

# **"Remember the Alamo"**



**The Changing Border of the Southwest**

## ACTIVITY KEY

**Rewrite** = rewrite the sentence to make correct

**Complete** = write the correct answer that completes the idea

**Cloze** = underline the correct word in the reading

**Text** = define the word or revise a text feature

**Interact** = interact with media/text

**Opinion** = give your own opinion



= complete the interactive notebook and/or test





**Interact:** What do you think this picture shows?

In the year 1820, the new country of the United States and the newer country of Mexico had a lot in common. They both got their independence. Mexico got its independence from Spain. The USA got its independence from Great Britain. The US president called James Monroe issued the Monroe Doctrine. This doctrine said that the USA would protect the newer American Republics.



**Interact:** What do you think this picture shows?

Mexico was a new Republic; so was the USA.

Mexico wanted to **expand** from its original territory, which was in the center of Mexico, into its **frontier**, which was in the North.

The USA wanted to **expand** from its original territory, which was in the East, into its **frontier**, which was in the South.

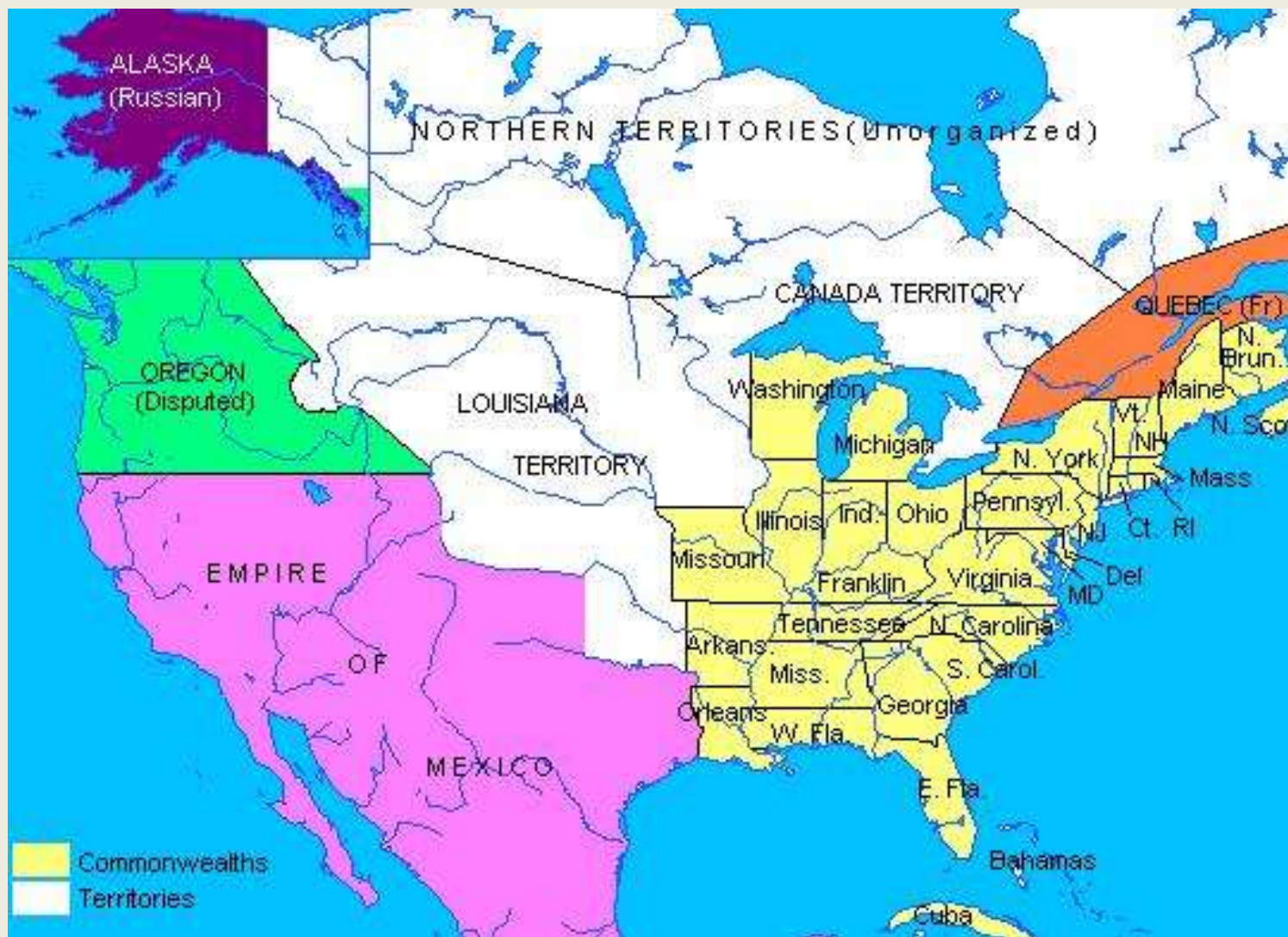
So, even though the USA pledged to protect other “American” countries from Europe, it makes sense that **Mexico and the USA would eventually fight a war.**

