

## Historical Overview of Mosiah 9–10

This presentation should take between three and five minutes. To prepare to present the historical context for this lesson, read Mosiah 9–10 as many times as necessary to be familiar with the story. You may also want to review the table below and pages 149–50 in the student manual.

In class, invite the other students to open their scriptures to Mosiah 9–10 and follow along while you share a brief overview of the story of Zeniff. On the board, you might draw the following chart as a reminder of the major people and places in the book of Mosiah:

Land of Lehi-Nephi	Land of Zarahemla
King Zeniff (Mosiah 9–10) around 200 B.C.	King Mosiah I
King Noah (Mosiah 11–19) around 160 B.C.	King Benjamin
King Limhi (Mosiah 7–8; 19–22) around 121 B.C.	King Mosiah II

Zeniff was a Nephite who led a group of other Nephites to try to regain the land of Lehi-Nephi, where their ancestors had lived. Zeniff and his group left Zarahemla sometime after King Mosiah

I began his reign there. Note that between Mosiah 8 and Mosiah 9, the story goes back in time approximately 80 years. The story in Mosiah 9 begins around 200 B.C., with Zeniff recounting the events previously recorded in Omni 1:27–30. Briefly tell in your own words some of the highlights of Zeniff’s story in Mosiah 9–10. You might include:

1. The results of Zeniff’s first journey (Mosiah 9:1–5; Omni 1:27–30).
2. The consequences of being overzealous. For example, overzealousness led to poor judgments, such as being “slow to remember . . . God” (Mosiah 9:3) and being blinded by “the cunning and the craftiness of king Laman” (Mosiah 9:10).
3. The influence for good that Zeniff had on the people. For example, he encouraged them to *(a)* repair the city (see Mosiah 9:8); *(b)* raise flocks and crops (see Mosiah 10:2, 4); *(c)* manufacture clothing (see Mosiah 10:5); and *(d)* defend themselves “in the strength of the Lord” (see Mosiah 9:17).

Zeniff’s reign demonstrates how he labored throughout his life to obtain the land of Lehi-Nephi and live there in peace. His overzealousness led to some questionable actions, but his desire to establish an independent Nephite colony among the Lamanites eventually succeeded.