Shell Education

Leveled Texts for Social Studies

Expanding & Preserving the Union





Color CD included



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How to Use This Product

Readability Chart






Title of the Text	Star	Circle	Square	Triangle
The Louisiana Purchase	2.1	3.3	5.1	6.9
The Westward Journey of Lewis & Clark	1.7	3.0	5.0	6.7
Lewis & Clark Return Home	2.0	3.1	5.0	6.6
The War of 1812 Begins	2.2	3.4	5.2	6.9
The War of 1812 Ends	2.0	3.0	5.2	7.0
The Texas Revolution	2.0	3.0	5.2	6.9
The Mexican-American War	1.5	3.2	5.0	6.5
American Indians in the 1800s	1.7	3.0	5.0	6.5
Pioneer Trails	1.7	3.3	5.1	6.6
Indian Wars	1.5	3.0	5.0	6.5
Abolitionists and the Underground Railroad	1.5	3.1	5.0	6.5
Events Leading Up to the Civil War	1.8	3.0	5.1	6.5
The Civil War Begins	1.8	3.3	5.0	6.5
The Civil War Ends	1.7	3.0	5.0	6.5
Civil War Leaders	1.9	3.2	5.0	6.6

Correlation to Standards

The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation mandates that all states adopt academic standards that identify the skills students will learn in kindergarten through grade 12. While many states had already adopted academic standards prior to NCLB, the legislation set requirements to ensure the standards were detailed and comprehensive. In many states today, teachers are required to demonstrate how their lessons meet state standards. State standards are used in the development of Shell Education products, so educators can be assured that they meet the academic requirements of each state.

Shell Education is committed to producing educational materials that are research and standards based. In this effort, all products are correlated to the academic standards of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense Dependent Schools. A correlation report customized for your state can be printed directly from the following website: **http://www.shelleducation.com**. If you require assistance in printing correlation reports, please contact Customer Service at 1-877-777-3450.

McREL Compendium

Shell Education uses the Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning (McREL) Compendium to create standards correlations. Each year, McREL analyzes state standards and revises the compendium. By following this procedure, they are able to produce a general compilation of national standards. The social studies standards on which the texts in this book focus are correlated to state standards at **http://www.shelleducation.com**.

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The Mexican-American War

Mexico and the Republic of Texas had a war. After the war, the two sides did not agree on the Texas border. The Mexicans said that Texas ended at the Nueces (nu-A-suhs) River. But the Texans said they had more land. They said they owned all the way to the Rio Grande (ree-O GRAHN-dey). This would make Texas twice as big.

The United States wanted to make Texas a state. In 1845, President James Polk called up troops. He sent them to Texas. He wanted things to stay calm. His troops were near the Rio Grande. The Americans said that this land was part of Texas. The Mexicans said that it was theirs. Some Mexican troops attacked. They killed some Americans. President Polk was mad. He went to Congress. He said that Mexicans had killed the troops "on American soil." This was not true. But it made Congress act. Congress declared war. This was in May 1846.

A lot of Americans said that this war was wrong. They did not want to fight a neighbor. And, they were sick of wars.



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General Zachary Taylor led the United States troops. He was 62 years old. But, he became a big war hero. (Later, he would be the 12th president.) He and his men fought in the northern part of Mexico. This went on for months. The Mexicans fought back. But they did not win. The Mexicans lost each battle. Soon the Americans held a lot of land. And, they held the capitals of three Mexican states.

The Americans told the Mexicans to give up. But they said no. The Mexicans still said that the Nueces River was the Texas border. So President Polk made a new plan. He sent his troops south. He told them to go deep into Mexico. He wanted them to take Mexico's capital. The capital is Mexico City.



Zachary Taylor



General Winfield Scott was put in charge. It took many months. But at last, his army reached its goal. They attacked the capital on September 13, 1847. Mexican leaders gave up.

It took time to plan for peace. In February 1848, both sides agreed. They signed a treaty. The United States paid Mexico $15 million. This bought what is now California, Nevada, and Utah. And the United States bought parts of Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Wyoming, too.

Comprehension Question

Name two reasons America did not want to go to war.

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The Mexican-American War

Mexico and the Republic of Texas had a war. After the war, the two sides did not agree on the Texas border. The Mexicans said that Texas ended at the Nueces (nu-A-suhs) River. But the Texans said they owned all the way to the Rio Grande (ree-O GRAHN-dey). This border would make Texas twice as big.

In 1845, the United States wanted to make Texas a state. President James Polk sent soldiers to Texas. He wanted things to stay calm. His troops were near the Rio Grande. The Americans believed this was part of their nation. The Mexicans thought it was part of theirs. Mexican troops attacked and killed some Americans. President Polk was mad. He went to Congress. He said that the Mexicans had killed American soldiers "on American soil." This was not quite true. But it made Congress declare war in May 1846.

Many Americans thought that the war was wrong. They did not want to fight a neighbor. They said America should be a land of freedom and justice. They were tired of wars.



