

UNIT



4

The Republic of Texas

1836–1845

Why It Matters

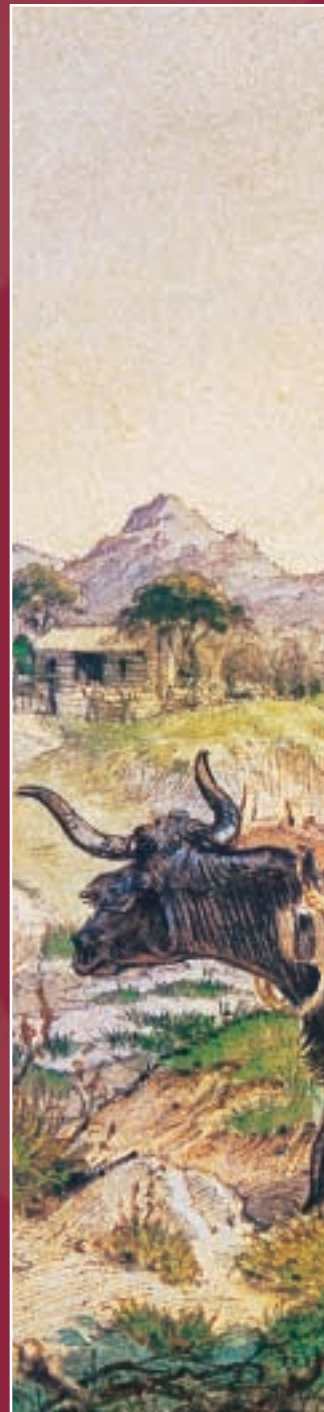
As you study Unit 4, you will learn about Texas as a republic. After the creation of the United States from the original 13 colonies, other territories were granted statehood. Only Texas entered the union as a separate and independent nation. The distinctive nature of Texas owes much to its having been a republic before it was a state and to the influence of its settlers.

Primary Sources Library

See pages 690–691 for primary source readings to accompany Unit 4.

Going Visiting by Friedrich Richard Petri (c. 1853) from the Texas Memorial Museum, Austin, Texas.

Socializing with neighbors was an important part of community life during the years of the republic. Not all Texas settlers wore buckskin and moccasins as this well-dressed family shows.





*“Times here are easy...
money plenty, the people
much better satisfied.”*

—Dr. Ashbel Smith, December 22, 1837



RICH HERITAGE

There are many reasons why people take the big step of leaving their homes and moving to an unknown land—and Texas, during the years 1820 to 1860, witnessed all of them. The newly arriving immigrant groups tended to settle in one particular area, since it was easier to work with and live around people who spoke the same language and practiced the same customs.

Many Mexicans came north while Texas was still a Spanish territory to set up farms on the fertile Coastal Plains. As the United States grew, more Native Americans, who had been forced off their lands east of the Mississippi, also moved into Texas. After Texas independence, thousands of Anglo Americans, mostly from the southern states, were drawn by the lure of cheap, plentiful land. Many came from slave-holding states and brought enslaved African Americans. Finally, immigrants from Germany and almost every other country in Europe arrived by ship to escape famine, political unrest, or religious persecution.

Texas's wide-open spaces seemed to offer endless possibilities to anyone with dreams or a keen sense of adventure. Unfortunately, not all immigrant groups shared in the political freedom and economic opportunities Texas had to offer. Native Americans were pushed farther west or north into Oklahoma. Many African Americans—who made up one-third of Texas's population in 1860—still lived in slavery, and Mexican residents faced continued prejudice.

Nevertheless, each immigrant group made its own unique contribution to Texas's history and culture. Today Texans celebrate their ethnic heritage in festivals and competitions all across the state. Many of Texas's place names, as well as the listings in local phone directories, still reflect those original patterns of settlement from the early nineteenth century.



A traditional band plays lively German music at the Texas Folklife Festival.



A Hispanic woman dances joyfully at a fiesta.

LEARNING from GEOGRAPHY

1. Where did your immigrant ancestors settle? Do you live close to where they originally settled?
2. Describe a festival you have attended. What are your most vivid memories?



An Alabama-Coushatta performs a traditional Native American dance.

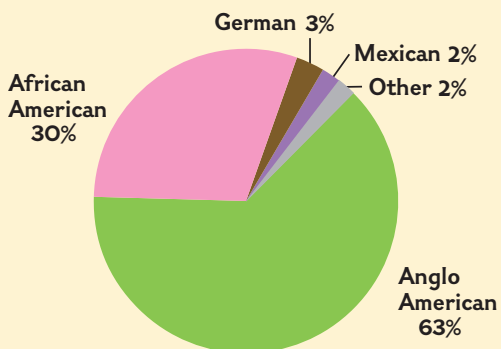


Juneteenth celebrations honor the day Texans received news that enslaved African Americans had been set free.

