

# MEXICAN-AMERICAN WAR

## SCAVENGER HUNT

**1** The Mexican-American War (1846-1848), also known as the Invasion of Mexico, was mostly fought over the state of Texas. The present-day states of California, Utah, Nevada, Arizona, and New Mexico were all areas affected by the war. Before 1846, much of this land belonged to Mexico.

What are became the 27<sup>th</sup> state of the United States?

CODE WORD

**3** The US had already increased in size before the Mexican-American War through different deals. The Louisiana Purchase by Thomas Jefferson in 1803 had doubled the size of the United States making their territory expand to the Mississippi River. Then, Florida was acquired as the 27th state, and the United States grew larger again.

James K. Polk used Manifest \_\_\_\_\_ as his reason to expand the borders.

CODE WORD

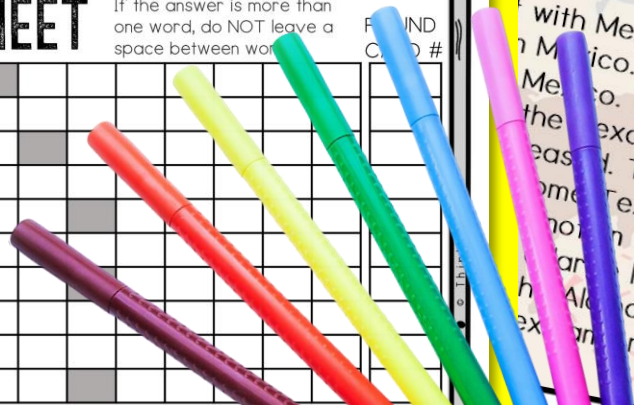
**2** In 1846, the 11th President James K. Polk had a duty to the States had a duty to protect the United States a concept called Manifest Destiny was the belief that the United States had influence over all the land from the Atlantic to the Pacific that the United States should have through war as named John C. Calhoun.

with Mexico, Texas declared war on Mexico. In 1836, Texas declared the Republic of Texas. They formed the Republic of Texas. The Texans declared the Republic of Texas. The Texans took the Republic of Texas. The Texans wanted to be recognized as an independent nation. In the end, the Republic of Texas was annexed by the United States. The "Alamo" became the site of a major battle in the Mexican-American War.

**ANSWER SHEET**

If the answer is more than one word, do NOT leave a space between words.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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# WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- ✓ 10 SHORT PASSAGES
- ✓ 10 QUESTION TRAILS
- ✓ RECORDING SHEET
- ✓ ANSWER KEY
- ✓ STUDENT DIRECTIONS
- ✓ TEACHER DIRECTIONS
- ✓ EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

**1** The Mexican-American War (1846-1848), also known as the Invasion of Mexico, was mostly fought over the state of Texas. The present-day states of California, Utah, Nevada, Arizona, and New Mexico were all

**3** The US had already increased in size before the Mexican-American War through different deals. The Louisiana Purchase by Thomas Jefferson in 1803 had doubled the size of the United States making their territory expand to the Mississippi River. Then, Florida was acquired as the 27th state, and the United States grew larger again.

James K. Polk used Manifest \_\_\_\_\_ as his reason to expand the borders. **CODE WORD**

**5** Texas became recognized as an independent territory in 1837. They had fought and earned their freedom from Mexico but had not yet joined the United States. Texas wanted to join the Union of the United

**7** Polk tried to purchase the lands that are present-day California, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, and Nevada, but Mexico didn't want to sell. Since they said no to selling the lands, Polk decided to take the land by force and had US forces invade a disputed area of land between the Rio Grande River and the Nueces River. Mexico claimed that the boundary was the Nueces River, which was 100 miles eastward.

A \_\_\_\_\_ named John O'Sullivan coined the phrase 'Manifest Destiny'. **CODE WORD**

**9** The United States military took territory between the Nueces River and the Rio Grande River. There were many casualties on both sides and neither side wanted to stop. Mexico brought in a large army to fight the United States military from taking territory. The United States was not united under their new leader. The Mexican army was outnumbered by the Mexicans in a battle at the Alamo. Roughly 2,000 Mexican troops were victorious. Roughly 2,000 United States soldiers died in the Mexican-American War with 10,000 of their leadership, diseases, and injuries. General Santa Anna signed the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. Eventually, a treaty was signed between the United States and Mexico.