**Predict** What will happen between the USA and Mexico?

**Choose**

1. The USA wanted to expand [North/South/East/West] into its frontier.
2. Mexico wanted to expand [North/South/East/West] into its frontier.





**Interact:** Draw a big STAR on the USA. Draw some lines on Mexico.  
Circle the area that you think is the frontier.

The war started about **Texas**. The lands in Texas were very fertile. Even Thomas Jefferson knew about the fertile soil of Texas; he predicted that the USA would eventually expand there. The Mexicans expelled the Spanish. They claimed the land of Texas as part of Mexico. The USA respected this. However, many people in the Southern states wanted the USA to move their armies into Texas and take over. They wanted new land for their Cotton plantations. They wanted to expand **slavery** into Texas. They wanted to make Texas into one or maybe many slave states. These states would allow slavery and help the South.

### Define

1. Fertile means the soil is...
2. Expelled means...

### Rewrite

1. The Mexican War started because of the area of California.
2. The United States claimed Texas after the Spanish leave.
3. The Southern states wanted to USA to settle Texas to expand industry.

The leaders of **Mexican** were focused on **economic development** and settling their borders. They knew that Texas was good soil. They knew that America wanted it. They knew that they needed to develop it. Development meant having farms in Texas. So, the government of Mexico invited Anglo-Americans into Texas to settle. Anglo-Americans are white Americans, who did not consider themselves Mexicans. They agreed to go to Texas, start farms, and pay taxes to Mexico. They agreed to be part of Mexico. The leaders of Mexico agreed to let them have slavery and basically to leave them alone.

### Complete

1. The Mexicans wanted to settle Texas for economic \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The Mexican government invited \_\_\_\_\_, or white Americans, to settle Texas.
3. At this time, Texas was part of the country of \_\_\_\_\_.



**Label** Can you label the *Anglo-Americans*? Can you label the *Tejanos*?



Things changed fast. Texas got a bad reputation. It got the reputation for being a wild place with no rules. Whites began to outnumber *tejanos*, or Texans who speak Spanish and identify as Mexicans. It looked like Mexico had no control over Texas. The territory was 100 percent Mexican in 1821. But it changed fast...

<u>T e x a s</u>			
Year	Territory	Population	Demography
1810	Spain	3,000	100% Spanish
1821	Mexico	3,000	100% Mexican
1836	Mexico	25,000	84% American
1840	Republic	70,000	94% American
1846	Republic	145,000	97% American
1850	State	212,592	98% American
2010	State	25,145,561	25% Mexican ancestry

**Interact:** Draw an arrow to the time when white Texans begin to outnumber Hispanic Texans (*tejanos*).

Mexico changed, too. The government of Mexico changed from a Republic to a military dictatorship. The dictator's name was Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna. He wanted to centralize Mexico and control things better. The Anglo-American Texans talked bad about the government of Mexico. They said that if Mexican soldiers came and told them what to do, they would rebel. Mexico sent soldiers to Texas to try and control things. But it was too late.

