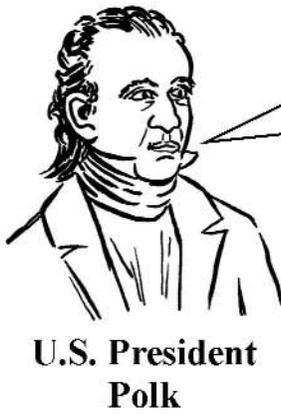


PALO ALTO BATTLEFIELD: A HISTORICAL FIELD TRIP

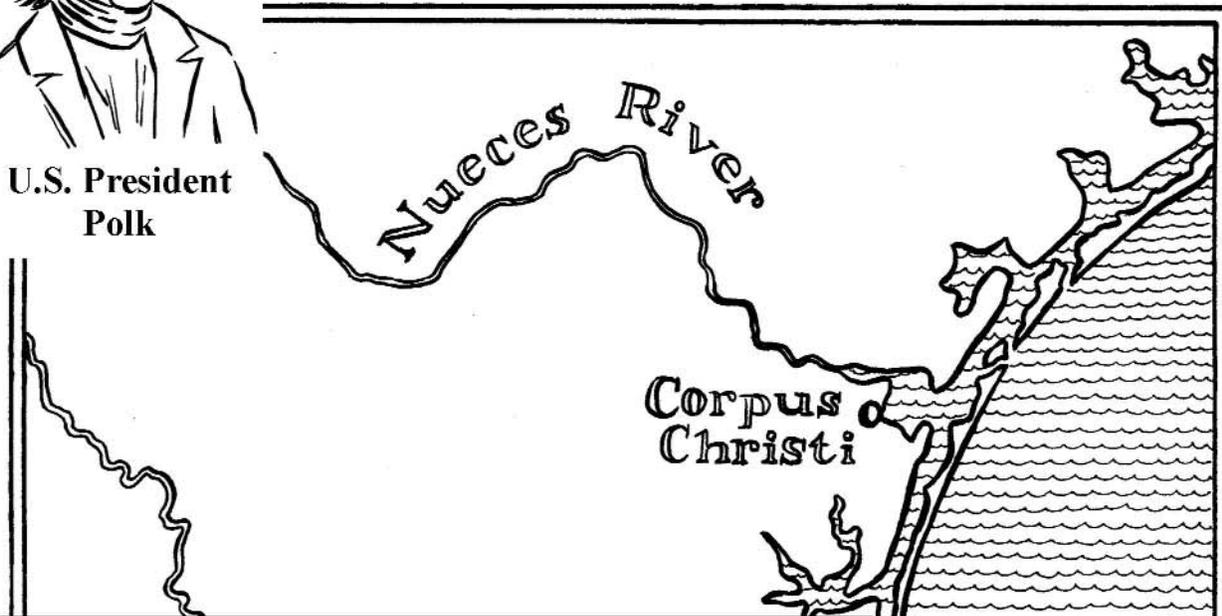
Get ready to visit a special place—Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park.

Palo Alto preserves the site of the first battle of the U.S.-Mexican War.

Read on to discover why these neighbors fought!



Texas belongs to the U.S. Its border is the Rio Grande. Mexico passed this border, invaded our territory, and shed American blood upon the American soil.



Texas is part of Mexico. The boundary of Texas is and has always been the Nueces River. The United States violated existing treaties and occupied Mexican territory.