For how many years was the Alamo battle?

**10** The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ended the Mexican-American War in 1848. The United States gained California, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Nevada, and

### TEACHER DIRECTIONS

THIS SCAVENGER HUNT HAS TWO PARTS:

**Part 1:** Kids will read 10 short passages which contain a "clue" or code word. After finishing each passage, students will need to write them down on the recording sheet.

**Part 2:** Using the code word on each reading card, students will unscramble the letters in the gray boxes to find the code word.

All you have to do is print the 10 reading cards and hide them! The more difficult the reading cards are, the more FUN the kids have AND the longer they will be able to play!

You will need to print **PAGE 10** for EVERY student.

### ANSWER SHEET

If the answer is more than one word, do NOT leave a space between words. FOUND CARD #

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FINAL CODE ANSWER:

### VOCABULARY PRACTICE

Directions: Choose 5 words from the reading cards that are unfamiliar or new to you.

WORD	DEFINITION

### SUMMARIZE

TOPIC SENTENCE

SUPPORTING DETAIL SUPPORTING DETAIL SUPPORTING DETAIL

### 4 DIGIT CODE

Next, using the numbers in the FOUND column in the SAME order in which you listed them above; follow these clues.

Eliminate the highest and lowest number in the FOUND column.

Get rid of all numbers that are spelled with just one letter.

Eliminate numbers that start with the letter \_\_\_\_\_.

FINAL CODE

4 numbers remain (in order you listed them)?

# 10 READING CARDS

**1** The Mexican-American War (1846-1848), also known as the Invasion of Mexico, was mostly fought over the state of Texas and present-day states of California, Nevada, Arizona, and New Mexico. Areas affected by the war. Because much of this land belonged to Mexico...

What are the 27th and 28th states of the United States?

**3** The US had already increased in size before the Mexican War through different acquisitions. The Louisiana Purchase by Thomas Jefferson in 1803 had doubled the size of the United States making Texas territory expand to the Mississippi River. Then, Florida was acquired as the 27th state, and the United States grew larger again.

James K. Polk used Manifest \_\_\_\_\_ as his reason to expand the borders.

**5** Texas became recognized as an independent territory in 1837. They had fought and earned their freedom from Mexico but had not yet joined the United States. Texas wanted to join the Union of the United States, but there was a lot of disagreement in Congress about Texas joining as a slave state. Congress wanted to keep an equal balance of slave states and free states.

The Mexican-American War is also known as the \_\_\_\_\_ of Mexico.

**2** In 1846, the 11th President of the United States was James K. Polk. He believed that the United States had a duty to expand its borders. A concept called Manifest Destiny. Manifest Destiny was the belief that US citizens should have influence over as much land as possible and that the United States should try to...

**4** After years of conflict with Mexico, Texas wanted to separate from Mexico. In 1836, Texas declared independence from Mexico. They formed the Republic of Texas. When the Texans declared independence, Mexico wasn't pleased. The Texans took over a fort called the Alamo. Some Texans wanted to abandon the fort. Others did not. In the end,...

President James K. Polk used Manifest Destiny as his reason to expand the borders of the US and quickly began the process of incorporating Texas into the United States despite the issues of slavery in Congress. In 1845, Texas became the 28th state.

**7** Polk tried to purchase the present-day California, Nevada, Utah, and Nevada, but they would not sell. Since they said no, Polk decided to take the land by force. He sent forces invading Mexico. There was a conflict between the United States and the Mexican River. Mexico claimed the boundary the Rio Grande, which was 100 miles away from the border.

John O'Sullivan coined the phrase 'Manifest Destiny'.

The United States military marched to the Rio Grande between the Nueces River and the Rio Grande. They were taking the land by force. There were many casualties. Mexico brought in a new general to the United States military from taking more territory. The Mexicans were not united under their new leader. Though outnumbered by the Mexicans in almost every battle, the US troops were victorious. Roughly 29 battles were fought during the Mexican-American War with 10 being major battles. Due to lack of leadership, diseases, and starvation, the Mexican army did not do well in the war and General Winfield Scott captured Mexico City. Eventually, a treaty was signed.

For how many days did the Alamo battle last?

## ANSWER SHEET

If the answer is more than one word, do NOT leave a space between words.

