

SHAPING A NATION: TENNESSEE VOLUNTEERS & THE MEXICAN-AMERICAN WAR

Thank you for choosing to bring your students to the Polk Home! The pre- and post-visit activities have been developed by Polk Home staff to supplement your field trip. These activities can be used to meet TN Social Studies Standards 4.23, 4.24, 5.40, 8.49, 8.51, 8.53, and 8.54

Pre-Visit Activity #1: Timeline

Students should use their knowledge of American History to put the events in chronological order. After their visit to the museum, they can check their work to see if their timeline is correct. This is an opportunity to discuss how the Texas War for Independence led to the Mexican-American War.

Pre-Visit Activity #2: Word Search

Students should complete the word search. Teachers can use this as an opportunity to discuss key terms as a class or in small groups.

Post-Visit Activity #1: Crossword Puzzle

Students should use their knowledge of American history and experience at the Polk Home to complete the crossword puzzle

Post-Visit Activity #2: Newspaper

Students should imagine they are a war correspondent covering the Mexican-American War. Using their knowledge of the war, they should pick an event to draw and write about.

The "Shaping a Nation: Tennessee Volunteers & Mexican-American War" exhibition is funded by the Tennessee Wars Commission and the Tennessee Historical Commission.



Timeline: Cut the event strips and glue them onto the timeline in chronological order.

California becomes a US state

Oregon Treaty is ratified

Texas Revolution begins

The U.S. annexes Texas

The U.S. declares war against Mexico

California Gold Rush begins

Battle of the Alamo

James K. Polk is elected President

Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo

Solution

Timeline: Cut the event strips and glue them onto the timeline in chronological order.

Texas Revolution begins
(1835)

Battle of the Alamo
(1836)

James K. Polk is elected President
(1844)

The U.S. annexes Texas
(1845)

The U.S. declares war against Mexico
(1846)

Oregon Treaty is ratified
(1846)

Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo
(1848)

California Gold Rush begins
(1848-1849)

California becomes a US state
(1850)

Name: _____

The Mexican-American War

Q	N	C	C	Q	S	Z	M	T	E	X	A	S	Q	E	T	H	O
I	R	E	S	A	C	A	D	E	L	A	P	A	L	M	A	C	A
N	F	E	X	J	L	O	V	N	I	Q	M	I	A	L	J	C	R
F	E	Y	N	W	I	I	W	E	X	P	A	N	S	I	O	N	T
A	B	T	L	H	E	S	F	S	A	N	T	A	A	N	N	A	I
N	O	V	R	I	N	G	G	O	L	D	R	T	L	D	N	G	L
T	T	A	Y	L	O	R	C	D	R	Q	D	R	R	X	Y	P	L
R	W	S	O	X	N	Z	Y	S	U	N	U	E	C	E	S	P	E
Y	R	I	O	G	R	A	N	D	E	F	I	F	O	L	A	Y	R
R	I	O	G	R	A	N	D	E	Y	R	R	A	T	A	Q	T	Y
X	L	K	Z	D	J	A	M	E	S	K	P	O	L	K	K	P	Y
K	F	M	A	N	I	F	E	S	T	D	E	S	T	I	N	Y	C

Find the following words in the puzzle.

Words are hidden → ↓ and ↘.

ARTILLERY
CALIFORNIA
EXPANSION
INFANTRY
JAMES K. POLK
MANIFEST DESTINY

NUECES
RESACA DE LA PALMA
RINGGOLD
RIO GRANDE
SANTA ANNA
TAYLOR

TEXAS
TREATY

SOLUTION

The Mexican-American War

.	.	.	C	.	.	.	.	T	E	X	A	S	.	.	.	.	.
I	R	E	S	A	C	A	D	E	L	A	P	A	L	M	A	.	A
N	.	.	.	.	L	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	R
F	.	.	.	.	.	I	.	E	X	P	A	N	S	I	O	N	T
A	.	.	.	.	.	.	F	S	A	N	T	A	A	N	N	A	I
N	.	.	R	I	N	G	G	O	L	D	.	T	.	.	.	.	L
T	T	A	Y	L	O	R	.	.	R	.	.	.	R	.	.	.	L
R	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	N	U	E	C	E	S	.	E
Y	R	I	O	G	R	A	N	D	E	.	I	.	.	.	A	.	R
R	I	O	G	R	A	N	D	E	.	.	.	A	.	.	.	T	Y
.	.	.	.	.	J	A	M	E	S	K	P	O	L	K	.	.	Y
.	.	M	A	N	I	F	E	S	T	D	E	S	T	I	N	Y	.

