

Chapter 1 : Top Ten Heroes and Villians in Mexican History

The Mexican war and its heroes Mexican war Full view - The Mexican War and Its Heroes: Being a Complete History of the Mexican War Full view -

The Mexican-American War was the first major conflict continue reading.. Troops at the Siege of Veracruz The U. This belief would eventually cause a great deal of suffering for many Mexicans, Native Americans and United States citizens. Following the earlier Texas War of Independence from Mexico, tensions between the two largest independent nations on the North American continent grew as Texas eventually became a U. Disputes over the border lines sparked military confrontation, helped by the fact that President Polk eagerly sought a war in order to seize large tracts of land from Mexico. The war between the United States and Mexico had two basic causes. First, the desire of the U. By the time President Polk came to office in , an idea called "Manifest Destiny" had taken root among the American people, and the new occupant of the White House was a firm believer in the idea of expansion. The belief that the U. The fact that most of those areas already had people living upon them was usually ignored, with the attitude that democratic English-speaking America, with its high ideals and Protestant Christian ethics, would do a better job of running things than the Native Americans or Spanish-speaking Catholic Mexicans. Manifest Destiny did not necessarily call for violent expansion. The second basic cause of the war was the Texas War of Independence and the subsequent annexation of that area to the United States. Not all American westward migration was unwelcome. An invitation was issued for people who would take an oath of allegiance to Mexico and convert to Catholicism, the state religion. Thousands of Americans took up the offer and moved, often with slaves, to the Mexican province of Texas. Soon however, many of the new "Texicans" or "Texians" were unhappy with the way the government in Mexico City tried to run the province. In , Texas revolted, and after several bloody battles, the Mexican President, Santa Anna, was forced to sign the Treaty of Velasco in This treaty gave Texas its independence, but many Mexicans refused to accept the legality of this document, as Santa Anna was a prisoner of the Texans at the time. The Republic of Texas and Mexico continued to engage in border fights and many people in the United States openly sympathized with the U. As a result of the savage frontier fighting, the American public developed a very negative stereotype against the Mexican people and government. Partly due to the continued hostilities with Mexico, Texas decided to join with the United States, and on July 4, , the annexation gained approval from the U. Mexico of course did not like the idea of its breakaway province becoming an American state, and the undefined and contested border now became a major international issue. Mexico claimed territory as far north as the Nueces River. Both nations sent troops to enforce the competing claims, and a tense standoff ensued. On April 25, , a clash occurred between Mexican and American troops on soil claimed by both countries. The war had begun. The Mexican-American War was largely a conventional conflict fought by traditional armies consisting of infantry, cavalry and artillery using established European-style tactics. As American forces penetrated into the Mexican heartland, some of the defending forces resorted to guerrilla tactics to harass the invaders, but these irregular forces did not greatly influence the outcome of the war. After the beginning of hostilities, the U. In a series of battles at Palo Alto and Resaca de Palma near current-day Brownsville, Texas , the army of General Zachary Taylor defeated the Mexican forces and began to move south after inflicting over a thousand casualties. Following the capture of the city by the Americans, a temporary truce ensued which enabled both armies to recover from the exhausting Battle of Monterey. During this time, former President Santa Anna returned to Mexico from exile and raised and trained a new army of over 20, men to oppose the invaders. Despite the losses of huge tracts of land, and defeat in several major battles, the Mexican government refused to make peace. It became apparent to the Polk Administration that only a complete battlefield victory would end the war. Continued fighting in the dry deserts of northern Mexico convinced the United States that an overland expedition to capture of the enemy capital, Mexico City, would be hazardous and difficult. To this end, General Winfield Scott proposed what would become the largest amphibious landing in history, at that time , and a campaign to seize the capital of Mexico. From this point, from March to August, Scott and Santa Anna fought a series of bloody,

