

## New Mexico & Santa Fe Trail

- New Mexico Territory was between Texas & California
- Included present-day: NM, AZ, NV, CO, UT
- William Becknell 1<sup>st</sup> American trader in Santa Fe
- Trail went from Independence, MO to Rocky Mts. and then south

## California

- El Camino Real - route that connected Spanish missions
- 1821- California became state of Mexico
- Mexican govt. sold land to rancheros
- Americans wanted to add California
- Pres. Polk offered to purchase California and New Mexico
- Mexico refused offer

## War with Mexico

- Mexico refused to accept Rio Grande River as border with Texas
- Mexico wanted Nueces River as border
- Pres. Polk sent Gen. Zachary Taylor with troops to disputed area
- Mexico attacked Americans and war started
- American forces succeeded in securing Texas and New Mexico

## **Bear Flag Republic**

- **John Fremont & Kit Carson** urged Americans to revolt against Mexican government in California
- called their new country **Bear Flag Republic**
- US took possession of California in **1846**

## **Mexican Cession**

- Treaty of **Guadalupe-Hidalgo**
- Mexico ceded all of **California & New Mexico**
- US agreed to pay **\$ 15 million**
- Mexico agreed to accept **Rio Grande** as border with Texas

## **Gadsden Purchase**

- US paid \$10 million
- Land south of **Arizona/New Mexico**

## Gold Rush

- 1848, gold is found at Sutter's Mill
- "Miner Forty-Niners" nickname of prospectors
- Traveled to California around South America
- Traveled over land by the Oregon Trail and Santa Fe Trail
- Land Law of 1851-took away land rights of Californios
- Boomtowns sprung up wherever miners were located
- Mining towns established vigilante justice
- March 1850 – California applied for statehood
- California prohibited slavery
- Conflict in Congress over balance of free and slave states

## Mormons

- Founded by Joseph Smith(he was later killed)
  - Moved west seeking religious freedom
  - Brigham Young led them to Utah
  - 12,000 Mormons settled near Great Salt Lake
- Formed settlement called Deseret