### Complete

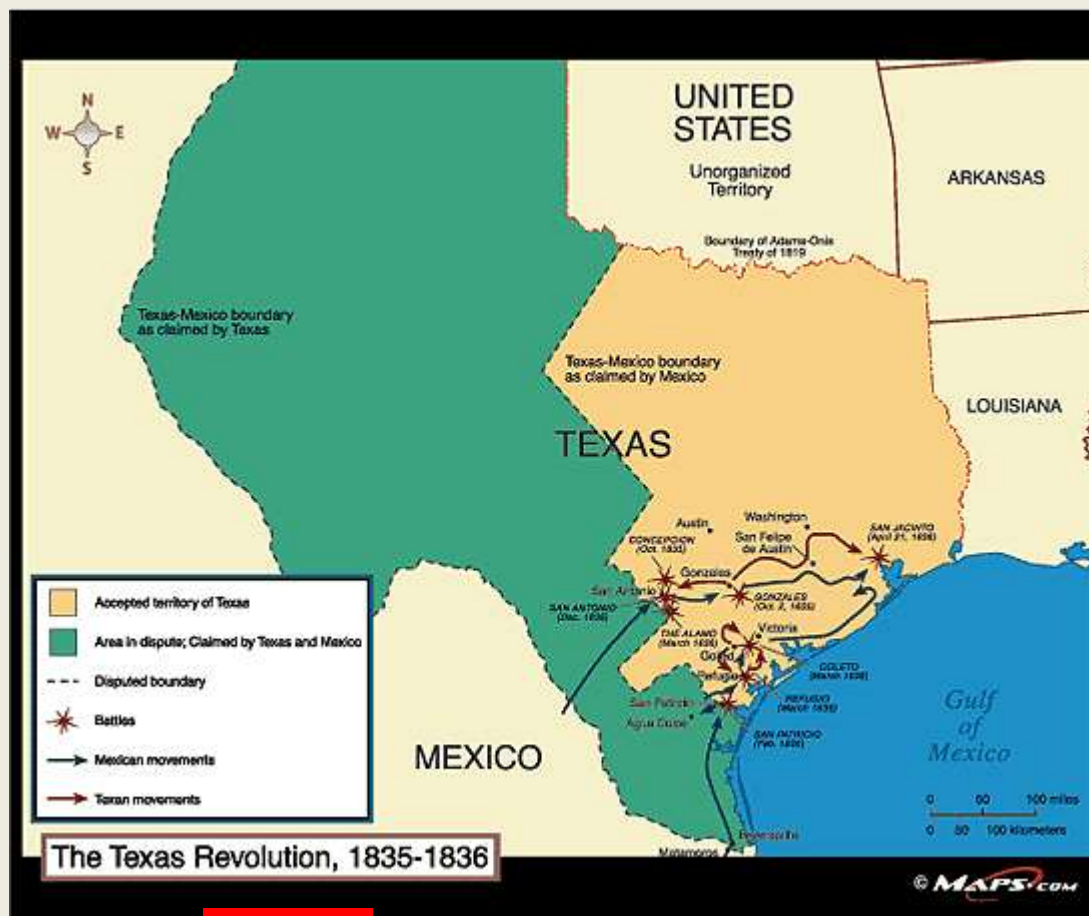
1. Mexico changed from a republic to a...
2. The new dictator wanted to \_\_\_\_\_ Mexico, or control things better.
3. The Anglo-American Texans didn't trust the Mexican dictator, who was named \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Mexico sent \_\_\_\_\_ to control the soldiers.



**Interact:** Who do you think this man is? (Hint: He is an important Mexican historical figure)



So... Texas had a **revolution**. They made a **Constitution**. They declared themselves **independent** from Mexico. They made an independent **Republic of Texas**. Santa Anna did not accept this. He personally took his army to Texas to stop the revolution. There was now a war between Mexico and Texas.



**Interact:** What does this map show?

The Texans took control of a church called the Alamo. This church was turned into a fortification on the border between the new “Republic of Texas” and Mexico. The Texans captured the Alamo and waited for Santa Anna.