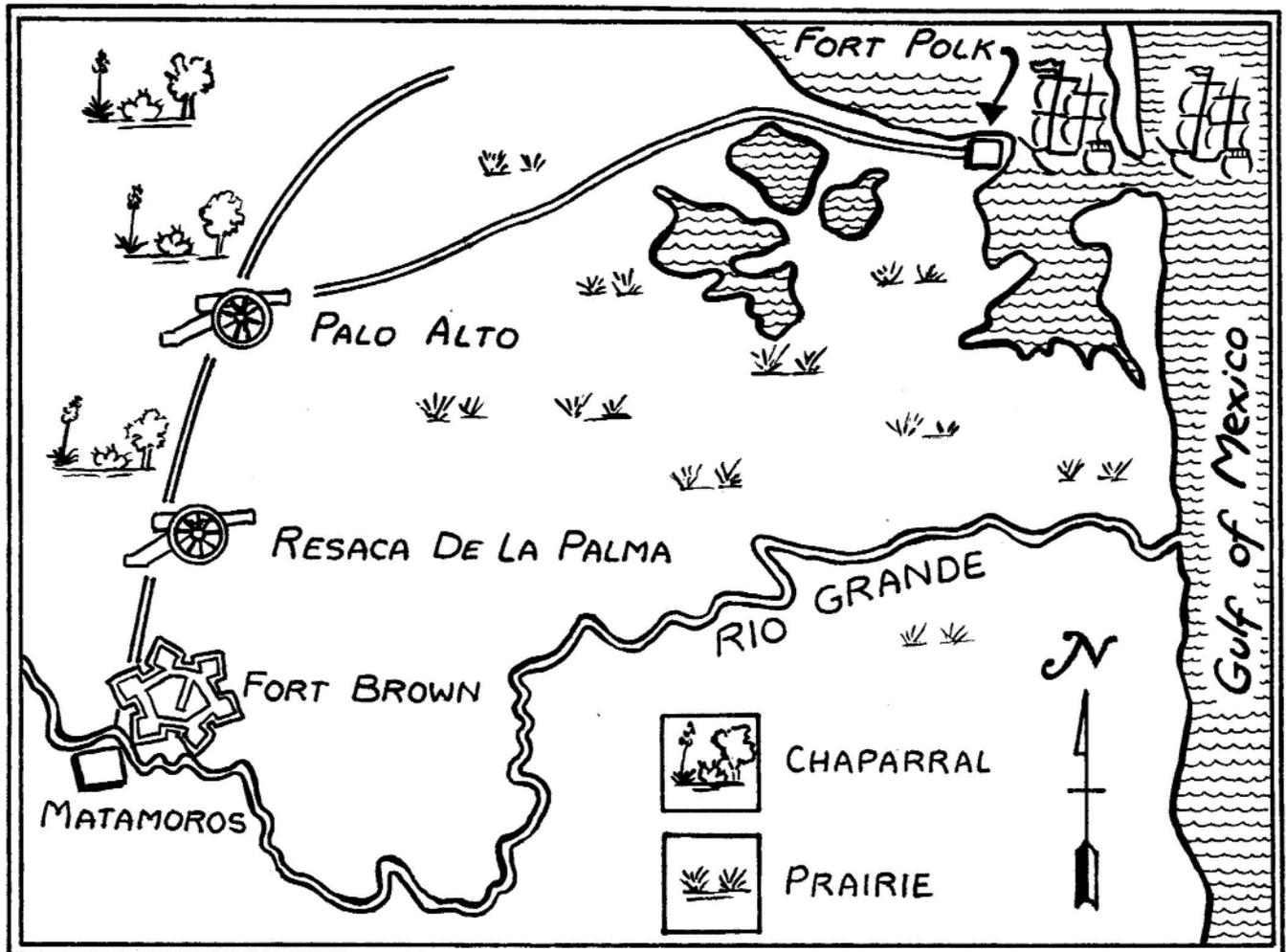


1. Mexican President Paredes said the _____ was the boundary of Texas. Color this river green.
2. U.S. President Polk said the _____ was the boundary of Texas. Color this river blue.
3. Color the area between the two rivers red. Both the United States and Mexico claimed this disputed territory belonged to them.

THE FIELD KNOWN AS PALO ALTO

The Presidents sent their armies to the Rio Grande.

Read on to discover how a field called Palo Alto became an important battlefield!



U.S. soldiers built a fort on the Rio Grande to defend that river as the U.S. boundary.
Draw a red, white, and blue flag over the U.S. fort.

The Mexican Army was stationed in Matamoros to protect their land from the U.S.
Draw a red, white, and green flag over the city of Matamoros.

On May 8, 1846, tensions erupted into battle.

How did these two armies end up on the field known as Palo Alto?

Part of the U.S. army marched with the U.S. General Taylor to Fort Polk for supplies.
They marched back on the Matamoros-Point Isabel road.
Draw blue arrows showing where they marched.

The Mexican General Arista chose the field of Palo Alto as the spot to stop Taylor.
Arista blocked the road with cannon and placed soldiers in the field.

Draw a green **X** on the spot where Arista wanted to stop the U.S. Army.

MEMORIAL TO SOLDIERS FROM TWO NATIONS

“No one can look upon those interesting battlefields [Palo Alto and Resaca] without feelings of deepest emotions . . . The soil has become too deeply hallowed, to be so regarded with careless indifference.” – Melinda Rankin, Early Brownsville Settler

102 Mexican soldiers were killed, 129 wounded, and 26 missing.

9 U.S. soldiers were killed, 44 wounded, and 2 missing.

Palo Alto is a memorial to the sacrifices of those men who fought so many years ago. Many National Military Parks build monuments to honor the sacrifices of the soldiers.



Texas State Memorial
Vicksburg National Military Park



Hampton's Pennsylvania Battery
Gettysburg National Military Park

Take some time and draw a monument that you think would best honor the U.S. and Mexican soldiers who fought in the Battle of Palo Alto.



THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE: CARETAKER OF OUR NATIONAL PARKS

The mission of the National Park Service is to:

- ◇ Protect and care for nature, history, and culture in parks
- ◇ Help visitors enjoy parks so everyone can enjoy them both now and in the future

What is your favorite thing that you own? _____

Each time you use your favorite thing there is a chance it could get lost or damaged.

How do you make sure you can use it in the future? _____

How would you feel if it were lost or damaged? _____

It is important to preserve Texas history. Why is it important to take care of and tell others about Texas history? _____

Can you help Park Rangers balance protecting parks and helping visitors enjoy parks? Solve the challenge. Circle **all** good solutions. Know a better solution? Write it in!

CHALLENGE

Visitors want to hunt for artifacts with metal detectors. Like puzzle pieces, archeologists need all the artifacts to discover what happened at the Battle of Palo Alto. The National Park Service protects these artifacts so others can learn about the Battle. You should . . .



- ◇ Allow them to use the metal detectors – they will have fun.
- ◇ Tell them no.
- ◇ Explain why archeologists need all the artifacts to understand the Battle.
- ◇ Tell them how to be trained as a volunteer for an archeology project.
- ◇ My solution: _____

