

Figures of the Mexican-American Conflict

Assignment:

Using resources and information from PBS's *The West*, read about one of the major figures of the Mexican-American conflict that began in 1846. Then, choose a detail that stood out to you (because it was new information, because it was surprising, or because it had a strong impact on the person or his country). Summarize this detail and write a paragraph from that individual's point of view about what he/she might have thought about this event or information. An example is provided for you below. After you are done, you will participate in a sharing activity with your classmates, and will be responsible for remembering at least three facts shared during other students' presentations.

Figure: Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo

Fact: Vallejo was once one of the biggest land-holders in California. However, even though he negotiated a treaty that guaranteed former Mexicans the right to keep their land, he lost an expensive court battle to keep most of his land.

From his point of view:

I am unable to believe it. I, who believed so fully in America's democracy. I, who thought that becoming part of America was California's best hope. I, for whom a treaty was named - I have lost my land. I went to court and spent thousands of dollars because I was certain a judge would see what was in the Treaty. But no. Although the Guadalupe-Hidalgo Treaty guaranteed that we former Mexicans could keep our land, my land was taken from me. I was once one of the richest men in Mexico. Now I am a poor man in a world that no longer feels like mine.

To complete your own, go to the next page.

My figure: _____

1. 4-6 facts that stood out to me about this person (you may add more paper if needed.)

2. Choose one of these facts (or more if the facts are connected) and summarize it in your own words:

3. Write a paragraph from this character's point of view about this fact. What might he have thought about it? Consult the example above if you are struggling with this step.

4. Reflections following the fishbowl activity:

You will now participate in an activity in which you and a peer read one another what you wrote about a figure from the Mexican-American War. Listen carefully and ask questions if you need to, because after you are done with the activity, you will be responsible for reflecting on what you have learned using the prompts below.

3 facts you learned from your classmates:

2 things you are still wondering about U.S.-Mexico relations during the period 1821-1885:

1 part of your work on this topic that you are proud of: