much of the drudgery, including preparing cattle hides and tallow for export.

## WESTWARD ROUTES



### MAP SKILLS

This map shows the main routes to the American West. Use the map's scale to determine the distance between Fort Walla Walla and Fort Vancouver. What was the name of the trail leading to Salt Lake City? **CRITICAL THINKING** Why were forts built along these trails?

On board one of the American ships trading in California was a college student, Richard Henry Dana. His book, *Two Years Before the Mast* (1840), stirred the interest of Americans about California. "In the hands of an enterprising people, what a country this might be!" he wrote. Over the next few years, Americans began to find their way overland to California. In 1845 California's non-Indian population was 7,000. About 700 of these were Americans.

### SETTLING TEXAS

Texas was yet another portion of Mexico that attracted Americans. Although the terms of the Adams-Onís Treaty (1819) recognized Texas as

part of Mexico, westerners had never accepted that fact. Missouri senator Thomas Hart Benton said he hoped to take over Texas "whenever it could be done with peace and honor."

Not long after the Adams-Onís Treaty was signed, American settlers were crossing the border into Texas. The first American settlement was San Felipe de Austin, laid out by Stephen F. Austin in 1823. The Mexican government had granted Americans the right to settle in Texas if they were Catholic and pledged loyalty to Mexico. By 1830 the American community in Texas had grown to about 10,000, including 1,000 slaves. The Texans talked hopefully of the time when they would be part of the United States.

The Mexican government, alarmed by the growing settlement, tried to place limits on the Texans. In 1830 Mexico prohibited immigration into Texas and the importation of slaves. It also placed sky-high duties on imports from the United States. Texans saw only one solution to these unpopular measures: revolt.

### AN INDEPENDENT TEXAS

Late in 1835 the Texans attacked, driving the Mexican forces from the Alamo, an abandoned mission in San Antonio. In response, the Mexican leader Santa Anna swept northward early the following year with several thousand troops. He stormed and destroyed the small American garrison in the Alamo. Six weeks later, on April 21, 1836, the Texans struck back. Led by Sam Houston, they defeated Santa Anna at the Battle of San Jacinto. Texas was now independent.

Texans had hoped to join the Union at once, but this was not to be. Admission of Texas would mean one more slave state, and many northerners were determined to stop the spread of slavery. Government leaders also feared that annexing Texas would mean war with Mexico.

### THE ELECTION OF POLK

What to do about Texas became an issue in the presidential campaign of 1844. Most people thought that the Democrats would nominate Martin Van Buren, Jackson's successor, for President. Van Buren had a fatal flaw, however: he opposed

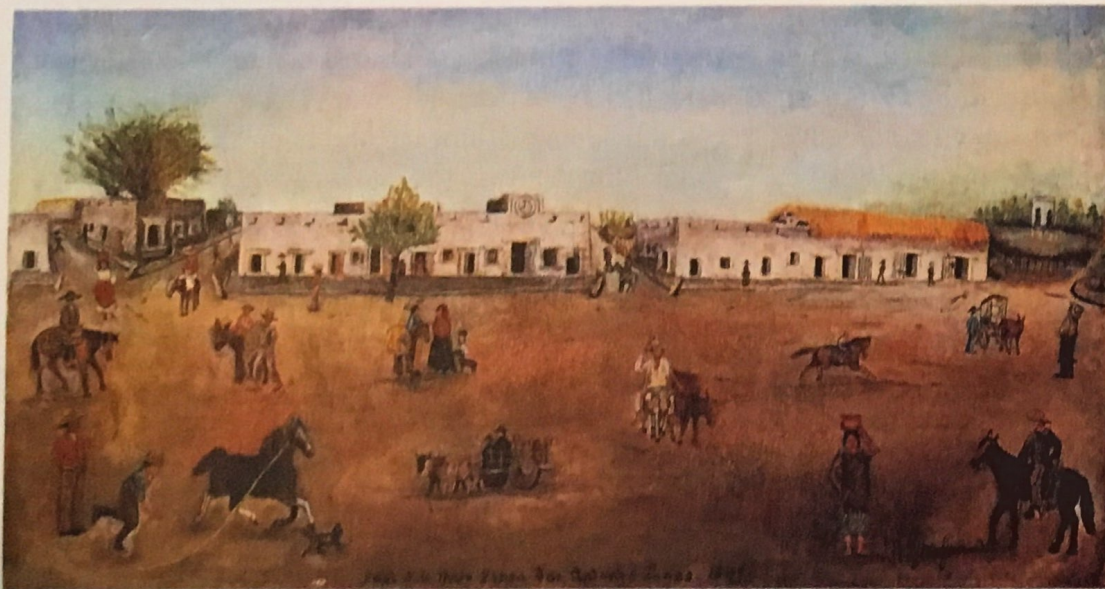
Texas annexation. Southern and western Democrats forced the party to look elsewhere. The party choice for the 1844 election was the little-known James K. Polk of Tennessee.