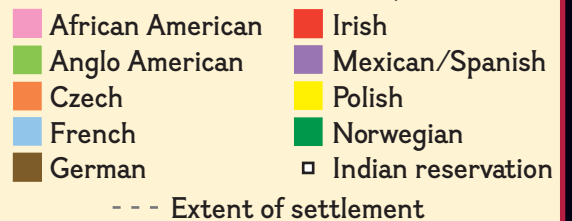


The XIT Rodeo and Reunion is held each August in Dalhart, Texas.

Ethnic Heritage, 1860



Settlement in Texas, 1865



CHAPTER 12

The Lone Star Republic

Why It Matters

The victory at San Jacinto began a 10-year period in which Texas was an independent nation. Those 10 years brought both challenges and achievements. Eventually Texas voluntarily gave up its independent status and became a part of the United States.

The Impact Today

- The existence of Texas as an independent republic continues to be a source of great pride to Texans. Several organizations such as the Daughters of the Republic of Texas and the Sons of the Republic of Texas were formed to honor the people who lived in Texas at that time and to preserve Texas history.
- The United States itself would have a vastly different character if Texas had chosen to remain a separate republic.



1836

★ Sam Houston elected first president of the Republic of Texas

★ Houston became capital of Texas

1838

★ Mirabeau Lamar elected president

1839

★ Austin became new capital of Texas

1835

1837

1839



Texas



United States



World



1837

• Queen Victoria began her reign in Great Britain

1841

• New Zealand became a British colony



This image, titled *View of Houston*, shows the city in its earliest days. For a brief time, Houston was a capital of the Republic of Texas.

Sequencing Events Study Foldable Time lines are used to list important dates in chronological order. Use this foldable to sequence key events that occurred in the first several years after Texas became a republic, or an independent nation.

Step 1 Fold two sheets of paper in half from top to bottom.



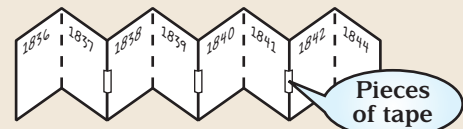
Step 2 Turn the papers and cut each in half.



Step 3 Fold the four pieces in half from top to bottom.



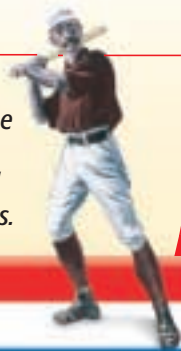
Step 4 Tape the ends of the pieces together (overlapping the edges very slightly) to make an accordion time line and label it as shown.



Reading and Writing As you read the chapter, record key events that occurred each year during the important years of the Lone Star Republic.

1845
★ Texas became the 28th state in the United States of America

1867
★ The Houston "Stonewalls" beat the Galveston "Robert E. Lees" in first recorded baseball game in Texas.



1844 1845

1870

1844

- Samuel Morse sent first long-distance telegraph message between Baltimore and Washington
- James K. Polk elected president of the United States



TEXAS HISTORY Online

Chapter Overview
Visit the texans.glencoe.com Web site and click on **Chapter 12—Chapter Overviews** to preview chapter information.



Sam Houston's Government

Guide to Reading

Main Idea

After gaining independence, Texans faced the challenge of building a new nation.

Key Terms

capitol, annexation, expenditure, revenue, tariff

Reading Strategy

Organizing Information As you read this section, complete a chart like the one shown here by filling in the significance of each person listed.

Person	Significance
Henry Morfit	
William Wharton	
Memucan Hunt	
J. Pinckney Henderson	

Read to Learn

- what problems faced the Republic of Texas during its first years.
- why Texans wanted the United States to annex Texas.

Section Theme

Government and Democracy Texas leaders worked to build a successful government that would be recognized and annexed by the United States.

Preview of Events

◆ 1836

September

Sam Houston is elected first president of Republic of Texas

◆ 1837

December

Houston designated as first capital of Republic of Texas

◆ 1838

March 3

United States grants recognition to Republic of Texas

◆ 1839

September 25

France recognizes Republic of Texas

◆ 1840



Sam Houston

A Texas Story



In his inaugural speech after taking the oath of office for president, Sam Houston said: "I am perfectly aware of the difficulties that surround me . . . Had it been my destiny, I would infinitely have preferred the toils, privations, and perils of a soldier, to the duties of my present station."

Later, President Mirabeau Lamar called himself a *Texian* during this period to foster a sense of pride and nationalism. Texians or Texans, the pioneers of the republic faced many dangers in securing the safety of their nation.

Houston Forms a Government

In September 1836, Texans elected Sam Houston as the first president of Texas and Mirabeau B. Lamar as the first vice president. Texans also approved the Constitution of 1836 and the proposal that Texas join the

United States. Houston and the Texas Congress met at **Columbia** in Brazoria County in October 1836 to organize the new government.

Houston named Stephen F. Austin as secretary of state, but he served only a few weeks. Austin died of pneumonia on December 27, 1836, at the age of 43. President Houston declared that “the Father of Texas is no more. The first pioneer of the wilderness has departed.”