hard-fought battles from the coast inland toward Mexico City. The more important battles of this campaign include the Battles of: Finally, on September 14, the American army entered Mexico City. Army enjoyed full control. He attempted to continue military operations against the Americans, but his troops, beaten and disheartened, refused to fight. His government soon asked for his military resignation. The treaty called for the annexation of the northern portions of Mexico to the United States. In return, the U. The bravery of the individual Mexican soldier goes a long way in explaining the difficulty the U. Mexican military leadership was often lacking, at least when compared to the American leadership. And in many of the battles, the superior cannon of the U. America had defeated its weaker and somewhat disorganized southern neighbor, but not without paying a terrible price. Something new and historical: Want to learn how to drive a tank? Check out these tank driving experiences. The United States acquired the northern half of Mexico. This area later became the U. President Santa Anna lost power in Mexico following the war. Relations between the United States and Mexico remained tense for many decades to come, with several military encounters along the border. For the United States, this war provided a training-ground for the men who would lead the Northern and Southern armies in the upcoming American Civil War. This war featured the first major amphibious landing by U. The defeat of Mexico was the first time a foreign enemy force occupied the capitol of the nation. Despite early popularity at home, the war was marked by the growth of a loud anti-war movement which included such noted Americans as Ralph Waldo Emerson, former president John Quincy Adams and Henry David Thoreau. The center of anti-war sentiment gravitated around New England, and was directly connected to the movement to abolish slavery. Texas became a slave state upon entry into the Union. One interesting aspect of the war involves the fate of U. This group of Catholic Irish immigrants rebelled at the abusive treatment by Protestant, American-born officers and at the treatment of the Catholic Mexican population by the U. At this time in American history, Catholics were an ill-treated minority, and the Irish were an unwanted ethnic group in the United States. In September, , the U. Army hanged sixteen surviving members of the San Patricios as traitors. To this day, they are considered heroes in Mexico.

Chapter 2 : Heroes of the Mexican War of Independence (7 days) » All Mexico

The Mexican war and its heroes; being a complete history of the Mexican War, embracing all the operations under Generals Taylor and Scott, with a biography of the officers. Also, an account of the conquests of California and New Mexico.

The American Navy dominated the sea. The American government provided stable, capable leadership. The economy of the expanding United States far surpassed that of the fledgling Mexican state. Morale was on the American side. The war was a rout. Polk directed the war from Washington, D. He sent a 4-prong attack into the Mexican heartland. Fremont led a group of zealous Californians to declare independence even before word of hostilities reached the West. The "Bear Flag Republic" was not taken seriously, but Fremont and his followers did march to Monterey to capture the Mexican presidio, or fort. By , California was secure. The original Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was printed in two columns, the English translation on the left and the Spanish on the right. The city was captured without a single casualty. Soon he marched his army westward across the desert to join Fremont in California. The attack on Mexico proper was left to two other commanders. Winfield Scott delivered the knockout punch. All that remained was negotiating the terms of peace. Yes No At home, the Whigs of the north complained bitterly about the war. Abolitionists rightly feared that southerners would try to use newly acquired lands to expand slavery. Antiwar sentiment emerged in New England much as it had in the War of . Writer Henry David Thoreau was sentenced to prison for refusing to pay the taxes he knew were used to fund the war effort. His essay, Civil Disobedience, became a standard of peaceful resistance for future activists. The United States Army won a grand victory. Although suffering 13, killed, the military won every engagement of the war. Mexico was stripped of half of its territory and was not consoled by the monetary settlement.

Chapter 3 : Mexican-American War - Wikipedia

CAUSES OF CONFLICT: The war between the United States and Mexico had two basic causes. First, the desire of the U.S. to expand across the North American continent to the Pacific Ocean caused conflict with all of its neighbors; from the British in Canada and Oregon to the Mexicans in the southwest and, of course, with the Native Americans.