Polk believed the annexation of Texas was both a necessity and a right. He also pleased northerners by urging "the re-occupation of Oregon." Polk's ideas reflected a surge of feeling in the United States that it was the destiny of the nation to stretch from sea to sea. The Atlantic and the Pacific oceans, many felt, were our "natural boundaries." The acquisition of Oregon, California, and Texas was, a newspaper declared, the nation's **manifest destiny**.

The election of Polk as President in 1844 signaled a new interest in **western expansion**. Congress quickly voted to annex Texas, which entered the Union in late 1845. Then Polk prodded the British into negotiations over Oregon. In 1846 they accepted Polk's offer to divide Oregon Country at the forty-ninth parallel. The American half would become the states of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho.

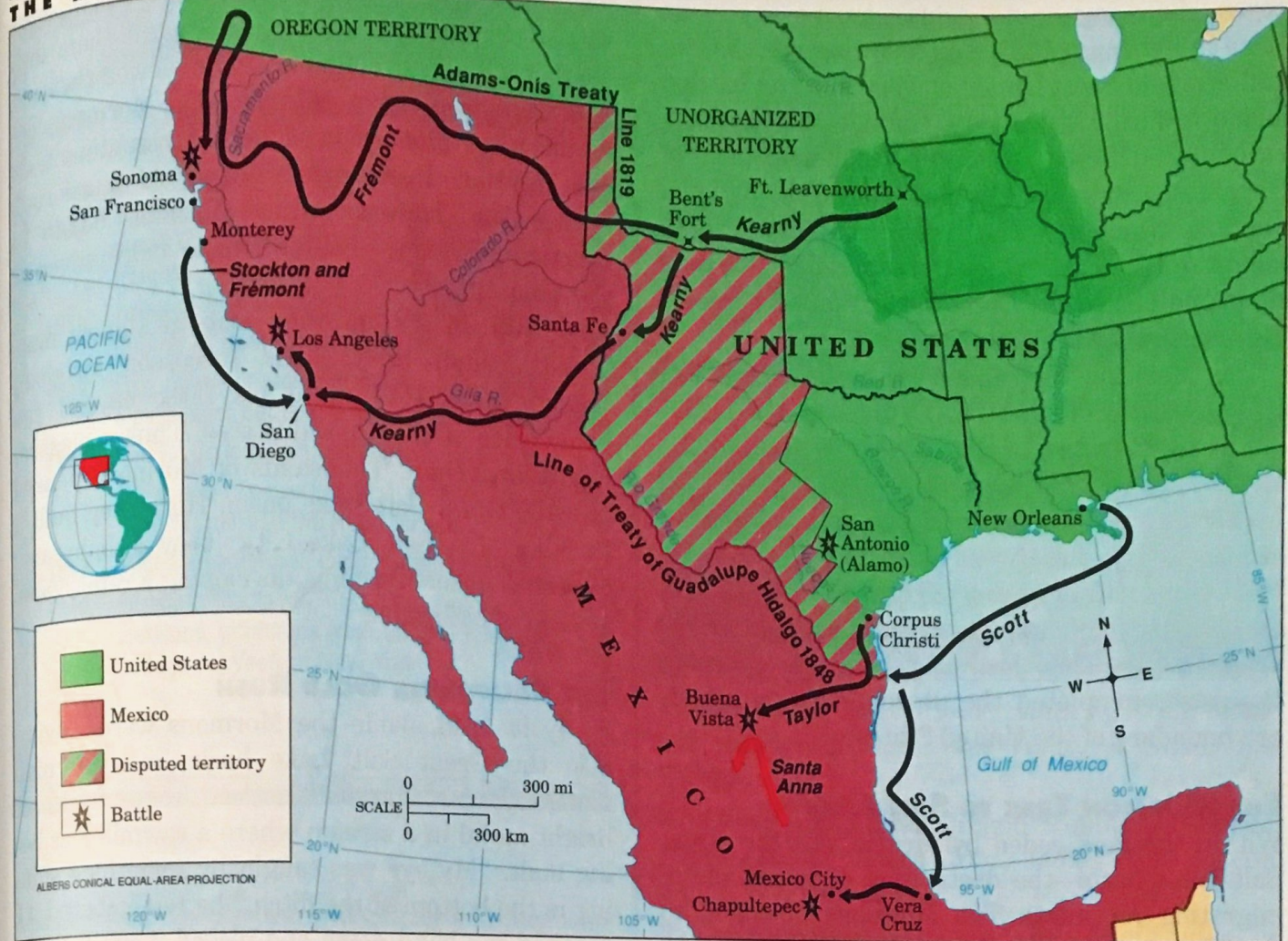
### WAR WITH MEXICO

Polk also tried to negotiate with Mexico. He sent special envoy John Slidell to Mexico with an offer to set the southern boundary of Texas at the Rio Grande and to buy New Mexico and California. **When Mexican officials refused to meet with Slidell, Polk became convinced that only war with Mexico could settle the issue.**



Spanish missionaries founded San Antonio in 1718. During the mid-1800s, when this picture was made, San Antonio was home to about 4,000 people. Today, it is one of the ten largest cities in the United States. **ECONOMICS** Judging from the picture, what was San Antonio's main economic activity?

## THE MEXICAN WAR, 1846-1848



### MAP SKILLS

During the Mexican War, United States forces battled Mexicans from the Pacific coast to Mexico City. Who led American troops in the battle of Buena Vista? **CRITICAL THINKING** Why might southerners and westerners have supported the war while easterners opposed it?

