Westward Expansion
North America 1830
North America 1840
What Cultures and Ideas Shaped the West?

**Cultures**

- Native Americans
  - Food (squash, potatoes, beans)
  - Clothing (ponchos, moccasins)
  - Knowledge (trapping, travel routes, food sources)
  - Traditions (building adobe structures)
- Spanish
  - Language - Spanish
  - Architecture
  - Religion - Catholicism

**Ideas**

- Manifest Destiny - “From sea to shining sea”
- Superiority - Whites and Spanish thought they were better than Native Americans
- Nationalism - U.S. should control the West (California, Texas, etc...)
Trails to the West

• Santa Fe Trail
  – William Becknell: established an 800 mile route from Missouri to Santa Fe, New Mexico
  – Route became an international trade route

• Oregon Fur Trade
  – Followed Lewis and Clark Trail to Rockies and discovered a 10 mile wide pass through the mountains- South Pass

• Oregon Trail
  – Missouri to Oregon – 2,000 miles
    • Leave in the spring- 5 months to make the trip
    • Traveled in large groups for safety
    • 1 in 10 died along the trail
Why did People go West and What Challenges did They Face?

**Reasons for going West**
- Land
- Gold rush
- Religious freedom
- Work
- Escape the law
- Start a new business
- Over crowded cities in the East
- Freedom

**Challenges**
- Weather
- Native American attacks
- Natural disasters
- Natural barriers
- Diseases
- Lack of clean drinking water
- Accidents
  - Wagons
  - Gunshots
  - Livestock
Texas War for Independence
Causes and Effects of the Texas War for Independence

• Causes
  – Settlers didn’t want to change religions
  – Settlers wanted slavery
  – Mexico blocks colonization of Texas
  – Heavy taxation by the Mexican government

• Effects
  – Texas declares independence
  – 5 month war between Texas and Mexico
  – Texas wins and becomes an independent nation
1836-1846

TEXAS

INDEPENDENCE DAY
Why was Texas an Independent Nation?

- United States was divided on the issue of annexation
  - Upset the balance of free and slave states
  - 1844 election’s main issue is annexation of Texas and Oregon
  - 1846- annexation of Texas causes tensions with Mexico about the southern border
Mexican – American War

• Causes
  – Annexation of Texas
  – U.S. desire for California and New Mexico
  – Border dispute (U.S. wants Rio Grande and Mexico wants Nueces River)
  – Polk sending troops into the disputed area

• Results
  – U.S. receives the Mexican Cession
  – 16,800 Americans die during the war
  – War cost 75 million dollars
  – Gold and silver discovered in California and Nevada
  – Texas becomes a slave state, all others remain free
THE MEXICAN WAR
1846–1847

- Axis of U.S. Advance
- High ground above 6000 feet

Key:
- San Diego
- Kearnny
- El Paso
- Chihuahua
- Parras
- Camargo
- Monterrey
- Victoria
- Tampico
- Mexico City
- Puebla
- Lobas I

Map shows the movements and key locations during the Mexican War.
A Rush to the West

Sites Along the Mormon Trail
Changes in the West

• Mormons
  – Controlled elections - people outside the religion had no vote
  – Mormons would only buy goods from Mormons (monopolies)
  – Polygamy - against the law everywhere else

• Gold Rush
  – Population boom - 14,000 to 100,000 people in 2 years
  – Crime - vigilante justice
  – Californios - forced out because of race
  – Water rights - people were killed for water
  – Moving population - miners and businesses moved to where the gold and silver strikes occurred
  – Women - more rights and profitable work