Word directions and start points are formatted: (Direction, X, Y)

ARTILLERY (S,18,2)

CALIFORNIA (SE,4,1)

EXPANSION (E,9,4)

INFANTRY (S,1,2)

JAMES K. POLK (E,6,11)

MANIFEST DESTINY (E,3,12)

NUECES (E,11,8)

RESACA DE LA PALMA
(E,2,2)

RINGGOLD (E,4,6)

RIO GRANDE (E,2,9)

SANTA ANNA (E,9,5)

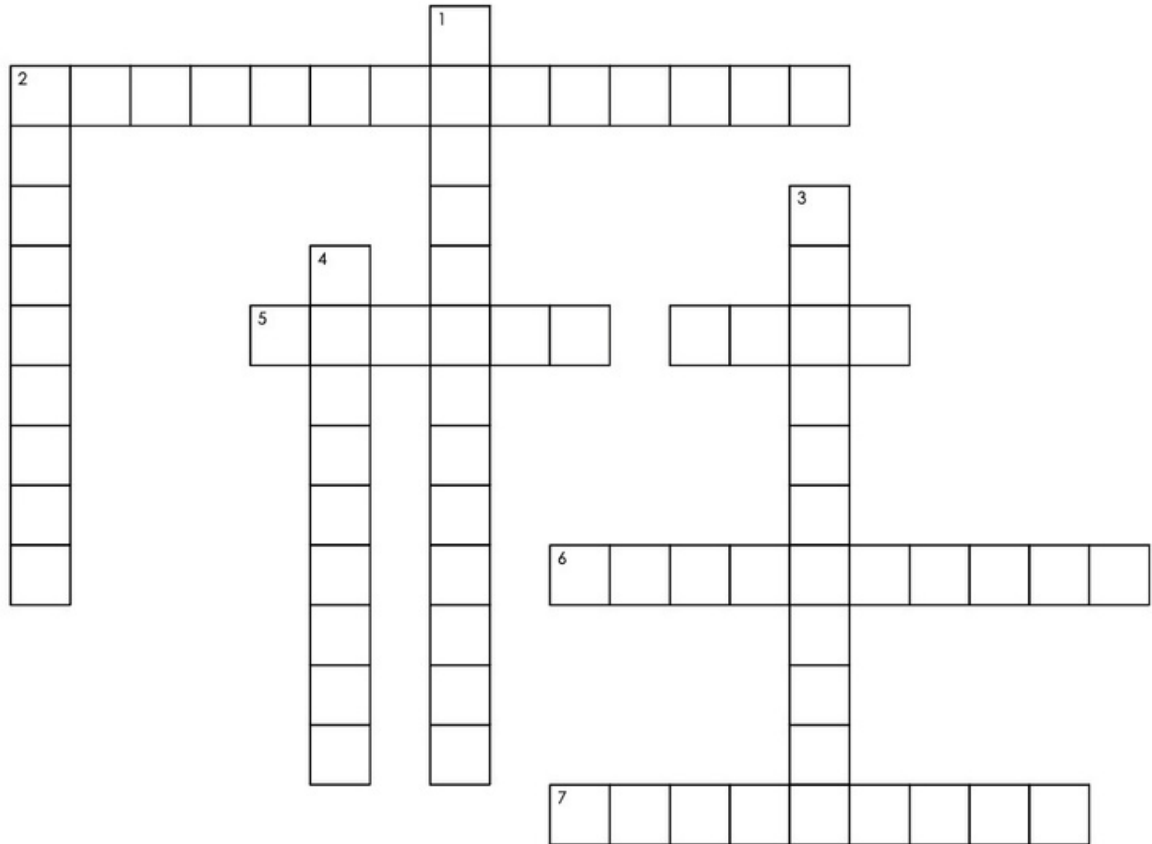
TAYLOR (E,2,7)

TEXAS (E,9,1)

TREATY (SE,13,6)

Name: _____

Shaping A Nation



Across: →

- 2. Fatally injured at the Battle of Palo Alto
- 5. President during the Mexican-American War
- 6. Large state on the east coast gained
- 7. River where America claimed U.S. border

Down: ↓

- 1. A victorious American general at Contreras
- 2. General that captured the Alamo in 1836
- 3. Disease spread by mosquitos
- 4. First Lady known for wearing a turban

Shaping A Nation



- Down:** ↓

1. A victorious American general at Contreras
2. General that captured the Alamo in 1836
3. Disease spread by mosquitos
4. First Lady known for wearing a turban

The power of the press was very important in the Mexican-American War. It was the first time that mass media, like newspapers, had been able to cover a war so closely. The invention of the telegraph helped speed up communication. More people had access to more information faster than ever. That information was also coming from new perspectives. In the past, most information came from politicians. Reporters suddenly had a new influence on the American public. Imagine you are a reporter covering the Mexican-American War. Write about one of the events of the war that you have learned about.

Author: