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**Extranjeros and Expansion**

From the perspective of today, it can be difficult to imagine a time when the fate of North America was in question. Much of what is now the United States was part of Mexico, not to mention the territory of indigenous cultures. The mid-1800s marked massive expansion of the United States. While some Mexican citizens resisted US expansion into their lands, others welcomed it. Regardless, all Mexicans in the region absorbed by the US were guaranteed the rights of US citizens according to the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. But, things rarely worked out that way. In this activity, you’ll examine how particular individuals and communities responded to international borders changing around them.

1. In small groups, view at least two of the following clips. In each clip, you will follow the story of a particular historical figure. You may need to view the clip more than once to gather all the information.
2. Once your group has organized its information, complete the graphic organizer
3. Complete the reflection questions

Each group chooses two of the following - http://www.pbs.org/latino-americans/en/education/lesson-plans/

* Mariano Vallejo and the absorption of California
* Juan Seguin and the Texas revolts for independence
* Apolinaria Lorenzana and the disbanding of the California missions
* Las Gorras Blancas, Miguel Antonio Otero and the arrival of the US rail-agriculture economy to New Mexico

1. Document where and when the historical figure(s) lived and what their life was like in Mexico before US expansion:

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| **Name** | **Location** | **Time Frame** | **Status/Activity before US expansion** |
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1. Next, consider US expansion into the regions you selected above. Focusing on your historical figures, detail some of the actions and events that caused Mexicans to become “foreigners in their own lands.” What tactics did US arrivals use to transform lands and social orders of what was Mexico?

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| **Location** | **Time Frame** | **Events, Tactics, & Attitudes directed at the resident Mexican population** |
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1. Mexican Americans reacted to US expansion in different ways. How did the individuals you selected respond? What did they do and how did their lives change?

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| **Name** | **Location** | **Date** | **Response/Status After Expansion** |
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**Reflection Questions:**

1. Consider the individuals you selected. What did US expansion mean for them personally? Were they able to preserve their status, property, and rights? If so, how? If not, what happened to them and how did they respond?
2. When land transferred from the control of Mexico to the US, there were certainly implications for the Mexican elite. But what communities – which had been on these lands longest of all – were subjugated under both Mexican and US regimes? If the Mexican elite suffered during expansion, what do you think was the implication for the mestizo (person of mixed blood, usually Spanish and Indian) and Indian communities?
3. There is a Chicano (Mexican American) saying: “We didn’t’ cross the border. The border crossed us” What does this mean? Cite examples of the people and events from the video clips to support your explanation.