It briefly experimented with monarchy , but became a republic in This government was characterized by instability, leaving it ill-prepared for international conflict when war broke out only two decades later, in In , the Texan Republic agreed to an offer of annexation by the U. Congress and became the 28th state in the Union on December 29 that year. After independence from Spain in , Mexico contended with internal struggles that sometimes verged on civil war and the northern frontier was not a high priority. In the sparsely settled interior of northern Mexico, the end of Spanish rule was marked by the end of financing for presidios and for subsidies to indigenous Americans to maintain the peace. There were conflicts between indigenous people in the northern region as well. The Comanche were particularly successful in expanding their territory in the Comanche-Mexico Wars and garnering resources. Comanches of West Texas in war regalia, c. There was little resistance to US forces from the civilian population. The indigenous people, especially the Comanche, took advantage of the weakness of the Mexican state to undertake large-scale raids hundreds of miles into the country to acquire livestock for their own use and to supply an expanding market in Texas and the US. Instead of settlement occurring in the central and west of the province, people settled in East Texas , where there was rich farmland and which was contiguous to southern US slave states. As settlers poured in from the US, the Mexican government discouraged further settlement, with its abolition of slavery. In , Mexico was relatively united in refusing to recognize the independence of Texas. Mexico threatened war with the United States if it annexed the Republic of Texas. Designs on California[edit] Mexico in Alta California was the northwesternmost federal territory During the Spanish colonial era, the Californias i. After Mexico became independent, it shut down the missions and reduced its military presence. France and England both have had their eyes upon it. Lord Aberdeen declined to participate but said Britain had no objection to U. The present-day outlines of the individual U. After independence, the Mexican government implemented the policy, granting Moses Austin , a banker from Missouri, a large tract of land in Texas. Austin died before he could bring his plan of recruiting American settlers for the land to fruition, but his son, Stephen F. Austin , brought over American families into Texas. The Mexican government intended the new settlers to act as a buffer between the Tejano residents and the Comanches , but the non-Hispanic colonists tended to settle where there was decent farmland and trade connections with American Louisiana, which the United States had acquired in the Louisiana Purchase , rather than further west where they would have been an effective buffer against the Indians. In , as a result of the large influx of American immigrants, the non-Hispanic outnumbered native Spanish speakers in the Texas territory. President Vicente Guerrero , a hero of Mexican independence, moved to gain more control over Texas and its influx of southern non-Hispanic colonists and discourage further immigration by abolishing slavery in Mexico. The settlers and many Mexican businessmen in the region rejected the demands, which led to Mexico closing Texas to additional immigration, which continued from the United States into Texas illegally. He decided to quash the semi-independence of Texas, having succeeded in doing so in Coahuila in , Mexico had merged Texas and Coahuila into the enormous state of Coahuila y Tejas. Austin called Texians to arms, and they declared independence from Mexico in In Texas agreed to the offer of annexation by the US Congress and became the 28th state on December 29, When that offer was rejected, President Polk moved U. The Nueces Strip[edit] The border of Texas as an independent state was originally never settled. The ill-fated Texan Santa Fe Expedition of attempted to realize the claim to New Mexican territory East of the Rio Grande, but its members were captured and imprisoned. President Polk claimed the Rio Grande boundary, and when Mexico sent forces over the Rio Grande, this provoked a dispute. Polk wanted to protect the border and also coveted for the U. At the same time Polk wrote to the American consul in the Mexican territory of Alta California, disclaiming American ambitions in California, but offering to support independence from Mexico or voluntary accession to the United States, and warning that the United

States would oppose a British or French takeover. In the Winter of 1846, the federally commissioned explorer John C. After telling the Mexican governor and the American Consul Larkin he was merely buying supplies on the way to Oregon, he instead went to the populated area of California and visited Santa Cruz and the Salinas Valley , explaining he had been looking for a seaside home for his mother. US expansionists wanted California to thwart British ambitions in the area and to gain a port on the Pacific Ocean. In alone, the presidency changed hands four times, the war ministry six times, and the finance ministry sixteen times. When de Herrera considered receiving Slidell to settle the problem of Texas annexation peacefully, he was accused of treason and deposed.

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Death to bad government! Death to the heretic Lutheran [Viceroy Gelves]! There is a statue of Lamport in the mausoleum at the base of the Angel of Independence in Mexico City. Unlike the earlier one in which elites were involved, the viceroy ousted, and no repercussions against the instigators, the riot was by plebeians alone and racially charged. The rioters attacked key symbols of Spanish power and shouted political slogans. We go to war happily! God wants us to finish off the Spaniards! We do not care if we die without confession! Is this not our land? But the riot "represented class warfare that put Spanish authority at risk. Punishment was swift and brutal, and no further riots in the capital challenged the Pax Hispanica. However, during the war of independence, issues at the local level in rural areas constituted what one historian has called "the other rebellion. They did not, however, pursue political independence from Spain until the Napoleonic invasion of the Iberian peninsula and defeat of Spain destabilized the monarchy. Famed military leader Ignacio Allende was among the attendees. In Hidalgo concluded that a revolt was needed because of injustices against the poor of Mexico. He also became known as a top theologian. When his older brother died in , Hidalgo took over as priest for the town of Dolores. Hidalgo ran to the church, calling for all the people to gather, where from the pulpit he called upon them to revolt. They all shouted in agreement. The people were a comparatively small group, and poorly armed with whatever was at hand, including sticks and rocks. On the morning of 16 September , Hidalgo called upon the remaining locals who happened to be in the market, and again, from the pulpit, exhorted the people of Dolores to join him. Hidalgo had a mob of some men within minutes. This became known as the Grito de Dolores or Cry of Dolores. Hidalgo and Allende marched their little army through towns including San Miguel and Celaya, where the angry rebels killed all the Spaniards they found. Along the way they adopted the standard of the Virgin of Guadalupe as their symbol and protector. By this time, the rebels numbered 30, and the battle was horrific. They killed more than Spanish and creoles, and marched on toward Mexico City. The Viceroy quickly organized a defense, sending out the Spanish general Torcuato Trujillo with 1, men, horsemen, and 2 cannons - all that could be found on such short notice. When the cannons were captured by the rebels, the surviving Royalists retreated to the City. Despite having the advantage, Hidalgo retreated, against the counsel of Allende. This retreat, on the verge of apparent victory, has puzzled historians and biographers ever since. They generally believe that Hidalgo wanted to spare the numerous Mexican citizens in Mexico City from the inevitable sacking and plunder that would have ensued. All of the rebel leaders were found guilty of treason and sentenced to death, except for Mariano Abasolo. He was sent to Spain to serve a life sentence in prison. Hidalgo, as a priest, had to undergo a civil trial and review by the Inquisition. He was eventually stripped of his priesthood, found guilty, and executed on 30 July. After Ignacio Lopez Rayon " stationed in Saltillo , Coahuila with 3, men and 22 cannons " heard of the capture of the insurgent leaders, he decided to flee back south on 26 March, to continue the fight. He achieved the occupation of the cities of Oaxaca and Acapulco. In , he convened the Congress of Chilpancingo to bring representatives together and, on 6 November of that year, the Congress signed the first official document of independence, known as the Solemn Act of the Declaration of Independence of Northern America. A long period of war followed in the Siege of Cuautla. In , Morelos was captured by Spanish colonial authorities, tried and executed for treason. From these, two leaders arose: Believing the situation under control, the Spanish viceroy issued a general pardon to every rebel who would lay down his arms. After ten years of civil war and the death of two of its founders, by early the independence movement was stalemated and close to collapse. The rebels faced stiff Spanish military resistance and the apathy of many of the most influential criollos. A favorite of the Mexican church hierarchy, Iturbide symbolized conservative criollo values; he was devoutly religious, and committed to the defense of property rights and social privileges. He also resented his lack of promotion and failure to gain wealth. The coup leaders, part of an expeditionary force assembled to suppress the independence movements in the Americas, had turned against the monarchy. They compelled the

