

(continued)

PRIMARY SOURCE ACTIVITY

savage would exhume them to get the clothes they were buried in, then leave the body for the hungry wolfe, that left bones to be gathered up and reinterred by the next company that passed along. All those things sorely taxed their powers of endurance.

E. We set out on a faintly blazed trail over which no emigrant party had gone before. . . . I think I shall never forget the scenery in the Santa Cruz mountains. To me the most beautiful spot in our journey of thousands of miles was found among the stately pines on the mountain top where a natural fountain poured its crystal waters into a granite basin fully six feet across.

F. It rains and snows. We start this morning around the falls with our wagons. . . . I carry my babe and lead, or rather carry, another through snow, mud, and water, almost to my knees. It is the worst road. . . . I went ahead with my children and I was afraid to look behind me for fear of seeing the wagons turn over into the mud. . . . My children gave out with cold and fatigue and could not travel, and the boys had to unhitch the oxen and bring them and carry the children on to camp. I was so cold and numb I could not tell by feeling that I had any feet at all. . . . I have not told you half we suffered. I am not adequate to the task.

G. During the entire trip Indians were a source of anxiety, we being never sure of their friendship.

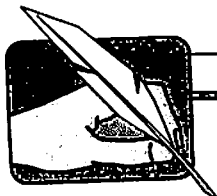
Secret dread and alert watchfulness seemed always necessary. . . . One night after we had retired, some sleeping in blankets upon the ground, some in tents, a few under the wagons and others in the wagons, Colonel Brophy gave the men a practice drill. It was impromptu and a surprise. He called: "Indian, Indians!" We were thrown into great confusion and excitement but he was gratified at the promptness and courage with which the men responded. Each immediately seized his gun and made ready for the attack. The women had been instructed to seek shelter in the wagons at such times of danger, but some screamed, others fainted, a few crawled under the wagons and those sleeping in wagons generally followed their husbands out and all of us were nearly paralyzed with fear. Fortunately, we never had occasion to put into actual use this maneuver, but the drill was quite reassuring and certainly we womenfolk would have acted braver had the alarm ever again been sounded.

H. Father had a great deal of advice from an old Mountaineer [about] how to use precautions against Cholera. I remember that one was to take a large quantity of pepper sauce and put some in every bit of water we drank. . . . I do not know how many cases of it father took along. He always thought it was a great help to keep from taking Cholera. When we was coming down the mountain there was several of us took sick with mountain fever. I took it before we crossed the summit of the Rockies.

From WOMEN'S DIARIES OF THE WESTWARD JOURNEY, edited by Lillian Schlissel. Copyright © 1982. Published by Schocken Books, a division of Random House, Inc.

Questions to Think About

1. In general, which member of the family made the decision to migrate west? Identify two examples to support your answer.
2. How did most women view their journey west?
3. **Identifying Assumptions** Why do you think the pioneer families were willing to endure the dangers and hardships of the journey west?



PRIMARY SOURCE ACTIVITY

Traveling West

CHAPTER 10

The following accounts are from *Women's Diaries of the Westward Journey*, a collection of entries from diaries written in the mid-1800s.

As you read, try to visualize the hardships pioneer families were forced to endure on their travels west.

A. One Saturday morning father said that he was going . . . to hear Mr. Burnett talk about Oregon. . . Mr. Burnett hauled a box out on to the sidewalk, took his stand upon it, and began to tell us about the land flowing with milk and honey on the shores of the Pacific . . . he told of the great crops of wheat which it was possible to raise in Oregon, and pictured in glowing terms the richness of the soil and the attractions of the climate, and then with a little twinkle in his eye he said "and they do say, gentlemen, they do say, that out in Oregon the pigs are running about under the great acorn trees, round and fat, and already cooked, with knives and forks sticking in them so that you can cut off a slice whenever you are hungry." . . . Father was so moved by what he heard . . . that he decided to join the company that was going west to Oregon. . . father . . . was the first to sign his name.

B. In the winter of 18 and 46 our neighbor got hold of Fremont's *History of California* and began talking of moving to the New Country and brought the book to my husband to read, and he was carried away with the idea too. I said *O let us not go*. Our neighbors, some of them old men and women, with large families, but it made no difference. They must go. . . We sold our home and what we could not take with us and what we could not sell . . . we gave away and on the 7th day of May 1846 we joined the camp for California.

