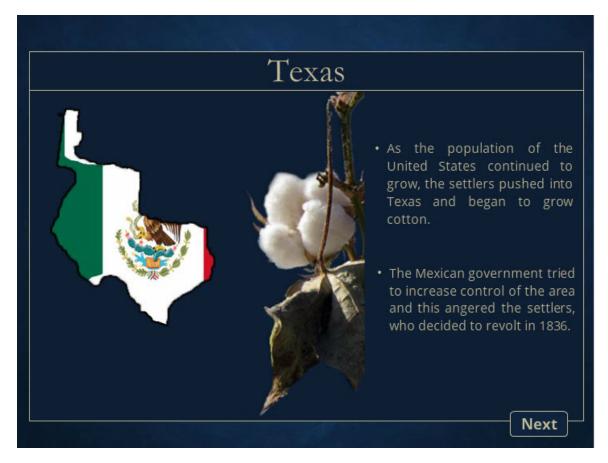
Introduction



As the numbers of settlers migrating west increased, so did the opportunities for conflict. Southern settlers were quickly expanding into Mexican controlled territory. In this interactivity, explore the conflicts that occurred between Mexico and the United States as a result of westward migration. Click *Start* to begin.



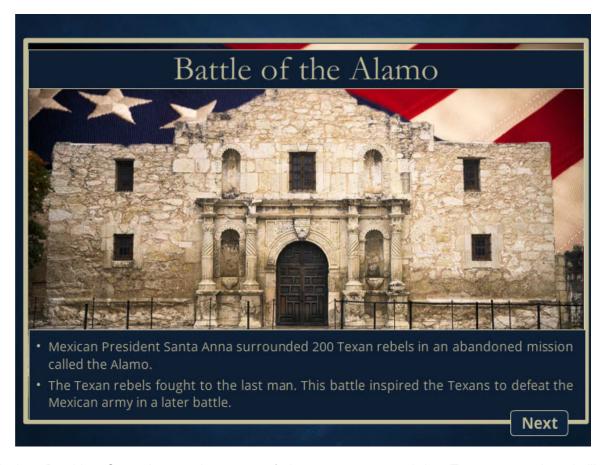
Texas



One conflict occurred in and around what is now the state of Texas. As the population continued to grow, the demand for new lands pushed southern planters further west. Many decided to move to the area of Texas, which was under the control of Mexico, to try to grow cotton. As the number of Americans and their slaves grew, the Mexican government became increasingly concerned about its Texas lands. The Mexican government took measures to increase government control over the area. This angered the American settlers, who decided to revolt in 1836.



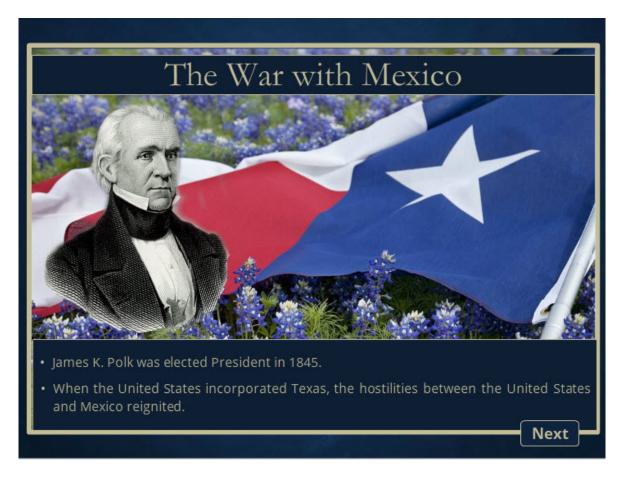
Battle of the Alamo



Mexican President Santa Anna took an army of about 6,000 men north into Texas to stop the rebellion. His army surrounded about 200 Texan rebels in an abandoned mission in San Antonio called the Alamo. After a short siege, the Mexican army attacked the Texas rebels. The Texas rebels fought to the last man against the much larger Mexican army in what is now called the Battle of the Alamo.



The War



The heroic fighting by the Texas men at the Alamo inspired the Texans to beat the Mexican army in a later battle, and gain independence for Texas in 1837. Eventually, because of the large group of American settlers, Texas would join the United States in December 1845, becoming the 28th state.

The presidential election of 1845 was won by slaveholder James K. Polk. Polk wanted to incorporate, or annex, Texas into the United States as soon as possible. As soon as Texas became part of the United States, the hostilities between the United States and Mexico were reignited. Mexico feared President Polk because of his interest in expanding westward. The continual expansion westward would place more settlers in Mexican controlled territory.



New Territory



The Mexican government was not happy with the annexation of Texas and President Polk's interest in further expansion. The tensions between the two countries led to a war that began in the spring of 1846. After America invaded Mexico and captured its capitol, Mexico surrendered. America's prize for winning the war was to gain a large chunk of land that today includes Arizona, California, Nevada, Utah, and parts of Colorado, Wyoming and New Mexico.