reluctant Ferdinand to reinstate the liberal Spanish Constitution of that created a constitutional monarchy. When news of the liberal charter reached Mexico, Iturbide perceived it both as a threat to the status quo and a catalyst to rouse the criollos to gain control of Mexico. Independence was achieved when conservative Royalist forces in the colonies chose to rise up against the liberal regime in Spain; it was an about-face compared to their previous opposition to the peasant insurgency. While stationed in the town of Iguala , Iturbide proclaimed three principles, or "guarantees," for Mexican independence from Spain. Mexico would be an independent monarchy governed by King Ferdinand, another Bourbon prince, or some other conservative European prince; criollos would be given equal rights and privileges to peninsulares ; and the Roman Catholic Church in Mexico would retain its privileges and position as the established religion of the land. After convincing his troops to accept the principles, which were promulgated on February 24, as the Plan of Iguala , Iturbide persuaded Guerrero to join his forces in support of this conservative independence movement. The plan was so broadly based that it pleased both patriots and loyalists. The goal of independence and the protection of Roman Catholicism brought together all factions. Iturbide included a special clause in the treaty that left open the possibility for a criollo monarch to be appointed by a Mexican congress if no suitable member of the European royalty would accept the Mexican crown. The following day, the Congress declared Iturbide Emperor of Mexico. On October 31, Iturbide dissolved Congress and replaced it with a sympathetic junta. Construction of Historical Memory of Independence See also:

Chapter 5 : 10 Things You May Not Know About the Mexican-American War - HISTORY

The Mexican war and its heroes: being a complete history of the Mexican war, embracing all the operations under Generals Taylor and Scott, with a biography of the officers.