C. [N]ot being accustomed to riding in a covered wagon, the motion made us all sick, and . . . was increased from the fact that it had set in to rain, which made it impossible to roll back the cover and let in the fresh air. It also caused a damp and musty smell that was very nauseating. It took several weeks of travel to overcome this 'sea sickness.'

D. I've often been asked if we did not suffer with fear in those days but I've said no we did not

have sense enough to realize our danger we just had the time of our lives but since I've grown older and could realize the danger and the feelings of the mothers, I often wonder how they really lived through it all and retained their reason.

[Crossing the Deschutes River,] the women took their places in the boats, feeling they were facing death . . . the

frail craft would get caught in a whirlpool and the water dashing over and drenching them through and through. The men would then plunge in the cold stream and draw the half drowned women and children ashore, build fires and partly dry them, and the bedding, and start on again. The women preferring to try it afoot, but *that* was no pleasure trip, carrying a small child in arms whilst another one or two clung to their skirts whilst they climbed over fallen trees and rocks. . . .

There were both deaths and births on the way, the dead were laid away in packing boxes, but could not be covered so deep but the prowling



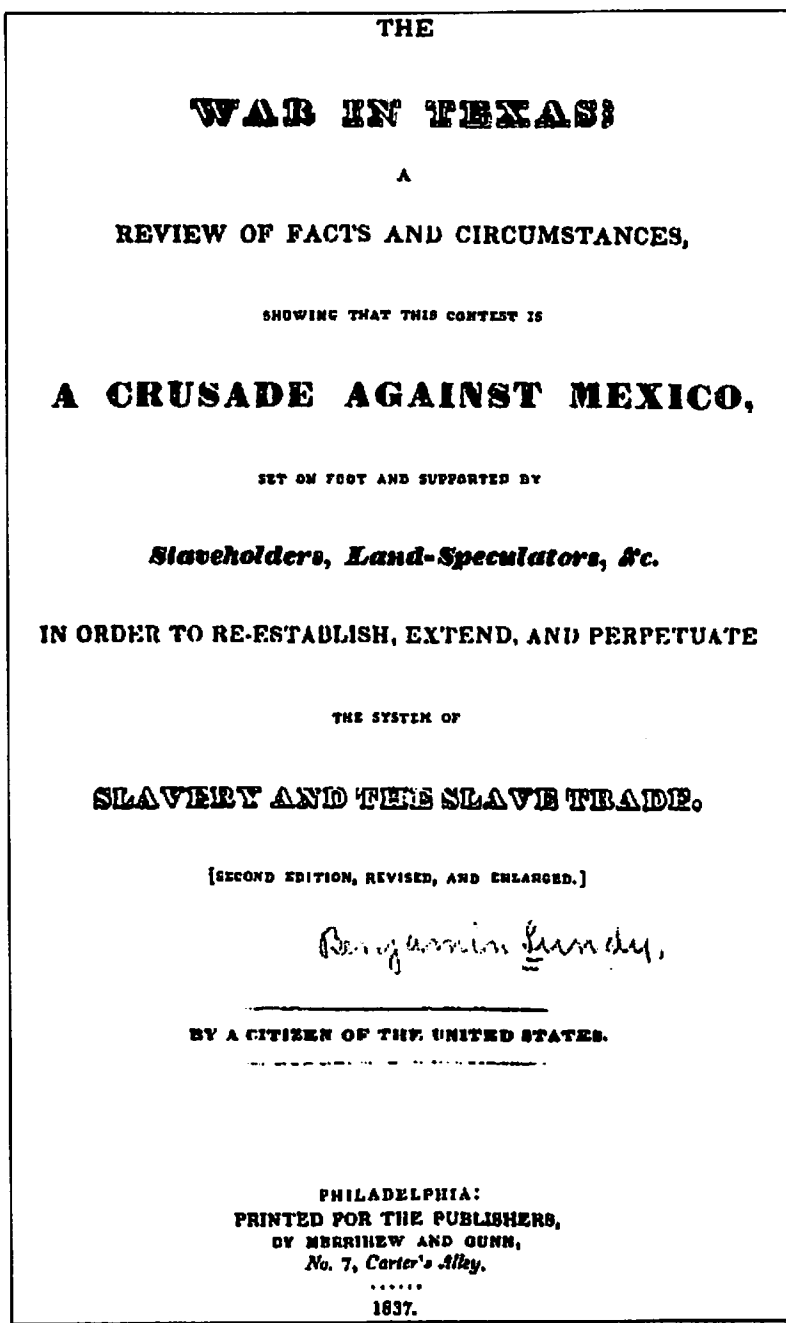
Western History Department, Denver Public Library