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FINAL WORD ANSWER:

**8** Mexican forces responded by attacking a military outpost and a second one further South on the Rio Grande River. The Battle of Palo Alto, the Battle of Resaca de la Palma, and the Battle of San Jacinto were fought before war was officially declared. The US brought in enough forces to fight back and eventually defeated the Mexican forces and officially declared war on Mexico on May 13, 1846. General Santa Anna led the Mexican army, and the US forces were led by General Zachary Taylor and General Winfield Scott.

Texas became recognized as an \_\_\_\_\_ territory in 1837.

**10** The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ended the Mexican-American War in 1848. The treaty was ratified (approved) by the US Congress. The treaty stated that the Rio Grande was the new border between the two countries. Mexico also agreed to sell its northern territory to the United States for 15 million dollars and gave up at least 3 million square miles of territory. Zachary Taylor, a leading general in the war, later became America's 12th President.

Mexico claimed that the boundary between the two countries was the \_\_\_\_\_, which was 100 miles east of the Rio Grande.

## 4 DIGIT CODE

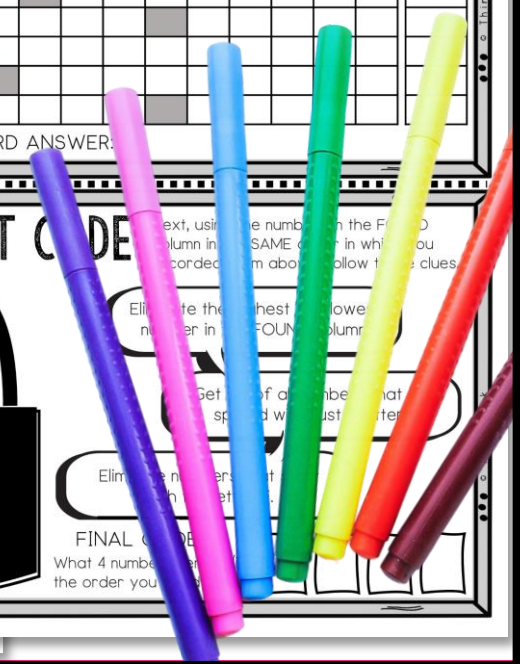
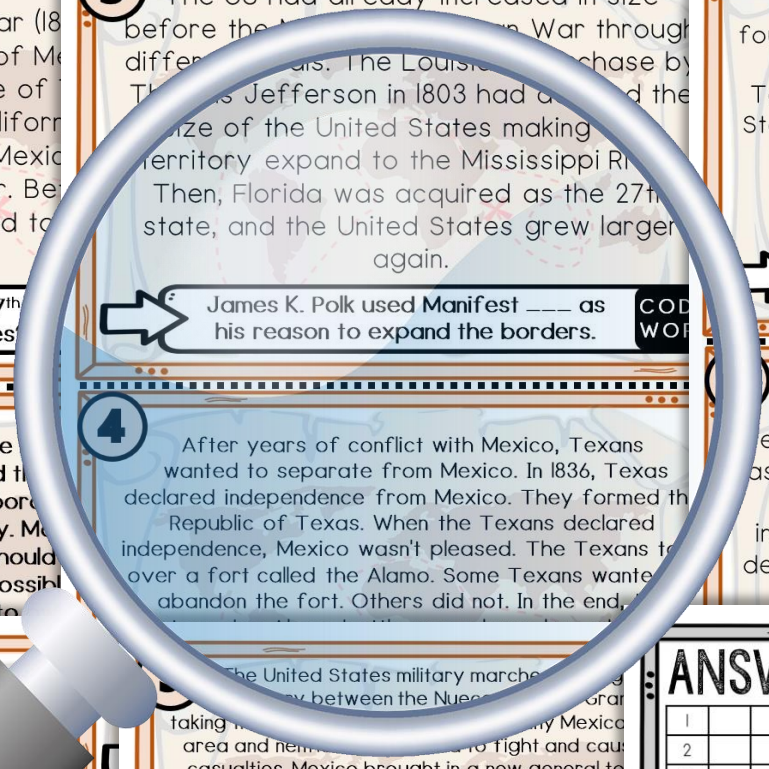
Eliminate the numbers that do not appear in the text, using the numbers in the FOUND CARD # column in the ANSWER SHEET. In which column you recorded the numbers about follow the clues.