During the surrender negotiations, the Mexicans, in defeat had the upper hand. General Taylor and his forces were deep in enemy territory, with limited supplies and no reinforcements. The Mexican General conceded to abandoned the city of Monterey, and in exchange, General Taylor agreed to free any war prisoners, including those in the St. Despite the truce, U. General Taylor sent advance troops several hundred miles further south into Mexico, reaching a small town called Agua Nueva on December 21, Again, the American forces routed the much larger Mexican forces, making General Zachary Taylor a war hero and a shoe in the election for President of the United States. John Riley and his artillery unit took out American Artillery units, managed to capture several pieces of American Artillery and valiantly protected the Mexican Army as they retreated. General Taylor even sent a special unit to take out the St. After the battle, John Riley and several members of the St. After this battle, Gen. Santa Anna took his forces including the St. Santa Anna correctly anticipated the route the Americans would take, and the stage was set for the next battle on April 18, called the Battle of Cerro Gordo. The Americans would again win this battle, with General Scott and his forces eventually capturing the Mexican city of Puebla. Scott would remain for several months while re-supplying and preparing for the next phase into Mexico City. General Santa Anna deployed troops around the City of Mexico in order to protect it. General Santa Anna was now in full retreat, and he ordered some of his troops including two regiments of the St. The Mexican troops took up position in a convent near the river Churubusco, which means the Place of the War God. As the Americans advanced, the defending Mexican troops took position inside a nearby convent. From here the Mexican troops including John Riley and his men would fight until the end. The Americans sustained many casualties during this standoff, while the Mexican troops were also losing many men. When some troops thought of surrendering and attempted to raise a white flag of surrender, it would be quickly stopped by a member of the St. When the Mexican troops finished their ammunition, they attempted to fight it out hand to hand. Scott and the court martial hearings initially condemned all the men to death as deserters. The Mexican government, other countries and many of the Mexican people protested at the unjust ruling. The San Patricios had endeared themselves to the Mexican people with stories of their fierce defense of the Mexican homeland. General Scott retried the men of the St. So on September 10, , while American troops battled Mexican troops for control of Mexico City, 16 members of the St. The remaining 30 of the St. As the American flag was raised over the Chapultepec castle, it was the last thing 30 St. Members of the St. Army until after the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was signed on February 2, John Riley would remain with the Mexican Army until around when he was finally honorably discharged. Riley was said to wear his hair long to cover the scars on his cheeks. His last known record was in the City of Vera Cruz, but he was never heard from again after that. Today, in Many of the battle sites where the St. Plaque in Mexico commemorating the members of the St. I thought it was interesting, especially to see that people to this day still write and sing songs about John Riley, Patrick Dalton and the St. I watched the whole movie, somehow, but was not as enthused about it. Not sure if it was the cheesy acting or plot line but if any of you brave through the movie, let me know what you think.

Chapter 6 : Mexican Independence War HERO Jose Maria Morelos Peso Coin of Mexico i | eBay

The Mexican-American War, also known in the United States as the Mexican War and in Mexico as the American intervention in Mexico, was an armed conflict between the United States of America and the United Mexican States from to

Discuss with students the importance of war memorials. Have the students brainstorm a list of war memorials, particularly ones that they have actually seen. Why do they think we have war memorials? What are the purposes that memorials can serve? Take the students back to the time of the U. S-Mexican War by setting up the video clips they are about to see. Explain to students that at this point the war is almost over and the Mexican forces have virtually no chance to stave off the U. Yet the Mexicans have prepared for one last battle in defense of the Chapultepec Castle. The Mexican forces are depleted and they must rely on young military cadets to help them fight the battle. For some background, you can reference this article which has information on the boy heroes. Ask students to complete the worksheet after they have watched the video clips. After students have completed the worksheet, have them discuss their answers and their responses to the video clips. Tell the students that in more recent times, President Clinton also visited the memorial. Explain to students that the U. Ask students to consider possible reasons for this. Break the class into small groups. Tell the students that with the knowledge they have about the U. Go over the following questions from the worksheet with the students to prepare them for their task: What is the goal of your memorial? What is the target audience of your memorial? Whom would your memorial honor? What words, if any, would be on your memorial? What would your memorial look like? In what city or state would your memorial be? What would be the setting for your memorial? Tell students that each group must minimally answer all of the questions on the worksheet, but that they can also include any additional ideas that they have. Have each group select a member to create a simple sketch of what their memorial would look like. Have each group present its ideas and sketches to the entire class; then have the students offer each other feedback. Did the students work well together in their groups? Did the students make clear and coherent presentations of their ideas for a war memorial? Extensions and Applications While there are no U. Have the students go to this web site to explore some of them. Have the students compare the actual memorials they will see here with the ideas that their groups created. To learn more about some of the memorials at the National Mall in Washington, have students visit this web site. And for a more personal take on memorials, have the students go to the site dedicated to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. There are some very moving and powerful responses to the memorial here. This activity can also be adapted for younger students. Then have the students write imaginative letters to them. National Standards Language Arts Standard 1: Uses the general skills and strategies of the writing process. Uses reading skills and strategies to understand and interpret a variety of informational texts. Understands the impact of significant political and nonpolitical developments on the United States and other nations. Understands the United States territorial expansion between and , and how it affected relations with external powers and Native Americans.

Chapter 7 : The U.S.-Mexican War . For Educators . Creating a Memorial | PBS

As the war inched toward its conclusion in , President Polk sent State Department clerk Nicholas P. Trist south of the border to seal a peace treaty with the Mexicans.

