The Adams-Onís Treaty between the United States and Spain was negotiated by Secretary of State John Quincy Adams and the Spanish Minister to the United States, Don Luis de Onís, and signed in February 1819. The principal elements in the treaty were the acquisition of Florida by the United States and the establishment of a boundary line between Spanish territory and the United States.

After the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, Pres. Thomas Jefferson argued that Florida was included in Louisiana, and much of the United States assumed Florida would eventually become part of the United States. In 1810 and 1812 the United States annexed sections of West Florida. When John Quincy Adams became secretary of state in 1817, he sought additional territory. In 1817 and 1818 Adams and President James Monroe resumed efforts to acquire Florida and a western boundary for the Louisiana Purchase.

In addition to the “Manifest Destiny” we have mentioned in class, Monroe feared Florida because it was a haven for runaway for slaves (i.e. they sought refuge with the natives). A turning point came in December 1817, when President Monroe ordered forces under Andrew Jackson to the Florida border to suppress the activities of the Seminole Indians who were violently quarreling with white settlements, and providing a safe haven for runaway slaves. When the Spanish and French governments subsequently protested Jackson’s expedition into Florida (where he seized 2 Spanish forts, burned Seminole villages, and executed two UK citizens), Adams responded with a threat of his own. If Spain could not control its territory, the United States would; either relinquish Florida immediately, Adams declared, or “Spain would not have the possession of Florida to give us.”

Faced with Adams’ ultimatum, Spain came to terms. On February 22, 1819, Spain ceded all of Florida to the US and relinquished all claims to the territories north of the 42nd Parallel, including the Oregon Country. The US acknowledged Spanish ownership of Texas and agreed to assume all claims made by American merchants against Spain for damages suffered during the Napoleonic Wars, to an amount not exceeding $ 5 million.

In the treaty, Spain gave East and West Florida to the United States, and the United States agreed to assume claims by citizens of the United States against Spain. In Article III, the treaty stated that: "The boundary line between the two countries. . . shall begin on the Gulph [sic] of Mexico, at the mouth of the river Sabine, in the sea, continuing north, along the western bank of that river, to the 32d degree of latitude; thence, by a line due north, to the degree of latitude where it strikes the Rio Roxo of Natchitoches, or Red River; then following the course of Rio Roxo westward, to the degree of longitude 100 west . . . , then, crossing the said Red River, and running thence, by a line due north, to the river Arkansas; thence following the course of the southern bank of the Arkansas, to its source, in latitude 42 north; and thence, by that parallel of latitude, to the South Sea." In addition, the treaty stated that "all islands in the Sabine, . . . Red and Arkansas Rivers . . . [were] to belong to the United States. . . ."

By the terms of this boundary, the United States agreed that Texas was on the Spanish side of the line, and Spain agreed to give up its claim to the Northwest Territory north of forty-two degrees. The treaty was approved by the U.S. Senate on February 24, 1819. However, Spanish authorities delayed their approval until 1821. The Senate approved the treaty a second time, and President Monroe ratified and exchanged it with Spanish authorities in February, 1821.
Analysis Task and Questions: Shade in the map on p. 3. Include/Label the following information –

A. Boundaries of the Louisiana Purchase
B. **New Western Boundaries created by the Adams-Onis Treaty**
C. Boundaries of the Michigan Territory
D. **Area annexed by the US as a result of the Adams-Onis Treaty** (the map on the webpage labels it as “Area ceded by Spain”)  
E. Label all the existing states (as of 1819) with their 2 letter abbreviation (you’ll have to use the textbook or google a map).
F. Draw and label (in blue) the Sabine River, Red River, Arkansas River
G. Oregon Country - and who shared the land
H. Create a legend indicating (at least) the above bolded details.

Sources: Textbook, [http://www.answers.com/topic/adams-onis-treaty](http://www.answers.com/topic/adams-onis-treaty) (scroll down to find the map, click to enlarge)

A. Who is the treaty named after?

B. What were the 2 main elements (or boundary changes) as a result of the treaty?

C. Describe Andrew Jackson’s role in the treaty.