

# The American Pageant Chapter 17

## Vocabulary

Tariff of 1842  
Caroline  
Creole  
Aroostook War  
Manifest Destiny  
“Fifty-four forty or fight”  
Liberty party  
Walker Tariff  
Spot resolutions  
California Bear Flag Republic  
Battle of Buena Vista  
Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo  
Conscience Whigs  
Wilmot Proviso

## Reading Questions

1. What figures in the Whig party believed they would lead the party after the election of William Henry Harrison with Harrison as the figure-head?
2. What was the first major bill Congress tried to pass after John Tyler became president? After Tyler signed that bill into law, what bill did he veto?
3. How did the Whigs respond to Tyler’s veto?
4. Why did John Tyler veto the tariff bill proposed by the Whig Congress?
5. How was the Tariff of 1842 a compromise between Tyler and the Whigs?
6. How did the Caroline incident and the Creole incident increase tensions between England and the United States?
7. What was the significance of the Aroostook War?
8. What was the compromise reached between Webster and Ashburton on the Maine border in 1842? (Webster-Ashburton Treaty)
9. Why was England interested in keeping Texas an independent republic?

10. When Tyler could not get the 2/3 majority for an annexation treaty to bring Texas into the United States, how did he go about achieving this goal?
11. What claims could the British and Americans lay to the Oregon Territory?
12. Who are the presidential candidates in 1844, and what parties are they running for?
13. What is the significance of the slogan "All of Oregon or None" and later "Fifty-four forty or fight"?
14. How did Clay's letters on the issue of Texas as well as the Liberty party doom his chances at winning in 1844?
15. When Polk was elected in 1844, he ran on the promise of serving one term and achieving four goals? His first goal was a lowered tariff. How did Polk achieve that goal?
16. What was Polk's second objective, and was he successful at achieving it?
17. Another of Polk's goals dealt with the resolution of the Oregon territory dispute. How did Polk resolve this dispute with England?
18. Polk's fourth goal involved California. What roadblocks stood in the way of the United States acquiring California from Mexico?
19. Who did Polk send as a minister to Mexico City in 1845 to negotiate for California and the territory to the East? How much was he allowed to offer?
20. On January 13, 1846, what did Polk order Zachary Taylor to do?
21. On April 25, 1846, what happened that gave Polk the opportunity to send a war message to Congress?
22. When Polk declared the shedding of "American blood upon the American soil," how did Congressman Abraham Lincoln respond?
23. Explain the roles of Santa Anna, Stephen W. Kearney, John C. Fremont, Zachary Taylor, and Winfield Scott during the Mexican War.

24. What were the terms of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo?
  
25. How was the Mexican War important from the coming Civil War? (3 major things here)
  
26. What is the significance of the Wilmot Proviso, and how does it show the conflict over slavery between the North and the South?