Polk had already sent General Zachary Taylor to occupy territory near the Rio Grande and protect the frontier. When fighting broke out between Taylor's troops and Mexican soldiers in May 1846, Polk had his excuse for war: Mexico "has invaded our territory and shed American blood upon the American soil," Polk told Congress in his War Message.

Most Americans in the South and West were enthusiastic about the Mexican War. In the Northeast, people denounced it. The Massachusetts legislature called it a war of conquest. Abolitionists saw the war as a slavery plot. The expansionists, claimed the poet James Russell Lowell, just wanted "bigger pens to cram with slaves." Nevertheless, opposition to war was never as strong as it had been in 1812. The Mexican War, unlike the

War of 1812, went well for the United States from the very beginning.

American troops enjoyed success in both New Mexico and California. In the summer of 1846 Colonel Stephen Kearny (CAR-nih) seized New Mexico. Meanwhile, Americans in California staged the Bear Flag Revolt against Mexican authorities. Led by explorer John C. Frémont, these Americans then seized California without resistance. The inhabitants of Los Angeles found American rule oppressive. The *Californios* there rebelled, forcing the Americans to withdraw. However, forces under Frémont, Kearny, and naval commander Robert Stockton recaptured Los Angeles in January 1847.

United States forces invaded Mexico from two directions. General Taylor moved south from

Texas, defeating Santa Anna's troops at Buena Vista in February 1847. The following month General Winfield Scott landed at Veracruz and battled inland toward Mexico City. Outside the city they encountered fierce resistance from defenders of Chapultepec, the fortress that housed the national military academy. The young military cadets fought to the death rather than surrender, earning the name *Los Niños Heroicos*, or "young heroes." Mexico City fell in September 1847.