Map of the Mexican American War. For a larger image click here. The plan of the campaign in Mexico for the year , seems to have been arranged jointly, by consultations between the President, Secretary at War, and General Scott. At this time, General Scott, as commander of the army, was stationed at Washington, engaged in arranging and superintending the various staff duties of the army. He would be naturally consulted on the plans to be formed, and the means to execute them. The whole detail of the physical and social condition of Mexico, were almost utterly unknown in the United States, and that information on these topics had to be obtained by inquiry and study, before even a general of the army could make prudent military arrangements. The American strategy called for a three pronged offensive. Kearny would leave from Fort Leavenworth with the army of the West and occupy New Mexico and California with 1, hundred men. This was between Point Isabel and Matamoros. The siege of Fort Brown was raised by the arrival of the victorious army of Taylor, which had just fought the battles of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma. It appears that General Arista, who was now in command of the Mexican army, had assembled in all about eight thousand men at Matamoros, and being well advised of the strength of the American forces, thought the time had arrived for a decisive blow. Arista saw that Point Isabel, the depot of large quantities of provisions and military munitions, was comparatively defenseless. The army was halted, and the men refreshed at a pool. The Mexican cavalry, mostly Lancers, were on their left, and were forced back by the destructive discharges of artillery. To remedy this, General Arista ordered Torrejon, general of cavalry, to charge the American right. This he did, but was met by the Flying Artillery, under Lt. Ridgely, and by the 5th Infantry. The Lancers were again driven back. At this period the prairie grass was set on fire, and under cover of its smoke the Americans advanced to the position just occupied by the Mexican cavalry. Again a Mexican division of Lancers charged, under the command of Col. Montero, but with as little success. The combat on our side was chiefly carried on by artillery ; and never was there a more complete demonstration of the superior skill and energy of that Arm of service, as conducted by the accomplished graduates of West-Point. He who was the life and leader of the Light Artillery, Major Ringgold was in this engagement mortally wounded, and died in a few days The battle terminated with the possession, by the Americans, of the field, and the retreat during the night of the Mexicans. Arista, dating his despatch, says, " in sight of the enemy, at night" This might be true ; but he was in retreat, and took a new position several miles off, at Resaca de la Palma. A ravine here crossed the road, and on either side it was skirted with dense thickets. This ravine was occupied by the Mexican artillery. The position was well chosen ; and with troops better skilled in the use of artillery, and with greater energy of body, might have easily been defended. In two hours, the American army came in sight of the Mexican array. The dispositions of our troops were soon made. A battery of artillery, under Lt. Ridgely, moved up the main road, while the 3d, 4th, and 5th Regiments of Infantry deployed on either flank to support it and act as skirmishers. In this firing, the Mexican cannon were well managed by Generals La Vega and Requena, and the effect began to be severely felt on the American lines. It was necessary to dislodge them and this duty was assigned to Captain May of the Dragoons. It was here that this officer became so distinguished. The charge was gallantly made. The Dragoons cut through the enemy. The artillerymen were dispersed, and General La Vega taken prisoner. The Dragoons, however, had advanced beyond support, and in turn fell back on the main body. The regiments of infantry now charged the Mexican line, and the battle was soon ended. Their columns, now broken by successive charges, were unable to bear the continued and well-directed fire poured upon them by both infantry and artillery. They fled precipitately from the field, and were rapidly pursued by the American rearguard. The Mexicans lost many prisoners, and ceased not their flight till they either crossed or were overwhelmed in the waters of the Rio Grande. In these engagements neither cowardice nor feebleness was attributed to them. They fought gallantly, behaved well, and were only conquered by that union of physical strength and superior skill, with which some nations are fortunately gifted, by the natural influence of