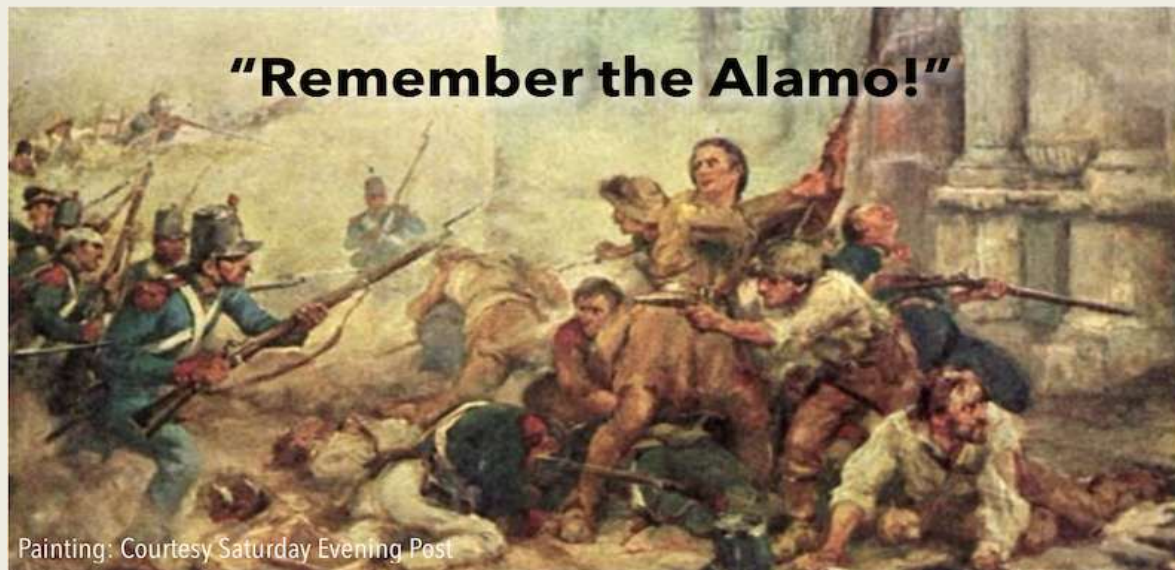
**Complete** The Texans captured a church-fort called...

The armies of Santa Anna came and attacked the Alamo. It took them awhile to break the defenses. Many famous Americans from the frontier came to help the Texans defend the Alamo. Santa Anna eventually won. Everyone in the Alamo died. But the public in the USA supported the Texans. They said: **“Remember the Alamo!”** They supported the Texans.

The Texans made a new **strategy**. They knew Santa Anna would beat them one-on-one. So they did small attacks and then retreated. Santa Anna’s army spent a long time marching around Texas and Mexico trying to fight the armies of Texas. The Texans caught them at the **San Jacinto River**. The Mexicans were very tired and exhausted. The Texans destroyed the army in a surprise attack. They even captured Santa Anna, the very “president” of Mexico. They made Santa Anna sign a treaty that gave Texas independence. Then, they let him go. But he never recognized Texas as an independent Republic. Texas became the “Lone-Star Republic.”



**Interact:** What events do the pictures show?





## Rewrite

1. The Texans captured a church/fort called the San Jacinto.
2. The Mexican army was led by General Benito Juarez.
3. The Texans won the battle of the Alamo.
4. Americans felt sympathy for the Texans at the Alamo, so they shouted:  
"Remember the Maine."
5. The Texans defeated the Mexican army at the Battle of Dos Pajaros.
6. The Texans captured General Santa Anna. They killed him.
7. The Mexicans accepted Texan independence.



**Interact:** What flag is this?

Mexico never recognized the treaty or the Republic of Texas. The Texans knew that they needed the protection of the United States. So, they allowed the USA to annex them. This means that they let Texas into the United States peacefully. Now, Texas was going to become a state, so if Mexico messed with them, the USA army would have to respond.