Selecting a new capital was one of the first decisions of the new government. Columbia was too small. John K. Allen and his brother Augustus had founded **Houston**, on Buffalo Bayou. The Allens promised to build a handsome city if the congress would locate the capital there. In December 1836, congress designated Houston as the capital for three years. The decision on a permanent site was delayed.

Early visitors to the new capital often commented on the muddy streets, crudely built houses, and swarms of mosquitoes. Eventually, the government moved to the large, two-story **capitol** at the corner of Main Street and Texas Avenue.

Houston Faces Trouble With the Army

Houston also faced serious problems with the military. Many adventurers and soldiers had arrived in Texas too late to fight in the revolution but they wanted action. Army commander Felix Huston called for an invasion of Mexico.

President Houston wanted no part of such a plan. He realized that a war would be costly and could mean a quick end for the new republic. The president sent all but 600 of the soldiers home on leave and never recalled them to duty. The threat from the army disappeared.

The United States Delays Annexation

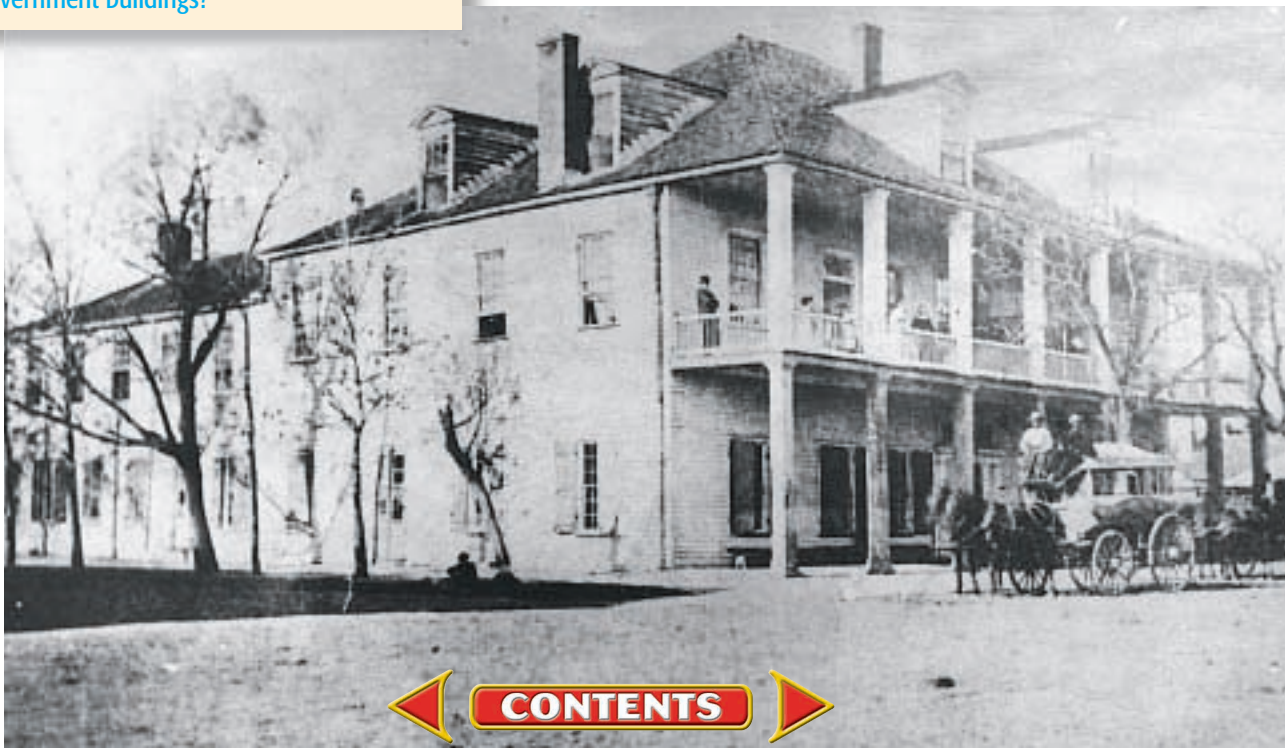
In the September 1836 elections, Texans had indicated their strong desire to join the United States. Most Texans had emigrated from the United States and wanted U.S. protection. Texas and the United States had strong cultural ties.

Annexation, or becoming a part of the United States, did not come easily. Mexico refused to recognize Texas’s independence. The United States government did not want to annex Texas if it meant damaging relations with Mexico.

Another problem was slavery. Many anti-slavery groups in the United States were against

Picturing History

This building served as the first capitol in Houston from 1837 to 1839, and again in 1842. The historic Rice Hotel was later built on the same ground as the old capitol. [How does this building compare to modern government buildings?](#)



annexation because Texas would join the Union and tip the balance of power in the U.S. Senate towards the slave states. These groups were strong enough to block annexation and to delay official recognition of Texas as a republic.

Reading Check Examining Why was annexation a difficult process for Texas?

Recognition as a Nation

The United States did not officially recognize Texas as a nation for several months. In 1836, **President Jackson** sent **Henry Morfit** of Virginia to Texas on a fact-finding mission. Morfit recommended that the United States delay recognition of Texas. Morfit doubted that Texas could keep its independence against a Mexican invasion.

