Manifest Destiny Online Reading & Questions

Name_____ Period_____

Follow the step-by-step instructions below. It will guide you through the website and help you to find the appropriate section to answer each question.

Go to: https://www.ushistory.org/us/29.asp

1. Who coined the term "Manifest Destiny"? Explain the "mindset" of the people who believed in Manifest Destiny.

2. How did the Second Great Awakening contribute to the desire to expand westward?

3. What were the economic incentives for the United States to push westward?

4. What was at the "heart" of Manifest Destiny?

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5. In 1821, Mexico was granted independence from Spain. Soon thereafter, Mexico encouraged Americans to settle into the sparsely populated area of Texas. What were the conditions of this settlement in Texas? (What did they have to do?)

6. When Stephen Austin traveled to Mexico City to try and ease tensions between white settlers in Texas and Mexican officials, what happened to Austin?

7. On May 14, 1836, Santa Anna grudgingly recognized Texan independence. Soon thereafter, a split between Texan-Americans and Tejano people. What happened to the voices of the Tejano people when Texas created its own independent government?

8. Many Texans wanted to immediately join the United States in 1836. However, American political leaders refused to let Texas join. Why?

9. For how long was Texas an independent country?

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10. For the average person traveling the Oregon Trail, how long did it take to reach the Oregon Territory?

11. How was the boundary dispute between Britain and the United States settled in June 1846?

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12. Explain the boundary dispute in Texas between Mexico and the United States.

13. When Mexico refused to sell California and other lands in the northern part of the Mexican Empire, President Polk provoked a war with Mexico by ordering General _____ _____ and his troops into disputed territory knowing that Mexico would respond.

14. President Polk got his war. However, many American leaders were critical of President Polk for provoking this war. Why?

15. What happened as a result of the TREATY OF GUADALUPE-HIDALGO?

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16. What was discovered in California in 1848?

17. Who were the "Forty-Niners"?

18. What did the inventor Levi Strauss create and sell during the California Gold Rush?

19. During the Gold Rush, California was a very diverse place with people from many different backgrounds. However, white settlers openly discriminated against many groups. Give some examples from the reading.

20. The CALIFORNIA GOLD RUSH soon peaked, and by the mid-1850s California life stabilized. But the pattern established there was repeated elsewhere — in COLORADO, SOUTH DAKOTA, and NEVADA, among others. As in California, ambition merged with opportunity and ruthlessness — _____ and _____ discrimination was part of the legacy of the American West.

~ THE END ~