**Define** Annex means...

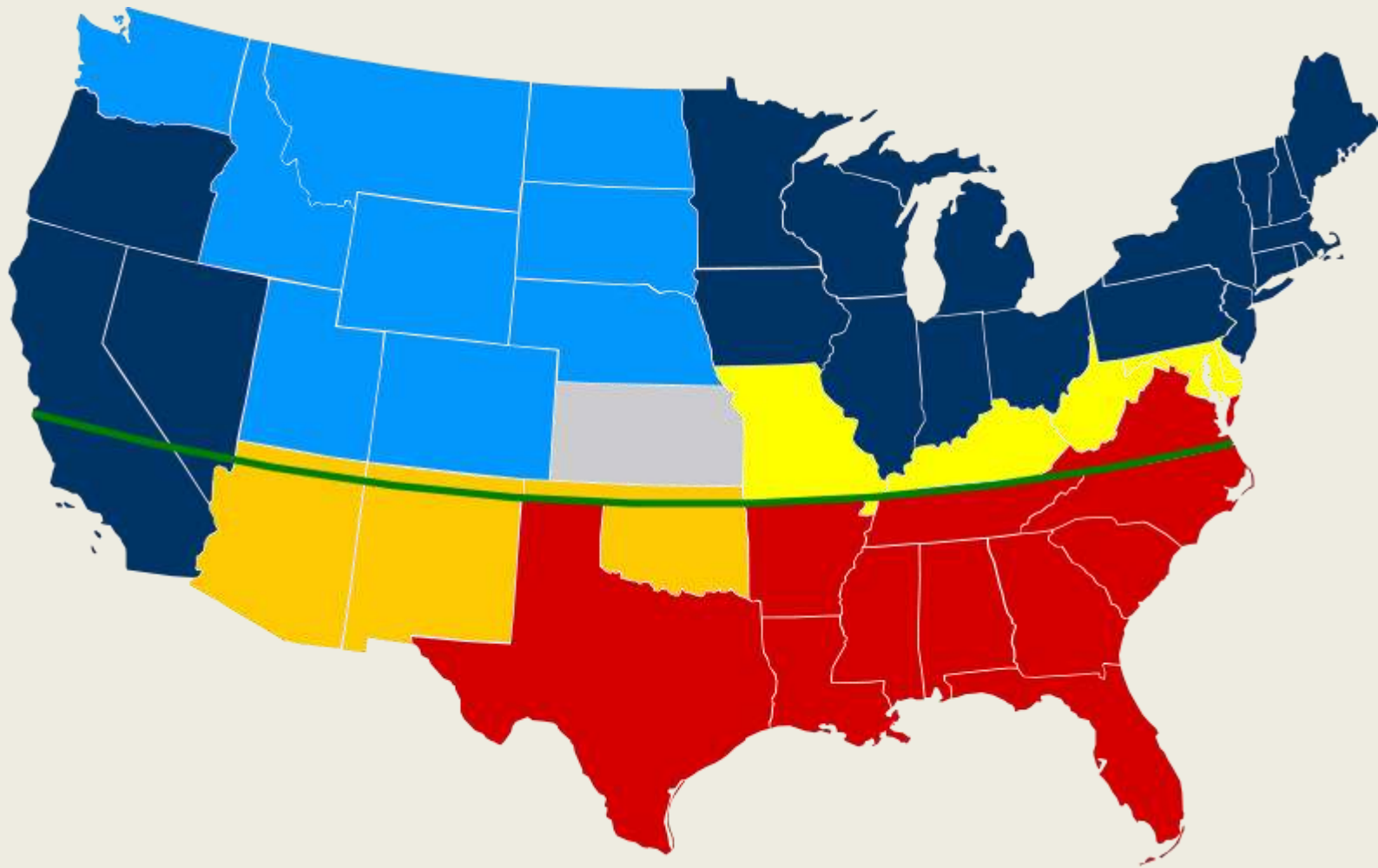
**Interact:** Draw an arrow to Texas.

The USA wanted to expand. But it was never united. Actually, many Northerners did not want the USA to annex Texas. They worried about slavery expanding. Texas was in the South, so it would have slavery. They also worried about war with Mexico. It wasn't because they didn't want to fight Mexico; it was because they didn't want slavery to expand into any land they might take from Mexico. There was a line called the Missouri Compromise line. Any land above it would NOT have slaves. Any land below it would have slaves.

### True/False

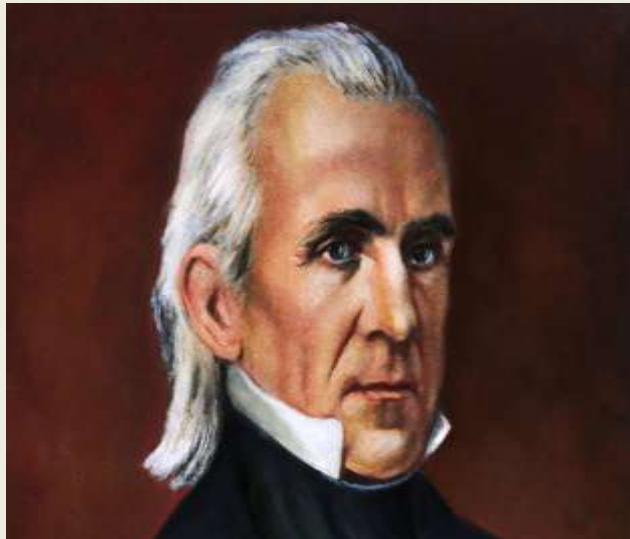
1. Texas became an independent Republic *before* it became a state.
2. Texas was annexed into the USA, which means it entered peacefully.
3. Texas allowed slavery because it was below the Missouri Compromise line.
4. Texas was a “free” state with no slavery.