President Jackson accepted Morfit's recommendation, but President Houston did not give up. He sent **William H. Wharton** and **Memucan Hunt** to Washington, D.C., to work for both recognition and annexation.

Wharton and Hunt convinced Congress that Texas had a responsible government. On March 3, 1837, President Jackson granted official recognition of Texas.

President Houston now moved to open diplomatic negotiations with European powers. He sent **J. Pinckney Henderson** to obtain recognition and negotiate commercial treaties with France and Great Britain. At first these countries hesitated to recognize Texas because they did not want to offend Mexico. They also believed that Texas would be annexed quickly by the United States.





Picturing History

During the Republic of Texas, the Texas Rangers were used in part for patrolling the frontier. [How did President Houston use the Texas Rangers?](#)

Henderson continued to press for recognition of the Republic of Texas. France extended recognition on September 25, 1839, and a commercial treaty was negotiated between the two countries. A year later Great Britain and the Netherlands recognized Texas.

Houston hoped that if these countries, especially Great Britain, showed interest in Texas, the United States would move quickly to annex Texas. European countries were looking for ways to limit United States expansion. By the same token, the United States did not want European countries to have a foothold on the continent.

 **Reading Check** **Identifying** What countries recognized Texas as a nation during Houston's presidency?

Native American and Texan Conflicts

As more and more Anglo Americans settled in central Texas, the Wichitas, Comanches, Kiowas, and other Native Americans resented the newcomers. They began a series of raids in 1836 that lasted for several years. In one attack, Comanches and Kiowas killed several settlers and kidnapped two women and several children, including **Cynthia Ann Parker**, from Parker's Fort near present-day Groesbeck.

The frequency of the raids decreased after President Houston called on the Texas Rangers to patrol central Texas. In a letter to Major Thomas I. Smith, the president wrote:

“I have been informed that there are some persons on the frontier who have a disposition to molest the . . . Lipan Indians. They cannot be good citizens, or they would wish to preserve peace with them.

Should any property be stolen from the Indians, or injury done them, I hope you will have active measures taken for its restoration and for the preservation of their friendship.”

During this time Houston also tried to improve relations between Texans and the Cherokees in East Texas. Cherokees had moved into Texas under Mexican rule in the 1820s after being forced from their homes in Georgia. The provisional government sent Houston and others to reach an agreement with the Cherokees during the Texas Revolution.

TEXAS TODAY

The number of Texas Rangers today is set by the Texas legislature at 107. The Rangers must live in Texas, complete 60 college credit hours, have a record of 8 years of outstanding full-time law enforcement experience, pass stringent written and oral exams, and be physically fit. There has never been an official Texas Ranger uniform. By tradition the dress is western with white hat, cowboy boots, western cut shirt, tie, pants, and belt.

In the February 1836 treaty, the Cherokees promised to remain peaceful during the Texas fight for independence. In return, the Texan negotiators promised the Cherokees title to their land. Later, however, the Senate of the Republic of Texas refused to accept this treaty. The Cherokees did not receive title to their land, and each day more settlers moved into land in East Texas claimed by Native Americans.

Texas Debt Soars

Like many developing nations, the Republic of Texas constantly had money problems. **Expenditures**, or money paid out, were much

greater than **revenue**, or money received. In addition, Texas had unpaid bills for the supplies and equipment of the revolution. When Houston became president, the debt was \$1.25 million.

Congress took steps to raise money. It placed a **tariff**, or tax, on various goods imported into Texas. Congress also imposed property taxes, business taxes, and land title fees. These taxes were difficult to collect, and the government continued to spend more money than it collected. By the end of Houston's first term as president, the public debt of Texas had climbed to \$2 million.

The Release of Santa Anna

Some Texans hoped that the release of Santa Anna in November 1836 would lead to better relations with Mexico. After he was freed, Santa Anna briefly visited the United States. He returned to Mexico in March 1837. On his arrival, he renounced all promises he had made in Texas and declared that he had left politics forever. His retirement was brief. Within a few years, Santa Anna was back in power. Little had changed. Santa Anna's release had not improved Texas–Mexico relations. The Mexican government still refused to recognize the independence of Texas.

 **Reading Check Explaining** How did Texas attempt to reduce its debt?

SECTION 1 ASSESSMENT

Checking for Understanding

- Using Key Terms** Define **expenditure**, **annexation**, **revenue**, **capitol**, and **tariff**.
- Reviewing Facts** Who were the first president, vice president, and secretary of state of the Republic of Texas?

Reviewing Themes

- Government and Democracy** On what date did the United States recognize the government of Texas?

Organizing to Learn

- Identifying Solutions** Create a chart and indicate how each conflict was resolved during Houston's presidency.

Conflict	Solution
U.S. delays recognition of Texas	
Raids by Comanches and Kiowas	
F. Huston's desire to invade Mexico	

Critical Thinking

- Explaining** Why did the Texas Congress designate Houston as the first capital?
- Summarizing** Why did the public debt of Texas continue to increase through the years of the Republic?

