

## Manifest Destiny

The belief that the United States was meant to expand all the way west across the North American continent to the west coast.

## To Cede

To give up something, like power or territory. Mexico gave up its land west of Texas as part of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.

## Popular Sovereignty

A principle of government which states that the power of the government is with the people. The primary way people exercise their power is by voting.

## Sectionalism

The growing division between the North and South in which both regions were more loyal to their own region than the country.

## Secede

To officially withdraw from membership in a country. The Southern states wanted to withdraw from the U.S. over the issue of slavery.

## Abolish

To officially end or get rid of. Many in the Northern states wanted to officially end slavery in the United States.

## Constitution

A document that creates a government and explains how it will work, who has certain powers, and how that power can be used. When Texas joined the U.S., it wrote this type of document.

## Congress

An elected group of lawmakers in government. Also known as a *legislature*. Northern and Southern members of this organization could not agree on slavery.

## The U.S.–Mexico War

A conflict between the two countries over claims to Texas and its southern border.

## The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo

This document ended the U.S.–Mexico War, requiring Mexico to cede to the U.S. all of its land west of Texas to California in exchange for \$15 million.

## The Mexican Cession

This was the name of the large from Texas to California territory that Mexico was forced to give to the United States as part of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.

## The Compromise of 1850

This bill admitted California to the U.S. as a free state, passed stricter requirements for returning runaway slaves, and decreased the amount of territory in west Texas.

## Immigration

Permanently moving from one's home country to live in a new country. A lot of people left their home countries to settle in Texas during this era.

## Migration

A term to use when speaking generally about people moving from one location to another. Many in east Texas moved to west Texas during this era.

## Frontier

The limits of settled territory. West Texas was the limits of Anglo-settled territory. As Anglos moved west into the Texas Great Plains, conflicts between Anglos and Indians increased.

## A Reservation

An area of land set aside by the government to settle Indian tribes in order to teach tribal members how to live in accordance with U.S. culture.

## Economy

Everything related to making and spending money. In Texas, this was primarily built around plantation agriculture growing cotton using enslaved labor.

## Expand / Expansion

To get larger.  
In this unit, the United States grew larger when it gained the territories of the Mexican Cession. This growth ignited debates over slavery in the new territories.

## California Gold Rush

In 1848, gold was discovered at Sutter's Mill which kicked off a huge migration to this area which quickly made it eligible for statehood.

## Germans

This was the largest group of immigrants who came to Texas. They established towns like New Braunfels and Gruene and formed alliances with the Comanches in the Meusebach – Comanche Treaty.