**Interact:** Draw an arrow to the Missouri Compromise line.

The president of the USA wanted to fight Mexico, though. The USA now controlled Texas, but President James K. Polk really wanted the lands of California. California had fertile lands and it touched the Pacific Ocean. Just like Texas, there were Anglo-Americans in California who wanted to join the USA. The president of the USA, James Polk, sent his army to the Texas border. He sent the army to occupy a little piece of land that Mexico said belonged to them. Occupy is when you send your army to land that isn't 100 percent yours. At the same time, some whites in California declared independence from Mexico. So, Mexico was forced to attack.



**Interact:** Who is this man? (Hint: he's a president)

**Define** occupy means...

The United States army beat Mexico easily. The lands of Texas and California are far from Mexico. The US armies took them quickly. The American navy attacked Mexican ports. They marched through Mexico to the capital city. Mexico surrendered. In the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo, the USA gained the land that eventually became California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Nevada. This is also called the **Mexican Cession**, because to cede means to give up. Mexico agreed to give up these lands.

### Rewrite

1. President James K. Polk wanted to make peace with Mexico.
2. Polk sent an army to attack the Mexican army near Texas.
3. Mexico attacked the US soldiers and defeated the US army.
4. Mexico signed the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo, which gave the USA the lands of Florida and Texas.
5. The Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo is also called the Mexican Annexation.



The lands of the Mexican Cession became states. California became a “free” state, but we will discuss this later. The USA later bought that little bit of land between Arizona, New Mexico and Mexico. This is called the Gadsden Purchase. So, the border was made.





**Interact:** Label the border. Draw some lines ///// on the Gadsden Purchase.

Now, we can talk about a misconception: that the idea of a closed “border” is traditional. We have seen that the Southwest has been the center of migration for most of its history. Migration is the movement of people from one area to another. Thousands of years ago, people migrated for food. In the modern era, they migrate for work or land. The Anglo-Americans of Texas and California migrated to these lands and made successful farms and businesses. These territories became states. Later, Mexicans would migrate to Texas and California to share in the prosperity. Prosperity means economic development, or the ability to have a good life.

**Define** Migration means...

Prosperity means...

**Complete**

1. Anglo-Americans migrated to...
2. In this century, \_\_\_\_\_ migrated to Texas and California.
3. The idea of a closed border is [traditional/new].

If we look back at the demography of Texas, you see how it changes due to political and economic change. But what about in 2010? **25% of Texans have Mexican ancestry**, and this is growing. What explains this change? Migration because of economic and political change.

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**Opinion** What changed in 2010 in Texas?

From 1910-1920, Mexico had a huge, violent Revolution. Many Mexicans came north to escape the violence. This was a huge political change.



**Interact:** What event are these soldiers participating in?



Texas and California have grown into two of the most powerful US economies. California now produces much of the world's food. This is a huge economic change. It requires a lot of labor, which Mexican migrants supplied.