TAKS PRACTICE

Identifying Problems Give two reasons why some people in the United States opposed the annexation of Texas.

Lamar Becomes President

Guide to Reading

Main Idea

President Lamar's policies differed sharply from Houston's policies.

Key Terms

endowment fund
cabinet
redback

Reading Strategy

Classifying Information As you read this section, complete a table like the one shown here with the key issues, goals of Lamar's administration, and what actions were taken.

Issue	Goals	Actions Taken
Education		
Native Americans		
Military		

Read to Learn

- what policies Lamar's administration used toward Native Americans.
- how the programs of the Lamar and Houston administrations were different.

Section Theme

Government and Democracy
Government policy promoted public education.

Preview of Events

♦ 1838

Mirabeau Lamar is elected president

♦ 1839

Lamar orders removal of Cherokees

October
Austin becomes new capital

♦ 1840

Council House
Fight between Texans and Comanches



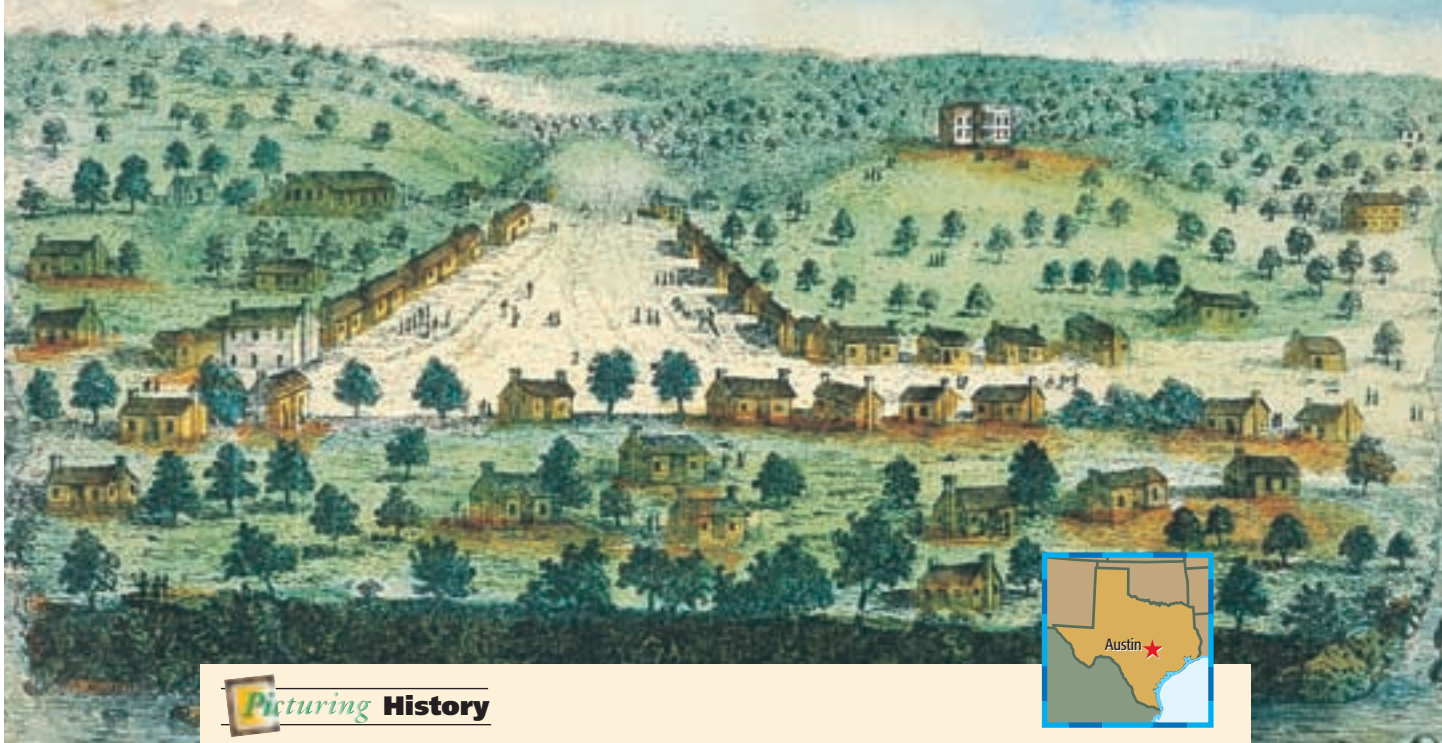
Native American holding peace pipe

A Texas Story

In his 1836 inaugural address, Sam Houston had expressed his desire to have peaceful relations with Native Americans. "Treaties of peace . . . and the maintenance of good faith with the Indians, present themselves . . . as the most rational grounds on which to obtain their friendship."

Mirabeau Lamar Becomes President

The Constitution of 1836 stated that the president could not serve consecutive terms; therefore, Houston could not be reelected when his term ended in 1838. Texans elected Mirabeau B. Lamar, who had served as vice president under Houston. Lamar, who had great hopes for Texas, opposed annexation. He believed that one day Texas would be a powerful, independent nation that would extend all the way to the Pacific Ocean.



