

Lesson Plan

Maps Before and After

Book: *The Mexican–American War*

Series: Expansion of Our Nation

Level: Navigator

Objective

To help students compare two maps to study how the borders of Mexico, Texas, and the United States changed as a result of the Mexican–American War.

Supplies

- *The Mexican–American War* book
- Maps Before and After worksheet (attached)

Before the Activity

Read *The Mexican–American War*, or assign it to students to read on their own. Print a Maps Before and After worksheet for each student.

Activity

In the early 1800s, Texas was part of Mexico. However, Texas declared its independence in 1836. It became an independent country known as the Republic of Texas. The map on page 6 of *The Mexican–American War* shows what North America looked like during this time. Land that was part of the United States is red, land that was part of Mexico is green, and land that was part of the Republic of Texas is white.

The Republic of Texas lasted until 1845, when Texas joined the United States. And after the Mexican–American War (1846–1848), the countries' borders changed again. The map on page 27 shows what North America looked like at this time. In this map, the pink areas show the land that was added to the United States. Have students compare these two maps to answer the questions on the Maps Before and After worksheet.

Evaluation

Use the attached answer key to give students 1 point for each correct answer, for up to 8 points.

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading standards for informational texts, grade 4 (RI 4.7).

Maps Before and After

1. Before the war, was Upper California part of the United States or Mexico?
2. After the war, was Upper California part of the United States or Mexico?
3. Before the war, was New Mexico part of the United States or Mexico?
4. After the war, was New Mexico part of the United States or Mexico?
5. Before the war, what other country claimed part of the same land as Texas?
6. After the war, did this country still claim that land?
7. Before the war, which country reached farther west: Mexico or Texas?
8. After the war, which country reached farther west: Mexico or the United States?

Maps Before and After **ANSWER KEY**

1. Before the war, was Upper California part of the United States or Mexico?

Mexico

2. After the war, was Upper California part of the United States or Mexico?

The United States

3. Before the war, was New Mexico part of the United States or Mexico?

Mexico

4. After the war, was New Mexico part of the United States or Mexico?

The United States

5. Before the war, what other country claimed part of the same land as Texas?

Mexico

6. After the war, did this country still claim that land?

No

7. Before the war, which country reached farther west: Mexico or Texas?

Mexico

8. After the war, which country reached farther west: Mexico or the United States?

The United States