The Bear Flag Revolt
The one major prewar incident that did take place in California was the Bear Flag Revolt. As tensions mounted between the United States and Mexico, a group of men, inspired by John C. Fremont, an Army major who encouraged rebellion against Mexican rule in California, devised a new flag with a bear and star on it. They declared themselves members of a new Republic of California, and captured General Mariano Vallejo. After a few brief skirmishes, word came that the United States had declared war on Mexico, and the Bear Flaggers joined the U.S. efforts. The bear flag, though, became the official flag of California.

This might be important because it is about the origin of the state flag.
20. After California became a state what were the consequences for Mexicans who were living there. Possible answers: They were able to become US citizens. They lost their jobs to new immigrants. Spain and Mexico wouldn’t honor the Spanish Land Grants. An influx of money from the east allowed them to make new investments. (Think correct answer is losing their jobs based on info below from REAcset).

While the 1848 treaty promised the *californios* citizenship and the “free enjoyment of liberty and property,” such “enjoyment” was hardly theirs to have. Even as the document was being negotiated, the Gold Rush was spelling out dire consequences for the rancheros. Upon arriving, many newcomers began squatting upon californio land, killing the cattle and cultivating crops. Even more deleterious were the actions of land speculators who legally and illegally purchased and enclosed both the estates of the *gente de razon* and large plots of communal land. While state land laws validated many Spanish and Mexican land grants, litigation costs money and time, two resources the californios simply did not have. By the time the commissioners and courts legitimated their claims, squatters, moneylenders, tax-collectors, and attorneys drained the rancheros of their possessions. In the span of a single generation, *californios* were made politically powerless in a region they had lived in their entire lives. Confronted with various forms of violence and disenfranchisement, many Mexicans withdrew into insulated *barrios*, where they could retain the traditions of the past and establish new cultural imperatives for the future.