**Interact:** Who is supplying the labor in this picture?

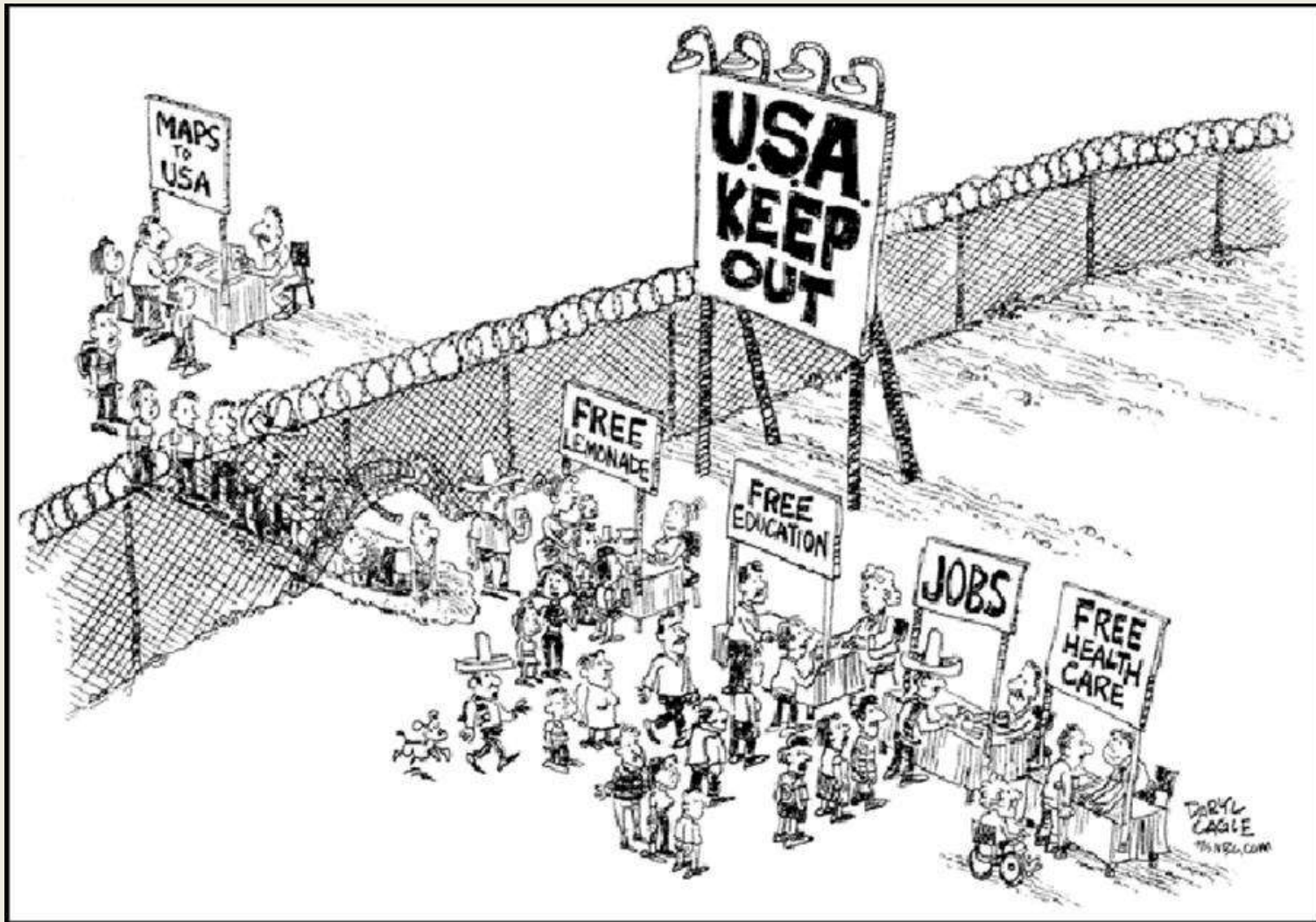


We also know that people of Mexican origin already lived in the areas that became Texas, California, Arizona, Nevada, and New Mexico. **After the Mexican Cession, 80,000 people who were NOT Anglo-Americans became Americans.** *Tejanos* fought with the Texans against Mexico, although they knew joining the United States might cause problems because they had a different culture. *“Remember the Alamo”* is interesting because most of the men at the Alamo weren’t born in Texas. They were from parts of the United States frontier.



History is complicated, especially the history of frontier areas. We have to be careful before we make judgments about any **country's ability to STOP migration.**





**Interact:** What does this picture show?

## Cloze

The United States expanded into the [West/East.] The process started with [Hispanic/Anglo-American] migration into Texas at the request of Mexico. The Texans saw themselves as independent and had a [agreement/revolution] against the dictator of Mexico. Texas fought Mexico. The war became popular in the USA after the battle of [The Banda/The Alamo]. People cried: "Remember the Alamo." The Texans won their independence but needed protection. The USA [captured/annexed] Texas and it became a [free/slave] state.





## Cloze

President James K. Polk thought the lands of California, Arizona, and New Mexico should be part of the USA. He also knew Mexico wanted rematch. So, he provoked the Mexicans by [occupying disputed land/attacking Mexican soldiers.] There was a war. It is called the Mexican-American War. The USA won the war. Mexico gave up a lot of land in the [Gadsden Purchase/Mexican Cession.] Later, the USA bought a little piece of land in the [Gadsden Purchase/Mexican Cession.] The border was complete, but the idea of a closed border is [traditional/new.]





Now, complete  
the Alamo  
activity.