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VISUAL LEARNING

The Annexation of Texas

Between the defeat of Santa Anna in 1836 and admission to the Union in 1845, Texas existed as a separate ("Lone Star") republic. The question of whether the United States should annex Texas was highly controversial and the topic of heated debates in Congress. To the right is the title page of a pamphlet written in opposition to the annexation of Texas. Look for the arguments the author used to support his position.

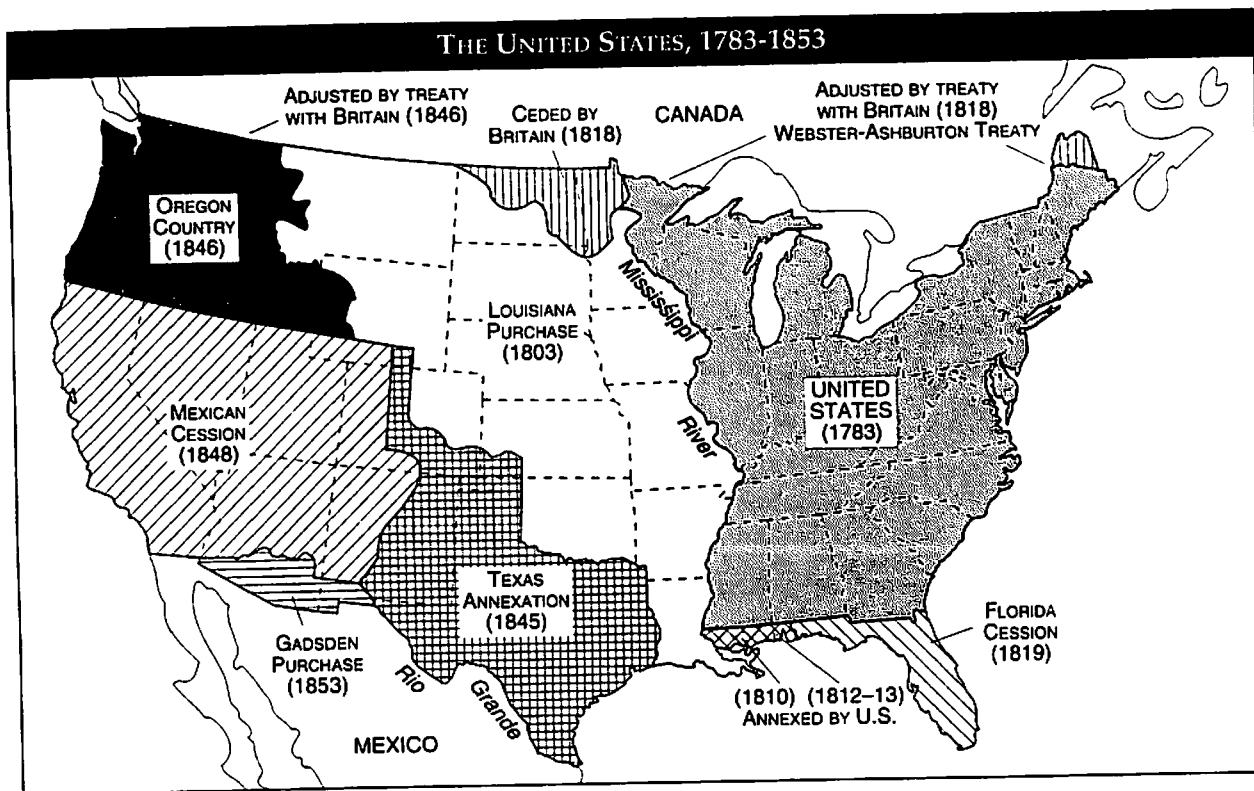


Houghton Library, Harvard University

1. How did the author of the pamphlet view the war in Texas? Whom did he blame for the war?
2. What did he see as the chief motive of supporters of the annexation of Texas?
3. What arguments did other Americans use to support their opposition to the annexation of Texas?