climate and the artificial developments of science. Preparations for the invasion of Mexico From the period at which the American army occupied Metamoras, after the battle of Resaca de la Palma, both the general government at home, and the officers of the army on the Rio Grande, were busied with preparations for an advance into the interior of Mexico. The Rio Grande was assumed as the military base-line of operations, although the real base was necessarily the Mississippi. More than three months were consumed in these preparations. In the mean time, the Mexican villages of Reinosá, Comargo, Mier, and Revilla surrendered, and were occupied. Comargo, a town about one hundred and eighty miles above the mouth of the Rio Grande, was the point selected as the depot of supplies. Here the various divisions which were to compose the particular army of General Taylor were gradually concentrated. The entire army of General Taylor consisted of about nine thousand men. The March on Monterey A small portion was assigned to garrisons, while the main body, numbering six thousand six hundred, were destined for the march to Monterey. On the 20th of August General Worth began his march for Monterey, the capital of New Leon ; and on the 5th of September, the general-in-chief left Comargo, leaving that town garrisoned by about two thousand men. Worth reached Ceralvo about seventy miles on the 25th of August, and at that point sent out reconnoitering parties, who discovered strong bodies of the enemy in front. Being reinforced, he advanced to the village of Marin, where the entire army was in a few days concentrated under the command of General Taylor. Battle of Monterey Monterey The city of Monterey is situated in the valley of the San Juan ; and in the rear, and around it, rise the mountain ridges of the Sierra Madre. In front, the road from Ceralvo and Marin entered the town. On the heights, in rear of the town and beyond the river, works were erected which commanded the valley and the approaches from the north. The opposite side of the city, to the left, as the Americans approached, were forts also erected, and there were barricades in the streets of the city. Siege of Monterey Both the natural and the artificial defenses of Monterey seem to have been very strong. Notwithstanding this neither the extent of the defenses nor the garrison within them seem to have been known to the American army previous to its arrival in front of the city. The army, however, pressed forward, and on the 19th of September arrived at Walnut Springs, three miles from Monterey, having met with no more serious resistance than that of skirmishing parties of Mexican cavalry. Notwithstanding this strong garrison, superior in numbers to the American army, General Taylor thought it possible to carry the place by storm, with the bayonet and the artillery. During the night two pounder howitzers and 1 ten-inch mortar were placed in battery against the citadel. On the morning of the 21st the main battle came on. The point of attack was designated by Major Mansfield, who accompanied the parlay in its advance. The front defense here was a redoubt, into the rear of which, in spite of its fire, the column rapidly moved, and commenced its assault on the town. Here it was opposed by entrenched streets and barricaded houses. On one of these the company of Captain Backus succeeded in getting, and fired upon the redoubt. The two last regiments, with three companies of the 4th regiment, advanced against the redoubt. The last companies being in front were received with a deadly fire, which killed or disabled one-third of the men, and they were compelled to retire. In the mean while the Ohio regiment, with General Butler and Colonel Mitchell, entered the town to the right, and advanced against the second battery, but the fire was so severe that the regiment was withdrawn ; General Butler, who had advanced with it, being wounded. The guns of the first battery were turned upon the second, and Colonel Garland was again ordered forward with another column. They were compelled to pass several streets trenched and barricaded, and after another severe contest retired in good order. Up to this time, it is obvious, no important success had been obtained against the lower town. The Mexican cavalry had also made several charges, but always unsuccessfully. The Surrender of Monterey , retreat of Mexican troops At dawn of the 22d, Worth and his Division, which had bivouacked on the Saltillo road, recommenced the advance. The guns of the Citadel continued, during this day, to fire upon the American positions ; but General Taylor made no important movement in front. This was the key to Monterey, and General Ampudia concentrated his troops in the heart of the city. General Taylor, on the morning of the 23d, found nearly all the works in the lower part of the city abandoned. He immediately ordered General Quitman to enter the place ; but here a new resistance was made. The houses were fortified, and our troops actually dug through from house to house! The firing continued during the 23d the Americans having possession of the greater part of the city, and the Mexicans confined, in their defence, chiefly to the Citadel and Plaza. That

evening at 9 P. General Ampudia sent in propositions to General Taylor which, after some negotiation, resulted in the surrender and evacuation of Monterey. The main part of the capitulation was, that the Mexican troops should retire beyond a line formed by the Pass of Rinconada, the city of Linares, and San Fernando de Prezas ; and that the forces of the United States would not advance beyond that line before the expiration of eight weeks, or until the orders or instructions of the respective governments should be received. The Mexicans marched out with their arms, and the terms were unusually favorable to them. For this concession there were strong reasons. A change of government had just taken place in Mexico, believed to be favorable to peace, and to have reduced the citadel of Monterey would have cost the lives of many men. The American loss in this battle was killed and wounded four hundred and eighty-eight, a large portion of whom fell in the attacks of the 21st on the lower town. End of the armistice The War Department did not choose to continue the armistice ; but, on the 13th of October, directed General Taylor to give notice that the armistice should cease, and that each party should be at liberty to resume hostilities. In communicating this notice to General Santa Anna, then in command of the Mexican army, General Taylor took occasion to suggest the idea of an honorable peace. To this the Mexican chief replied, " You should banish every idea of peace while a single North American, in arms, treads upon the territory of this republic.

Chapter 8 : Los Ninos Heroes of the Mexican-American War - Mexico History

The Mexican War of Independence (Spanish: Guerra de Independencia de MÃ©xico) was an armed conflict, and the culmination of a political and social process which ended the rule of Spain in in the territory of New Spain.

