Hook Exercise: Mexican-American War

Directions: With a partner, examine the map below and answer the questions that follow.

**Note:** On April 25th, 1846, Captain Seth Thornton of the US Army and his 70 soldiers were attacked by a much larger Mexican force. The incident occurred in the disputed territory north of the Rio Grande, and reports suggest that 16 Americans were killed. The number of Mexican soldiers killed is unknown.

**Source:** Map created from various sources.

**Questions**

1. What river did Texas and the US believe was the proper border between Mexico and Texas?

2. What river did Mexico believe was the proper border between Texas and Mexico?

3. Where were General Zachary Taylor’s and Captain Thornton’s soldiers attacked?

4. Imagine that you are a journalist reporting on the Thornton Affair the week after it happened. With a partner, create a newspaper headline from each of these perspectives:

   a pro-American newspaper

   a pro-Mexican newspaper