TEST FORM A (continued)**C. INTERPRETING A MAP**

Use the map to answer questions 23–25. Write your answers on the back of this paper or on a separate sheet of paper. (9 points)



23. How did the United States acquire most of the territory in the Southwest?
24. (a) What natural feature marks the boundary between the United States and Mexico? (b) How were border disputes between the United States and Great Britain settled?
25. How did the United States gain possession of Florida?

D. CRITICAL THINKING

Answer the following questions on the back of this paper or on a separate sheet of paper. (27 points)

26. **Demonstrating Reasoned Judgment** Why do you think most reform movements in the 1830s and 1840s took place in the North?
27. **Expressing Problems Clearly** What problems did westward expansion create for the United States government in the first half of the 1800s?
28. **Recognizing Cause and Effect** What were some advantages and disadvantages of the Market Revolution in the United States? Who benefited? Who was adversely affected?

PRIMARY SOURCE ACTIVITY

(continued)

**CHAPTER
10**

Gold! Gold! Gold!

As you read the following accounts of the gold rush, look for ways in which the discovery of gold changed the character and people of California.

The discovery of these vast deposits of gold has entirely changed the character of Upper California. Its people, before engaged in cultivating their small patches of ground, and guarding their herds of cattle and horses, have all gone to the mines, or on their way thither. Labourers of every trade have left their workbenches, and tradesmen their shops. Sailors desert their ships as fast as they arrive on the coast, and several vessels have gone to sea with hardly enough hands to spread a sail. Two or three are now at anchor in San Francisco, with no crew on board. Many desertions, too, have taken place from the garrisons within the influence of these mines: twenty-six soldiers have deserted from the post of Sonoma, twenty-four from that of San Francisco, and twenty-four from Monterey.

Major Edwin Mason, Report of 1848, in *Fremont's Geographical Memoir Upon Upper California* (1849)

It may be interesting to give here a few instances of the enormous and unnatural value put upon property at the time of my arrival. The Parker House rented for \$110,000 yearly, at least \$60,000 of which was paid by gamblers, who held nearly all the second story. Adjoining it on the right was a canvas-tent fifteen by twenty-five feet, called "Eldorado," and occupied likewise by gamblers, which brought \$40,000. On the opposite corner of the plaza, a building called the "Miner's Bank," used by Wright & Co., brokers, about half the size of a fire-engine house in New York, was held at a rent of \$75,000. A mercantile house paid \$40,000 rent for a one-story building of twenty feet front; the United States Hotel, \$36,000; the Post Office, \$7,000, and so on to the end of the chapter. A

friend of mine, who wished to find a place for a law-office, was shown a cellar in the earth, about twelve feet square and six deep, which he could have at \$250 a month. One of the common soldiers at the battle of San Pasquale was reputed to be among the millionaires of the place, with an income of \$50,000 monthly.

Bayard Taylor, *New York Tribune* correspondent, in *Eldorado, or Adventures in the Path of Empire* (1850)

We went into San Francisco shortly before the rainy season—about three months after I had first seen it. Already it was changed out of recognition by the crowds of people added, and the buildings which had grown up. Houses were rapidly going up for winter; night and day and Sunday, the sounds of hammers never ceased. Ready-made houses were to be had, and some very pretty little ones from China. One of these was bought and put up for me on a lot we had in what was then called Happy Valley.

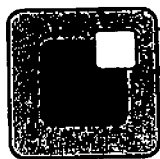
Jessie Benton Fremont in *A Year of American Travel* (1877)

Have been at work all the past week, and still am \$8 in debt for boarding. I dug 50 cent worth on Monday, \$1.00 Tuesday, Wednesday \$1.70. Thursday \$2.00, Friday \$2.00 and Saturday \$6.00. Bought a spade on Tuesday for \$4.00. Paid \$10 last night in gold dust in account of my week's board. Am not discouraged yet, but find it very hard work for a little filthy lucre. Am anxious to get enough to take me to San Francisco to get letters from home and answer them. Hope to go in one week more.

Bernard J. Reid, gold miner, diary entry of September 30, 1850, in *Overland to California with the Pioneer Line*

ACTIVITY

Imagine that you are a set designer and have been asked to design the sets for a movie that takes place in California before, during, and after the gold rush. Work with a partner or in a small group to sketch or describe in writing a series of sets that would be appropriate for this movie.

