

Mexican American War Geography Activities

50pts

Name: _____

Period: _____

Directions: Study the map below on the Mexican-American War to answer the questions that follow.



1. Which two rivers are listed on the map? _____ (1 pt)

2. What was the northern-most battle that took place? _____ (1 pt)

3. What three battles took place along the Rio Grande? (3 pts)

4. What is the area between Texas and Mexico called? _____ (1 pt)

5. What body of water is to the east of Monterrey? _____ (1 pt)

6. Who won the following battles? (6 pts)

San Gabriel _____ Monterrey _____

San Pasqual _____ Bear Flag Revolt _____

Cerro Gordo _____ El Brazito _____

7. List the years in which the following battles were fought. (6 pts)

Valverde _____ Buena Vista _____

Mexico City _____ Bear Flag Revolt _____

Sacramento _____ Monterrey _____

8. Use the scale provided to determine the estimated distances between the following battlefields. (4 pts)

Bear Flag Revolt to San Pasqual _____ miles

Bear Flag Revolt to El Brazito _____ miles

Sacramento to Mexico City _____ miles

San Gabriel to Valverde _____ miles

Mexican-American Land Changes (Geo. Act)

Directions: Read the paragraphs below and study the line graph carefully. Then answer the questions that follow.

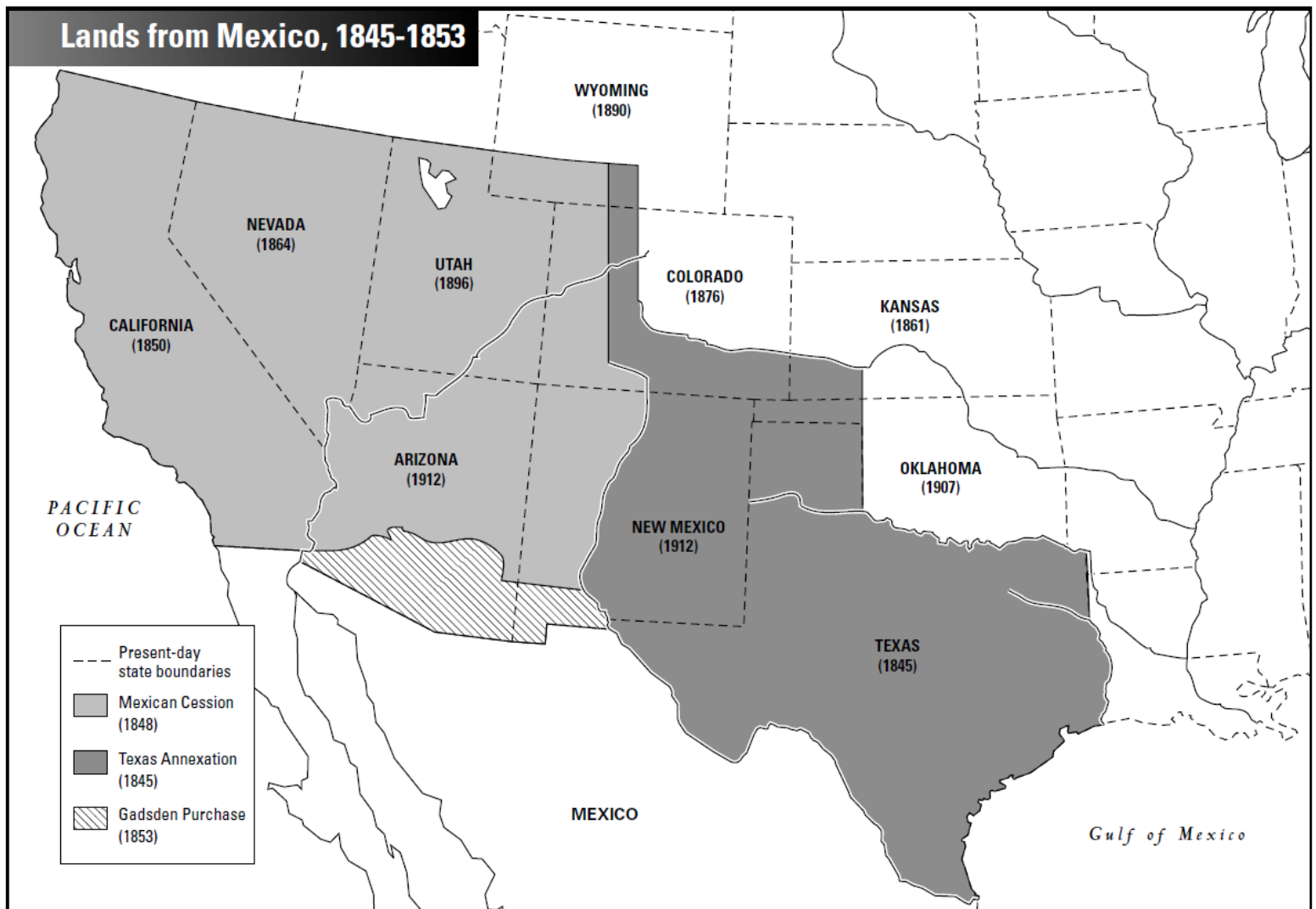
Long-standing tensions between the United States and Mexico erupted into warfare in 1846.

A year earlier the United States had angered Mexico by annexing the independent Republic of Texas and making it a state. Mexico and Texas were still in dispute over the exact borders of Texas, with Mexico refusing to concede that they extended down to the Rio Grande.

Then, when the United States sought to buy from Mexico the disputed Texas territory, as well as the territories of New Mexico and California, the Mexicans refused and war broke out.

The war with Mexico lasted until 1848. At its conclusion the two parties signed a treaty that ceded to the United States, for \$15 million, all the territory it sought. Five years later, seeking a low-mountain passage through which to build a trans-continental railroad, the United States bought, for \$10 million, a strip of land in a deal called the Gadsden Purchase. Thus, between 1845 and 1853 the United States gained more than a million square miles of land from Mexico.

The map below shows the states formed from the land and the years they achieved statehood.



Interpreting Text and Visuals

1. How many present-day states are included, at least in part, in the acquisition from Mexico?

2. Look at the Mexican Cession and think about where the United States began back in 1776. What unique borders did the United States gain when it acquired this territory?

3. Which state acquired part of its land from the Mexican Cession, part from the Gadsden Purchase, and part from the Texas Annexation?

4. In what state is most of the land of the Gadsden Purchase found? _____

5. Which states were fashioned in their entirety from these territories? _____

6. How much did acquiring these three parcels of land cost the United States?

7. Statehood came early for some of the lands acquired from Mexico, such as California and Texas. For other lands, however, statehood came later and for some, not until the 20th century. What might account for the difference in the dates of statehood for these lands?
