

## Period 5.01 Manifest Destiny – Polk – Tyler

Central Question: Analyze the causes and effects of Manifest Destiny.

Standards: SSUSH8b. Examine James K. Polk’s presidency in the fulfillment of Manifest Destiny including the Texas annexation and Oregon. SSUSH8c. Analyze the impact of the Mexican War on growing sectionalism.

Key Terms: Western Expansion: Manifest Destiny & Polk: 1840-1848 Election of 1840, John Tyler, Texas Annexation, Election of James K Polk, Manifest Destiny, Oregon Dispute, Mexican American War, Slavery debate & Western Expansion, Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, Wilmot Proviso

### 1. Watch Video 5.1 and Take Notes

### 2. Read Amsco Chapter 12 and answer the following questions

1. List and explain the motives behind expansion into Texas, Oregon, and Main.
2. Support or refute President Andrew Jackson’s reasoning behind refusing to admit Texas. Make sure your response has specific evidence.
3. Explain the key difference between the two Democrats, Andrew Jackson and James K. Polk on the issue of territorial expansion.
4. Support or refute the claim that Mexico incited war by killing 11 Americans. Defend your answer with specific evidence.
5. Explain the political, geographic, and cultural impact of the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo.
6. To what extent was the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo a turning point in American history? Defend your answer with specific evidence.

### 3. Read the following documents and answer the questions that follow

#### Document 1

Our national birth (and the Declaration of Independence) was the beginning of a new history, which separates us from the past and connects us only with the future.

We are the nation of progress, of individual freedom, of universal enfranchisement. Our future history will be to establish on earth the moral dignity and salvation of man -- the undeniable truth and goodness of God. America has been chosen for this mission among all the nations of the world, which are shut out from the life-giving light of truth. Her high example shall put an end to the tyranny of kings, and carry the happy news of peace and good will to millions who now endure an existence hardly better than that of beasts of the field. Who, then, can doubt

~ John O’Sullivan, "The Great Nation of Futurity," 1839.

#### Document 2

Nor will it become in a less degree my duty to assert and maintain by all constitutional means the right of the United States to that portion of our territory which lies beyond the Rocky Mountains. Our title to the country of the Oregon is “clear and unquestionable,” and already are our people preparing to perfect that title by occupying it with their wives and children. But eighty years ago our population was confined on the west by the ridge of the Alleghanies. Within that period—within the lifetime, I might say, of some of my hearers—our people, increasing to many millions, have filled the eastern valley of the Mississippi, adventurously ascended the Missouri to its headsprings, and are already engaged in establishing the blessings of self-government in valleys of which the rivers flow to the Pacific. The world beholds the peaceful triumphs of the industry of our emigrants. To us belongs the duty of protecting them adequately wherever they may be upon our soil. The jurisdiction of our laws and the benefits of our republican institutions should be extended over them in the distant regions which they have selected for their homes.

~ James K. Polk, March 4, 1845. Inaugural Address.

Document 3

The expiring months of the [James K.] Polk Administration in 1848–49 gave a dark augury [sign] of the storms to come. Congress no sooner met in December than the agitation of the slavery question recommenced [began again]; and even when the surface of the political sea for a few days grew calm, beneath it all was commotion and intrigue. Polk in his last annual message dwelt upon the importance of promptly supplying Territorial governments for California and New Mexico. Three modes of settlement, he suggested, were open. One, which he preferred, was to carry the Missouri Compromise line to the Pacific; another, to let the people of the Territories decide the slavery question when they applied for admission; and the third, to lay the issue before the Supreme Court. But Northern free-soilers and Southern extremists could agree on none of the three....  
 ~ Source: Allan Nevins, *Ordeal of the Union*, Volume 1, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1947

1. What does John O’Sullivan think America stands for in Document 1?
2. What, according to John O’Sullivan, is America’s mission?
3. What is the purpose of document 1? (use the last page of the writing packet)
4. How does Polk justify his claim in document 2?
5. How does this support or refute the argument in document 1?
6. What is the purpose of document 2? (use the last page of the writing packet)
7. Based on document 3, what were two ways President Polk proposed to address the issue of slavery in the territories?

**4. On the map, identify the following areas of expansion**

**5. Answer the Following MCQ Question Set**

Source 4--Senator Thomas Corwin (Ohio), 1846

Sir, had one come and demanded Bunker Hill of the people of Massachusetts, is there a man over thirteen and under ninety who would have not been ready to meet him? Is there a field but would have been piled high with the unburied bones of slaughtered Americans before these consecrated battlefields of liberty should have been wrested from us? But this same American goes into a sister republic, and says to poor, weak Mexico, “give up your territory, you are unworthy to possess; I have one half already, and all I ask you is to give up the other.” Let us abandon all ideas of acquiring further territory and by consequence cease at once to prosecute this war.

08. Based on the excerpt, the author would most likely oppose: [POL, MIG; Contextualization; Concept 1, Target 3]  
 a. temperance. b. suffrage. c. westward expansion. d. immigration.

09. Which of the following was NOT a cause of the event described by the author? [POL, MIG; Causation; Concept 1, Target 3]  
 a. Boundary disputes. b. Military posturing. c. Perceived hostility. d. Sectional jealousy.

10. Which of the following would most likely reject the annexation of Texas by the United States at this time? [POL, MIG; Interpretation; Concept 1, Target 3]  
 a. The executive branch. b. Plantation owners. c. Free-Soilers. d. Democrats.

**6. Complete the Graphic Organizer. Turn in your thesis.**