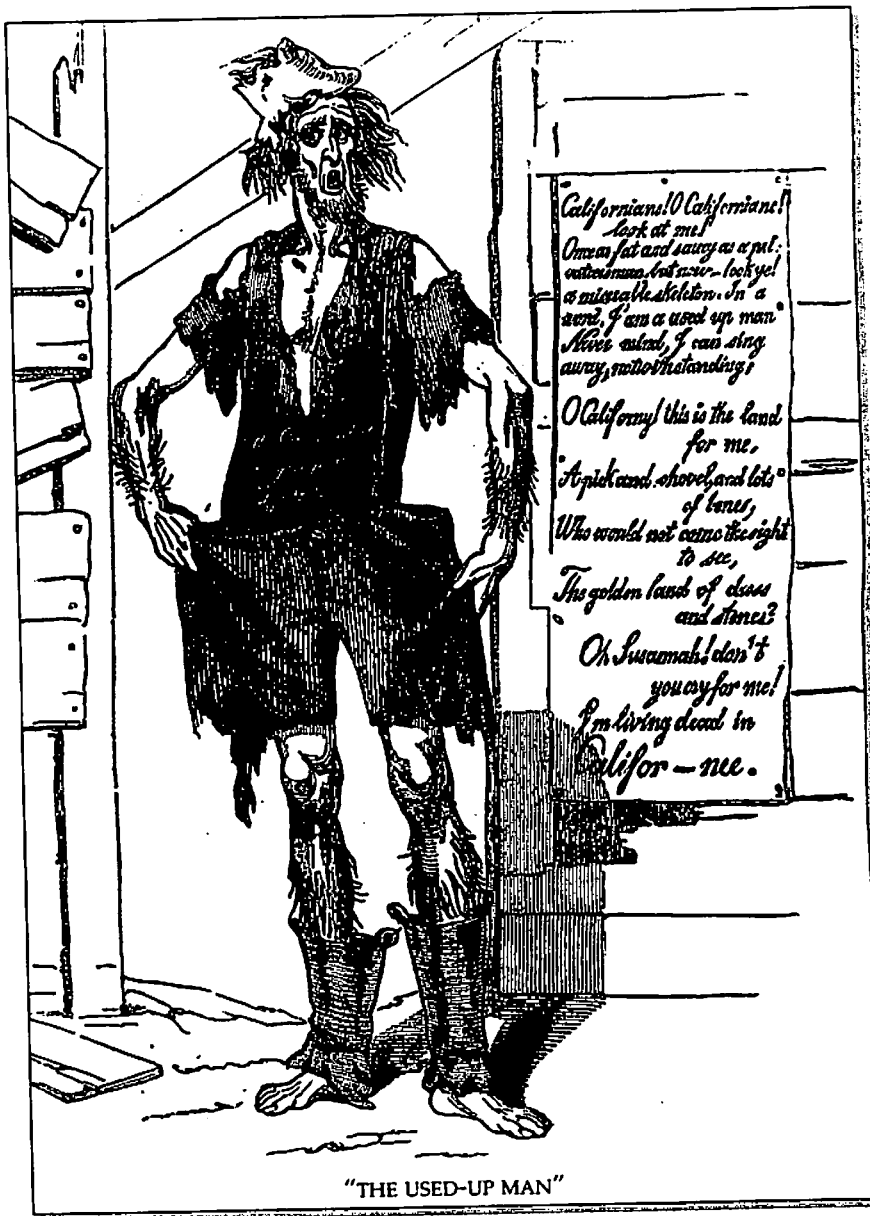


VISUAL LEARNING

Living Dead in Califor-nee

CHAPTER 10

The California gold rush did not make many of the "forty-niners" rich. This satirical cartoon was published in 1853 in *Pen Knife Sketches* by A. Delano. In the cartoon, the "used-up man" sings his song of woe to the tune of the popular song "Oh, Susannah."



"THE USED-UP MAN"

Library of Congress

ACTIVITY

The California gold rush produced many ghost towns when the gold ran out or the gold turned out to be no more than a "flash in the pan." Work with a partner. Draw a cartoon or write a poem, song, or story about a mining town in the West—or a miner—that went from "boom to bust."