Picturing History

The new Texas state capital near Waterloo was renamed in honor of Stephen F. Austin. The site was chosen for its beauty, location, and promising future. **What words would you use to describe Austin at that time?**

Improving education was one of the new president's goals. As did Thomas Jefferson, Lamar believed that citizens of a republic must be educated so they could make intelligent decisions. In his inaugural address, he said:

“A cultivated mind is the guardian genius of Democracy, and while guided and controlled by virtue, the noblest attribute to man.”

Stirred by Lamar's ideas, congress set aside nearly 18,000 acres of land in each Texas county for the support of public schools. Congress reserved an additional 288,000 acres (116,400 hectares) of public land in central Texas as a source of income for two universities. Later governments of Texas substituted land in West Texas. The value of the **endowment fund** multiplied when oil was discovered on these lands in the 1900s. Because of Lamar's efforts, he is sometimes called the “Father of Education in Texas.”

The Capital Is Moved to Austin

It had been agreed that Houston would serve as the capital only until another site was chosen. In 1839 a commission and congress

approved a site on the Colorado River near the village of Waterloo. Lamar was delighted with the decision. He wanted to expand Texas settlement westward.

The government appointed **Edwin Waller** to lay out streets and construct a capitol on the site. In October 1839, President Lamar and his **cabinet** arrived in the new capital, named Austin in honor of Stephen F. Austin. Austin joined Columbia, South Carolina, and Raleigh, North Carolina, as cities founded specifically to be capitals.

Lamar's Policy Toward Native Americans

Lamar reversed Sam Houston's policy toward Native Americans. Many Cherokees had settled on farms and in villages in northeastern Texas in what is today Smith and Cherokee Counties, and Lamar believed the Cherokees had no fair claim to the Texas lands they occupied.

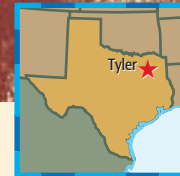
In addition, President Lamar had heard rumors that Mexican agents were attempting to stir up the Cherokees against Texas. In the summer of 1839, President Lamar ordered the removal of the Cherokees from Texas. On July 16 the Texas army attacked the Cherokees near the

Neches River not far from present-day Tyler. Several Texans and nearly 100 Cherokees were killed. Among the dead was the leader of the Cherokees, **Duwali**, also known as **Chief Bowles**. The army burned Cherokee villages and farms. The surviving Cherokees were forced from their land and moved across the Red River, out of Texas.

 **Reading Check** **Explaining** How did President Lamar view Cherokee ownership of land?

Raids Lead to Council House Fight

The government also tried to deal with the Comanche presence. During 1838 and 1839, Comanches raided several outlying settlements. After a series of battles with Texans along the upper Colorado River, however, the Comanches agreed to meet with Texas authorities. In the meeting held in San Antonio in 1840, hopes for peace quickly vanished. The Comanches had promised to bring their Anglo captives, but they produced only one, a girl named **Matilda Lockhart**. According to an eyewitness, “her head, arms, and face were full of bruises and sores.” Matilda told the Texans that 13 others



Picturing History

Chief Bowles attempted to save Cherokee land in Texas but was unable to do so. He was killed near Tyler fighting the Texas army. **Given President Lamar's policies toward the Native Americans, what options did Chief Bowles have?**

were being held captive in the hills west of San Antonio. Angry Texan troops attempted to take the Comanche negotiators as hostages until the Comanches freed their captives. The Comanches resisted, and in the struggle—known as the

People of Texas

Mirabeau Lamar 1798-1859



Mirabeau Lamar was born in Georgia and moved to Texas in 1835. After the battle of San Jacinto, David Burnet appointed him secretary of war. He also served as major general and commander of the Texas army.

When Houston was elected president, Lamar became his vice president. Two years later he became the second president of the republic. Lamar was popular with Texans and was thought of as an eloquent speaker.

Lamar is responsible for choosing Austin as the capital of Texas. He earned the nickname “Father of Education in Texas” for urging congress to set aside land for public education, including two colleges or universities.

Council House Fight—7 Texans and 35 Comanches died. The Comanches killed many of their white captives and set out to avenge the Comanche deaths. One historian called the Council House Fight “the greatest blunder in the history of Texan–Native American relations,” because after the incident the Comanches refused to make treaties with Texans. They would talk peace with American soldiers, but not with Texans. Years of bitter warfare resulted and many lives were lost.

News of daring raids by the Kiowas and Comanches under the command of **Buffalo Hump** spread quickly throughout Texas. Volunteers gathered, commanded by **Edward Burleson**. **Ben McCulloch** led a group of Texas Rangers. At Plum Creek, the Texans encountered a Comanche party. Texans killed nearly 100 Comanches and lost only one of their own men.