In 1847, six brave young men fought valiantly for their country during the Mexican-American War. Tragically, they died defending her honor. Ranging in age from just 13 to 19 years of age, these military cadets are remembered today with reverence and national pride. This historical memorial is visited by thousands of Mexican citizens and foreign travelers each year. The date was September 13, and American forces were quickly advancing on Chapultepec Castle. Geographically, its value was enormous as its position protected Mexico City on its west side from invaders. Unfortunately, there were not enough resources available for its defense. Rising some feet above the surrounding landscape, the site was naturally fortified. However, American forces greatly outnumbered their Mexican counterparts, both in manpower and gunpowder. Many prominent Americans, including Abraham Lincoln and John Quincy Adams considered the war unjust and questioned the rationale for the invasion. As a result, when the war broke out, there were dozens of teenage cadets in attendance. General Nicolas Bravo commanded the forces stationed at Chapultepec Hill and when it became apparent that the American forces were triumphing, he ordered his men, including the cadets, to retreat to safety. Six young men, however, refused to relinquish their posts and bravely met the superior forces of the Americans. They died that September day, defending their country. Streets have been named after them, as have schools and public squares. One of the cadets, Juan Escutia, is believed to have wrapped himself in the Mexican flag before jumping to his death. A great mural of this scene can be seen today at Chapultepec Castle. The great monument of Los Ninos Heroes is a tribute to their memory and sacrifice. Truman visited the Los Ninos Heroes monument in 1949, just months prior to the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Chapultepec. A moment of reverential silence was observed by the President as a sign of respect for the young cadets. I respect bravery wherever I see it".

Chapter 9 : The Mexican-American War [calendrierdelascience.com]

The Mexican-American War produced primarily 3 war heroes. The first is Captain John Charles Fr mont, nicknamed "The Pathfinder". His contribution to the war was the Bear Flag Revolt, where he led.

He was captured by the Spanish royalist military, tried by the Inquisition, defrocked as a cleric, and executed by civil authorities for treason in 1823. The Mexican War of Independence Spanish: September 16 is celebrated as Mexican Independence Day. The movement for independence was inspired by the Age of Enlightenment and the liberal revolutions of the last part of the 18th century. By that time the educated elite of New Spain had begun to reflect on the relations between Spain and its colonial kingdoms. Changes in the social and political structure occasioned by Bourbon reforms and a deep economic crisis in New Spain caused discomfort among the Creole native-born elite. Political events in Europe had a decisive effect on events in most of Spanish America. That led to a coup against the viceroy; when it was suppressed, the leaders of the movement were jailed. Despite the defeat in Mexico City, small groups of conspirators met in other cities of New Spain to raise movements against colonial rule. From the independence movement went through several stages, as leaders were imprisoned or executed by forces loyal to Spain. At first they recognized the sovereignty of Ferdinand VII over Spain and its colonies, but later the leaders took more radical positions, including such issues of social order as the abolition of slavery. After the defeat of Morelos, the movement survived as a guerrilla war under the leadership of Vicente Guerrero. By 1824, the few rebel groups survived most notably in the Sierra Madre del Sur and Veracruz. The reinstatement of the liberal Constitution of Cadiz in 1820 caused a change of mind among the elite groups who had supported Spanish rule. Monarchist Creoles affected by the constitution decided to support the independence of New Spain; they sought an alliance with the former insurgent resistance. Both proclaimed the Plan of Iguala, which called for the union of all insurgent factions and was supported by both the aristocracy and clergy of New Spain. It called for monarchy in an independent Mexico. Finally, the independence of Mexico was achieved on September 27, 1821. After that, the mainland of New Spain was organized as the Mexican Empire. This ephemeral Catholic monarchy changed to a federal republic in 1824, due to internal conflicts and the separation of Central America from Mexico. After some Spanish reconquest attempts, including the expedition of Isidro Barradas in 1823, Spain under the rule of Isabella II recognized the independence of Mexico in 1838. It is bordered on the north by the United States; on the south and west by the Pacific Ocean; on the southeast by Guatemala, Belize, and the Caribbean Sea; and on the east by the Gulf of Mexico. With an estimated population of over 120 million, it is the eleventh most populous and the most populous Spanish-speaking country in the world and the second most populous country in Latin America. Mexico is a federation comprising thirty-one states and a Federal District, its capital and largest city. In pre-Columbian Mexico many cultures matured into advanced civilizations such as the Olmec, the Toltec, the Teotihuacan, the Zapotec, the Maya and the Aztec before first contact with Europeans. In 1519, the Spanish Empire conquered and colonized the territory from its base in Mexico-Tenochtitlan, which was administered as the Viceroyalty of New Spain. The post-independence period was characterized by economic instability, the Mexican-American War that led to the territorial cession to the United States, the Pastry War, the Franco-Mexican War, a civil war, two empires and a domestic dictatorship. In March 1901, through the Mexican oil expropriation private U. Mexico is considered a newly industrialized country and an emerging power.

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