The Mexican War ended with the **Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo** (GWAD-uhl-oop hih-DAL-go) in 1848. In the treaty, Mexico recognized the Rio Grande as a boundary and ceded New Mexico, California, and the land between them (the Mexican Cession) to the United States. Five years later the United States agreed to pay Mexico \$10 million for a strip of land in what is now New Mexico and Arizona. This deal, known as the **Gadsden Purchase**, completed the present-day southwestern boundary of the United States.

### THE MORMON TREK TO SALT LAKE

Within the land ceded by Mexico was the Great Salt Lake basin—the destination of thousands of migrating Mormons. The Mormons belonged to the Church of Latter Day Saints, which Joseph Smith founded in western New York State in 1830.

The Mormons stressed economic cooperation rather than competition. This brought them into conflict with their neighbors, who viewed their cooperation as a form of monopoly. Mormon economic ways alone caused strong resentment on the frontier. Resentment turned to murder and persecution, however, when Mormons began to practice polygamy—having two or more wives at the same time.

In 1844 an anti-Mormon mob in Illinois murdered Joseph Smith. His successor, Brigham Young, decided to move his flock beyond the boundaries of the United States. Thus a mass migration began. Thousands of Mormons poured into the Great Salt Lake basin. Here they built a thriving city, Salt Lake City. They also became expert at desert farming, developing a remarkable system of irrigation.

### THE CALIFORNIA GOLD RUSH

Early in 1848, while the Mormons were moving into the Great Salt Lake basin, a Californian named James Marshall noticed some flecks of bright metal in a stream where a sawmill was being built. "My eye was caught by something shining in the bottom of the ditch," he remembered. "I reached my hand down and picked it up; it made my heart thump, for I was certain it was gold."



This painting shows a Mormon camp meeting at Council Bluffs, Iowa. The town, then known as Kanesville, was settled by Mormons in 1846. It was later renamed to commemorate Lewis and Clark's council there with local Indians in 1804. **RELIGION** Why did the Mormons make the trek to Utah?

## SOCIAL HISTORY

### *Famous Firsts*

- 1828 First complete American dictionary is *An American Dictionary of the English Language*, by Noah Webster.
- 1830 Baltimore & Ohio Railroad opens, first steam railroad to carry passengers and freight.
- 1831 "America" sung publicly in the Park Street Church by Boston school children (July 4).
- 1833 First railway passenger deaths occur when a passenger car overturns in New Jersey.
- 1841 Oberlin College confers degrees on women. Edgar Allan Poe writes first detective story, "The Murders in the Rue Morgue."
- 1847 Michigan abolishes capital punishment.
- 1849 Elizabeth Blackwell, first woman doctor of medicine, graduates from Geneva Medical College of Western New York.

Gold it was. Its discovery at Sutter's Mill caused hearts to thump across the United States and beyond. Several months later a San Francisco newspaper reported:

The whole country from San Francisco to Los Angeles and from the seashore to the base of the Sierra Nevada resounds to the sordid cry of gold, gold!, GOLD! while the field is left half planted, the house half

built and everything neglected but the manufacture of shovels and pickaxes.

The possibility of acquiring instant riches was irresistible—particularly when one's neighbors and family sent back glowing reports from the land of gold. In a letter to his family in Missouri, a goldseeker wrote, "You know Bryant, the carpenter who used to work for Ebenezer Dixon, well, he has dug more gold in the last six months than a mule can pack." Such reports triggered the Gold Rush of 1849. Tens of thousands of "forty-niners" made their way to California by land and by sea. By 1850 California had a non-Indian population of 93,000 and was ready for statehood.

## SECTION REVIEW

1. **KEY TERMS** Oregon Trail, Santa Fe Trail, manifest destiny, Mexican War, Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo
2. **PEOPLE AND PLACES** Oregon Country, Stephen Austin, Alamo, Santa Anna, James Polk, Joseph Smith, Brigham Young
3. **COMPREHENSION** What was the role of traders in the expanding frontier?
4. **COMPREHENSION** What attitudes and events led to the Mexican War?
5. **CRITICAL THINKING** Large numbers of settlers moved to California and the Great Salt Lake basin in the 1840s. What factors today cause people to move from one part of the country to another?

## CHAPTER 7 TIMELINE