The Texans invaded Comanche country in revenge for earlier attacks on Victoria and

Linnville. In October 1840, **Colonel John H. Moore** led a surprise attack on a large Comanche village on the upper Colorado River. Nearly 130 Comanches died in the attack. Most of the southern Comanches withdrew toward the area of the Red River.

Texas Rebuilds Its Navy

Lamar thought that having a strong military would force Mexico to recognize the Republic of Texas. Lamar ordered the newly restored navy into Mexican waters. The navy aided rebels who were fighting for independence from Mexico in the province of Yucatán. Lamar hoped, in vain, that the Mexican government would recognize Texas in exchange for the promise that the Texan navy would not harass Mexican ships. When Sam Houston regained the presidency in 1841, he recalled the navy.

The Santa Fe Expedition

Although the **Nueces River** traditionally had been the boundary between Texas and Mexico, Texans claimed the Rio Grande as the border after the revolution. Texans were interested in controlling Santa Fe, the trading center on the upper Rio Grande. Santa Fe was the destination of traders from St. Louis, Missouri.

Lamar sent an expedition to Santa Fe to control the region and open trade with New Mexico. The **Santa Fe expedition** (consisting of soldiers, merchants, wagon drivers, and adventurers) began its trek on June 19, 1841, from a camp near Austin. Misfortune and hardship plagued the members every step of the way. Heat, lack of water and food, and attacks by Native Americans led to suffering.

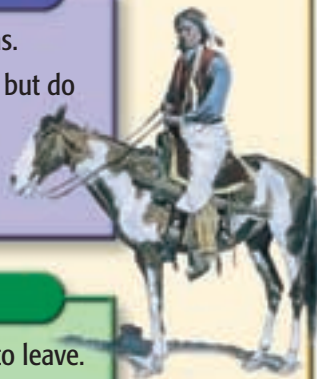
As the expedition neared Santa Fe, the exhausted members encountered a Mexican army detachment that forced the Texans to surrender. The prisoners were marched more than 1,000 miles (1,609 km) from Santa Fe to Mexico City. Many died on the way, and others



Causes and Effects of Western Conflict

Causes

- Settlers immigrate to Texas.
- Cherokees move to Texas but do not hold title to land.
- Comanches raid Texas settlements.



Effects

- Lamar orders Cherokees to leave.
- Texas Rangers retaliate against raids.
- Comanches withdraw to the High Plains, leaving more land to the Anglo settlers.

Graphic Organizer Skills

President Lamar took a different approach to relations with Native Americans than Houston.

Identifying Points of View Which president’s approach would the Native Americans have preferred and why?

perished in a Mexican prison. Most of those who survived were released in April 1842, after British and American diplomats worked for their release. The Santa Fe expedition was a failure in many ways. It angered the Mexicans, resulted in the loss of many lives, and failed to take control of Santa Fe.

Financial Difficulties

Lamar's campaigns were costly, both in terms of colonists and Native Americans killed and in money. The Indian wars cost the Republic of Texas nearly \$2.5 million during his three years in office. Lamar was just as extravagant in other matters, such as outfitting expeditions and reorganizing the Texas navy. He bought several ships, and kept the navy on active duty in the Gulf of Mexico.

Lamar failed in attempts to borrow money from the United States and European nations. Additional paper money, known as **redbacks**, was issued but quickly shrank in value. By the end of Lamar's term, a paper dollar in



Picturing History

Three hundred twenty-one people and twenty-one ox-drawn wagons carried supplies and merchandise of the traders on the ill-fated Santa Fe expedition. **Why were people willing to participate in such an expedition?**

Texas was worth about 15 cents. The public debt rose to \$7 million. Many in Texas were becoming concerned about the increasing national debt.

Reading Check Analyzing Why did Lamar face financial difficulties?

TEXAS HISTORY Online

Student Web Activity Visit the texans.glencoe.com Web site and click on **Chapter 12—Student Web Activity** to learn more about the Texas navy.

CLICK HERE

SECTION 2 ASSESSMENT

Checking for Understanding

- Using Key Terms** Use the word **cabinet** in a sentence that pertains to President Lamar and the government of Texas.
- Reviewing Facts** Why was Houston not reelected when his first term ended in 1838?

Reviewing Themes

- Government and Democracy** Why did the Texas Congress reserve 288,000 acres of public land?

Organizing to Learn

- Listing** Create a web like the one shown below. List the problems that the Texans encountered during the Santa Fe expedition. Include details about what led to the expedition and what the results were. (The results would include any lessons learned.)



Critical Thinking

- Explaining** Why did President Lamar want to have a strong military?
- Evaluating Solutions** How effective were President Lamar's solutions to financial difficulties?

TAKS PRACTICE

Determining Cause and Effect

What was the effect of the Council House meeting in San Antonio between Texas authorities and the Comanches?

Texas LITERATURE

John R. Knaggs



John Knaggs' interest in Texas history began as a child. Knaggs grew up near one of the

Nueces River crossings used by Mexican forces during the Texas Revolution. While researching the revolution, he found several "gaps" in information from the records of crucial events. In *The Bugles Are Silent*, Knaggs uses his own imagination to fill in the "gaps."

