



Tucker H.S.
U.S. History
Dr. J. Davis

Name: _____

Date: _____

Class: _____

President James K. Polk to the Congress of the U.S: A Special Message
Calling for a Declaration of War against Mexico, May 11 1846. **(Pg. 293)**

1. According to President Polk, how did he try to use diplomatic relations to ease tensions between the U.S. and Mexico?
2. "...but after long-continued series of menaces, have at last invaded our territory and shed the blood of our fellow-citizens on our own soil."
What historical battle is Polk referencing in his speech to entice Congress to agree to war?
3. How does Polk justify fighting for his American people through the Mexican-American war?
4. What did Mexico do to provoke Polk to seek a war against the Mexican government?
5. Where did Polk station U.S. military members prior to the outbreak of war? Why did he need to station troops there?
6. What orders were given to U.S. troops by President Polk while stationed in their new location?
7. What caused Mexico to become enraged enough to seek retaliation against the U.S. prior to the outbreak of war?
8. Would you have supported the controversial war with Mexico? Why or why not?



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Congressman Joshua Giddings, Debate on the Mexican War, House of Representatives, Washington DC, May 13, 1846. **(Pg. 293)**

1. According to Giddings, what does he believe will be put in place in the disputed territory (Texas) if the U.S. goes to war with Mexico?
2. How does Giddings believe Polk committed “wrong doings” against the American people and the people of Mexico?
3. How does Giddings explain Polk’s justification for going to war with Mexico?
4. What does Giddings believe is the TRUE reason that Polk wishes to go to war with Mexico?
5. What orders were given to U.S. troops by President Polk while stationed prior to the start of war?
6. How does Giddings believe slavery plays a role in President Polk’s plan for war with Mexico?
7. Why does Giddings believe Mexico to be in the right (innocent) against the U.S.?
8. Would you have supported the controversial war with Mexico? Why or why not?