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General Zachary Taylor was the leader of the United States troops. He was already 62 years old. But, Taylor became a war hero. (Later, he became the 12th president of the United States.) He and his men fought through northern Mexico for months. The Mexicans fought bravely. But they did not win any battles. In just a short time, the Americans held the capitals of three Mexican states.

The Americans asked the Mexicans to surrender (suh-REN-duhr). But, the Mexicans would not agree to the Rio Grande as the Texas border. So in 1847, President Polk chose to send American soldiers south. He told them to move far into Mexico. He wanted them to take over the capital. The capital is Mexico City. Polk thought that this would make Mexico give up.



Zachary Taylor



General Winfield Scott was in charge of this task. It took many months. But at last Scott's army reached the capital. They attacked it on September 13, 1847. By that evening, they held the city. Mexican leaders surrendered the next day.

It took months to work out a peace treaty. At last, in February 1848, both sides agreed. The United States paid Mexico $15 million. They bought what is now California, Nevada, and Utah. They also bought parts of Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Wyoming.

Comprehension Question

Why did Americans not want a war?

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The Mexican-American War

After the Texas Revolution, the two sides disagreed about the Texas border. The Mexicans said that Texas ended at the Nueces (nu-A-suhs) River. But the Texans said that they owned all the way to the Rio Grande (ree-O GRAHN-dey). This border would make Texas twice as big.

In 1845, the United States prepared to make Texas the 28th state. President James Polk sent soldiers, led by General Zachary Taylor, to the Texas border. He wanted to keep things calm. The soldiers moved into the area near the Rio Grande. The Americans believed that this was part of their country. The Mexicans thought that it was theirs. Mexican soldiers attacked and killed some Americans. Polk went to Congress and said that the Mexicans had killed American soldiers "on American soil." This was not exactly true. But, it got Congress to declare war on Mexico in May 1846.

Many American citizens (SIT-uh-zuhnz) thought it was wrong to fight a neighbor. They wanted America to be a land of freedom and justice instead of war.



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Although Taylor was 62 years old, he became a war hero. Later, he became the 12th president of the United States. He and his men battled through northern Mexico for months. The Mexicans were brave fighters. But they did not win even one battle. In a short time, the Americans held the capitals of three Mexican states.

The Americans told the Mexicans to surrender (suh-REN-duhr). But they would not accept the Rio Grande as the border of Texas. So Polk changed tactics. He sent American soldiers south into Mexico to take over the capital, Mexico City. He thought this would make the Mexicans give up.



Zachary Taylor



After many months, the Americans, led by General Winfield Scott, reached the Mexican capital. Scott's army attacked Mexico City on September 13, 1847, and by that evening, they held the city. The next day, a group of Mexican leaders surrendered.

The peace treaty took months to make. In February 1848, both sides signed. The Americans paid Mexico $15 million for what is now California, Nevada, and Utah. It also included most of Arizona and parts of Colorado, New Mexico, and Wyoming.

Comprehension Question

Some Americans were against the war. For what reasons did they not support the president?

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The Mexican-American War

After the Texas Revolution, the two sides disagreed about the border between Texas and Mexico. The Mexicans announced that Texas ended at the Nueces (nu-A-suhs) River, while the Texans declared that they owned the land all the way to the Rio Grande (ree-O GRAHN-dey). This border would make Texas twice as big.

In 1845, the United States prepared to make Texas the 28th state. President James Polk sent soldiers, led by General Zachary Taylor, to the Texas border to prevent any trouble. These soldiers moved near the Rio Grande. This was the disputed border. The Americans considered this part of their country, and the Mexicans considered it theirs. Mexican soldiers attacked the troops and killed some Americans. Polk went to Congress and claimed that the Mexicans had killed soldiers "on American soil." This was not actually true, but it made Congress take action. Congress declared war on Mexico in May 1846.

Many Americans thought that it was wrong to fight a neighbor. They said America should be a land of freedom and justice, not war. Taylor was 62 years old when he went to Mexico in a faded old uniform with a big straw hat. He became a major war hero and was later elected as the 12th president of the United States.



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The Mexicans were brave fighters, but they did not win a single battle. Soon, the Americans held the capitals of three Mexican states. The Americans encouraged the Mexicans to surrender (suh-REN-duhr), but they still refused to recognize the Rio Grande as the border of Texas.

At the beginning of 1847, Polk adopted a new strategy. He sent American soldiers further south into Mexico to conquer Mexico City, the capital. General Winfield Scott was in charge of this new mission. After many months, the American soldiers made it to the Mexican capital. Scott's army attacked Mexico City on September 13, 1847, and by that night, he had taken control of the city. The following day, a group of Mexican leaders surrendered to Scott.



Zachary Taylor



It took months to negotiate (nuh-GO-she-ate) a peace treaty. In February 1848, both sides signed the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo (GWAH-duh-loo-pay ee-DAL-go). The United States paid Mexico $15 million for what is now California, Nevada, and Utah. It also included most of Arizona and parts of Colorado, New Mexico, and Wyoming.

Comprehension Question

Evaluate the main reasons Americans felt it was wrong to go to war against Mexico.

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