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| James K. Polk (1845 - 1849) Exercises | about-the-world.org/3944 | Video and exercises |

**Match terms**

*Task: Match each term with the appropriate explanation!*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| (A) | Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo | (1) | belief in US expansion |
| (E) | Manifest Destiny | (2) | land claimed by US, Britain |
| (E) | 49th parallel | (3) | border of Oregon Territory |
| (I) | Tariffs | (4) | conflict over Texas, expansion |
| (L) | Oregon Territory | (5) | ended Mexican-American War |
| (N) | Sarah Childress | (6) | manages government funds |
| (O) | Infrastructure | (7) | taxes on imported goods |
| (T) | Independent treasury system | (8) | basic physical structures |
| (V) | Mexican-American War | (9) | James K. Polk’s wife |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Keyword:** | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ |
|  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |

**Complete sentences**

*Task: Match the beginning of each sentence with the end!*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| (A) | James K. Polk ... | (1) | ... was born in North Carolina. |
| (A) | Polk attended the University of North Carolina ... | (2) | ... in a farming family. |
| (G) | He grew up ... | (3) | ... at Chapel Hill. |
| (I) | He served in the Tennessee ... | (4) | ... state legislature. |
| (N) | Polk was inaugurated ... | (5) | ... as the 11th President. |
| (S) | He ran on a platform ... | (6) | ... of expansionism. |
| (T) | Polk’s presidency began ... | (7) | ... with a focus on expansion. |

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| **Keyword:** | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ |
|  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |

**Questions (multiple choice)**

*Task: Answer the questions!*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. | What was Polk’s profession before his political career? |
| (A) | Teacher |
| (R) | Lawyer |
| (V) | Doctor |
| 2. | What was one of Polk’s major achievements? |
| (A) | Resolution of the Oregon Territory dispute |
| (B) | Winning the Civil War |
| (S) | Resolution of the Texas dispute |
| 3. | What sparked the Mexican-American War? |
| (B) | Disputes over Texas and territorial expansion |
| (N) | Disputes over New Mexico |
| (R) | Disputes over California |
| 4. | What did Polk support in his domestic policies? |
| (B) | Establishment of a new independent treasury system |
| (R) | Higher tariffs |
| (V) | Establishment of a new dependent treasury system |
| 5. | What is Polk remembered for? |
| (A) | His role in ending slavery |
| (I) | His role in expanding the United States |
| (S) | His role in shrinking the United States |
| 6. | When did Polk pass away? |
| (R) | June 15, 1850 |
| (T) | June 15, 1849 |
| (V) | June 15, 1851 |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Keyword**: | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ |
|  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

**Right or wrong?**

*Task: State whether the statements are true or false!*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| right | wrong |  |
| (P) | (V) | 1. Polk was the 11th US President. |
| (F) | (F) | 2. Polk was born in Tennessee. |
| (R) | (A) | 3. Polk resolved a dispute with Mexico over Oregon. |
| (N) | (R) | 4. Polk was born in North Carolina. |
| (N) | (T) | 5. Polk resolved the Oregon Territory dispute. |
| (A) | (E) | 6. Polk’s presidency did not include any wars. |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Keyword:** | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ |
|  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

**7 Questions about the text**

*Task: Answer the questions in one or two complete sentences!*

What was Polk’s early life like?

What positions did Polk hold before his presidency?

What was Polk’s presidency focused on?

What was the Oregon Territory dispute?

What was the result of the Mexican-American War?

What were Polk’s domestic policies?

What was Polk’s personal life like?

**Solution sheet 1**

**James K. Polk (1845 - 1849)**

**Match terms**

Manifest Destiny = belief in US expansion

Oregon Territory = land claimed by US, Britain

49th parallel = border of Oregon Territory

Mexican-American War = conflict over Texas, expansion

Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo = ended Mexican-American War

Independent treasury system = manages government funds

Tariffs = taxes on imported goods

Infrastructure = basic physical structures

Sarah Childress = James K. Polk’s wife

Keyword: ELEVATION

**Complete sentences**

James K. Polk | was born in North Carolina.

He grew up | in a farming family.

Polk attended the University of North Carolina | at Chapel Hill.

He served in the Tennessee | state legislature.

Polk was inaugurated | as the 11th President.

He ran on a platform | of expansionism.

Polk’s presidency began | with a focus on expansion.

Keyword: AGAINST

**Questions**

What was Polk’s profession before his political career?

Lawyer

What was one of Polk’s major achievements?

Resolution of the Oregon Territory dispute

What sparked the Mexican-American War?

Disputes over Texas and territorial expansion

What did Polk support in his domestic policies?

Establishment of a new independent treasury system

What is Polk remembered for?

His role in expanding the United States

When did Polk pass away?

June 15, 1849

Keyword: RABBIT

**Right or wrong?**

right

1. Polk was the 11th US President.

4. Polk was born in North Carolina.

5. Polk resolved the Oregon Territory dispute.

wrong

6. Polk’s presidency did not include any wars.

2. Polk was born in Tennessee.

3. Polk resolved a dispute with Mexico over Oregon.

Keyword: NUMBER

**Solution sheet 2**

**James K. Polk (1845 - 1849)**

**Questions and answers**

What was Polk’s early life like?

Polk was born into a farming family and was the oldest of ten children. He received a good education and became a lawyer.

What positions did Polk hold before his presidency?

Before his presidency, Polk served in the Tennessee state legislature and the U.S. House of Representatives. He was also the Speaker of the House.

What was Polk’s presidency focused on?

Polk’s presidency was focused on territorial expansion and economic growth. He aimed to fulfill his campaign promises.

What was the Oregon Territory dispute?

The Oregon Territory dispute was a conflict between the United States and Britain over who owned the land. Polk resolved it by establishing the border at the 49th parallel.

What was the result of the Mexican-American War?

The Mexican-American War resulted in significant victories for American forces and ended with the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. This treaty ceded a large portion of Mexico’s territory to the United States.

What were Polk’s domestic policies?

Polk’s domestic policies focused on economic growth and expansion. He supported the establishment of a new independent treasury system, lower tariffs, and the importance of infrastructure.

What was Polk’s personal life like?

Polk was married to Sarah Childress and they had no children. He was known for his strong work ethic and dedication to his duties. His personal life reflected his commitment to both his family and his country.