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FINAL CODE

What 4 numbers do you have in the order you found them?



# CITE EVIDENCE

**ANSWER SHEET** If the answer is more than one word, do NOT leave a space between words. FOUND CARD #

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FINAL WORD ANSWER: \_\_\_\_\_

**4 DIGIT CODE** Next, using the numbers in the FOUND column in the same order in which you recorded them above, follow these clues.

Eliminate the highest and lowest number in the FOUND column.

Get rid of all numbers that are spelled with just letters.

Eliminate numbers that start with the letter \_\_\_\_\_.

**FINAL CODE**  
What 4 numbers remain (in the order you listed them)?

1

**STUDENTS WILL RECORD THEIR CODE WORDS**

2

**STUDENTS WILL RECORD **WHERE** THEY FOUND THE ANSWER**


3

**STUDENTS WILL UNSCRAMBLE A MYSTERY WORD**

4

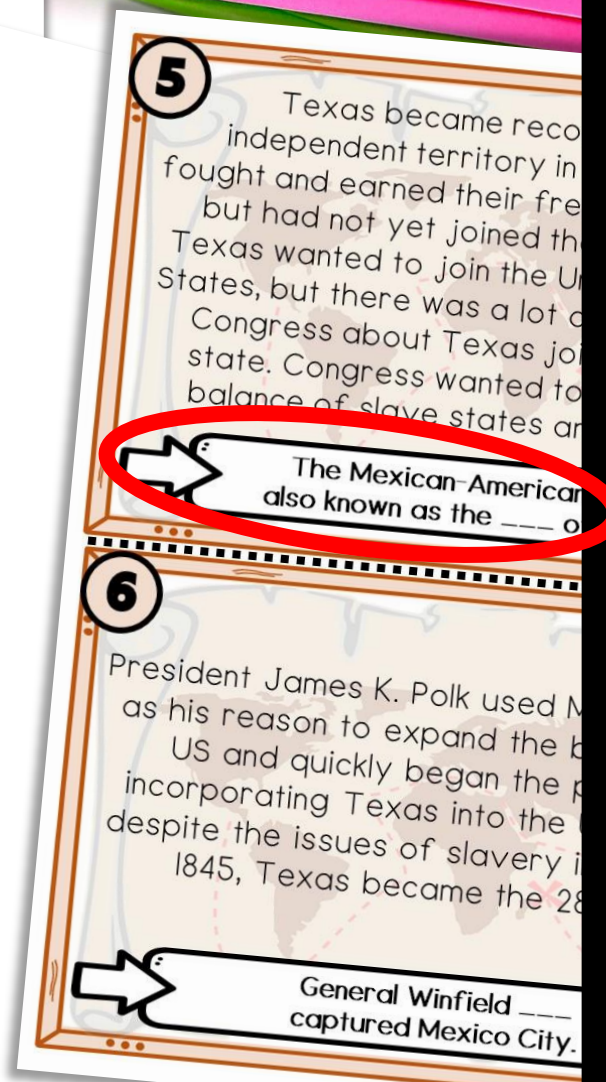
**STUDENTS WILL FOLLOW CLUES TO REVEAL THE 4-DIGIT CODE**

# HOW IT WORKS



## ENGAGING READING COMPREHENSION PRACTICE!

- 1** Students work individually (or in pairs) and visit 10 reading cards scattered around the room.
- 2** Students read the passage and look at the question at the bottom labeled "code word".
- 3** The code word for THAT card number will lead them to a different card. But here's the catch... students will NOT know where to find the code word answer so they will have to skim, browse and revisit the reading cards several times to find the answer they are seeking.



# COMBINATION



**This scavenger hunt is a winning combination of:**







- ✓ **movement**
- ✓ **close reading**
- ✓ **comprehension skills**
- ✓ **mystery words & codes**
- ✓ **citing evidence**
- ✓ **critical thinking**

**Everything a teacher dreams of wrapped up into one FUN and engaging activity!**

# OPTIONS



THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX!

-  ANTICIPATORY SETS
-  EARLY FINISHERS
-  STATIONS
-  SUB PLANS
-  PARTNER WORK
-  ENRICHMENT

-  MOVEMENT
-  CROSS-CURRICULAR
-  HIGHLY ENGAGING