Reading to Discover

Imagine that you are present when this fictional conversation is taking place. How would you know that Houston valued Chief Bowles's advice?

Reader's Dictionary

aspiration: a great ambition or ultimate goal

annexation: an addition to something larger or more significant

obtain: succeed in gaining possession of; to acquire

reap: to harvest; to win or obtain

The Bugles Are Silent

by John R. Knaggs

In this chapter, General Houston talks about annexation and the presidency.

... When [Houston] returned, [Elizabeth] was leaning against a column . . . "Samuel, I want you to know how much I appreciate the admirable manner in which your men conducted themselves tonight . . . I'm confident your army will be successful. You should become a man of means following the war . . . But you will need some property to fulfill your political **aspirations**. I assume you will become president of the Republic of Texas."

"I intend to seek that office."

"And beyond?"

"I would steer toward **annexation** into the United States."

"After which you will become . . . perhaps even president of the United States."

"I must admit, I would seek the office, if I had the opportunity."

"I hope you will indeed become president . . . fulfilling your highest aspiration."

"I have never said that was my highest aspiration."

"What could be more important?"

"... I turned my back on Anglo society rejoining the Cherokees as a member of the tribe . . . One night . . . Chief Bowles sat me down for a talk. He said that I had run

away to find myself, but that I had remained lost. 'You must return to your people,' he said. 'You are blessed with a rare opportunity to **obtain** the most valuable of all possessions, wisdom. You must sow carefully the fields of knowledge and understanding. Then, my brother, you will **reap** wisdom, which is more precious than wealth or power. Your destiny is to lead your people; but without wisdom, the sun of life, you will remain in despair.'"



ANALYZING LITERATURE

Evaluate and Connect

What do you believe Chief Bowles was trying to tell General Houston when he spoke with him about wisdom and leading his people?

Interdisciplinary Activity

Journalism Prepare a CNN-style interview with Elizabeth after the election of General Houston as the president of Texas. What information might she have to share with the citizens of the Republic of Texas?

Houston Regains Presidency

Guide to Reading

Main Idea

Sam Houston's return to the presidency signaled a change in the government's economic and Native American policies.

Key Term

archives

Reading Strategy

Organizing Information As you read this section, complete a chart like the one shown here, outlining important events and their outcomes.

Event	Outcome
Archives War	
Woll Invasion	
Mier Expedition	
Regulator–Moderator War	

Read to Learn

- what ways President Houston tried to reduce government spending.
- about conflicts with Mexico.
- how Houston attempted to resolve the Texan–Native American conflicts.

Section Theme

Economic Factors Texas attempted to balance the budget, yet the debt increased.

Preview of Events

◆ 1842

March

Mexican army invades southern Texas and retreats

September

Mexican army occupies San Antonio and retreats

December

Texas army attacks Mexican town of Mier and then surrenders



President Sam Houston

A Texas Story

In a bitter campaign filled with gossip and scandal, Sam Houston defeated Lamar's chosen successor—David G. Burnet—for the presidency. Houston had disliked Lamar's policies and programs and wanted to undo the damage he felt Lamar's administration had done to Texas. The major issues during Houston's second term were the budget, the threat of invasion from Mexico, and annexation by the United States.

A Policy of Economy

When Houston regained the presidency in 1841, he eliminated dozens of government positions and cut the size of the army. He tried to sell navy ships, but angry citizens of Galveston prevented the sale.

Despite these attempts to cut costs, the debt of the republic increased, largely because of the high interest that had to be paid.



Picturing History

Angelina Eberly played a decisive role in preventing Sam Houston from moving the government archives from Austin to Houston in 1842. **Why is it important to protect government archives?**

A Temporary Peace

Houston also tried to renew peaceful and fair dealings with Native Americans. His letter of October 9, 1842, to Indian commissioners expressed his views concerning Native American rights:

“Neither the Indians nor the whites shall pass into the territory of the other without lawful permission . . . Should a white man kill an Indian or commit any crime upon an Indian on his property . . . he shall be punished by laws of the republic.”

Treaties signed with various Native American groups at Bird’s Fort and at Torrey’s Trading House ensured a period of calm for several years.

Invasion Triggers the Archives War

The Santa Fe expedition produced a response from Mexico. In March 1842 a Mexican army of about 500 soldiers, commanded by **General Rafael Vásquez**, invaded Texas and occupied San Antonio, Goliad, and Refugio.

Although Vásquez withdrew after several days, many Texans panicked. President Houston declared a public emergency and tried to save the government **archives**, or official documents, by moving them from Austin to Houston. Many Austin residents suspected that Houston intended to move the capital from Austin permanently. When government officials tried to move the archives, some Austin residents, led by **Angelina Eberly**, fired on them. This skirmish, called the **Archives War**, ended with the archives—and the capital—remaining in Austin.

 **Reading Check Explaining** What caused the Archives War?

Woll Invades Texas

In September 1842, Mexican forces invaded Texas again. This time a larger Mexican army, numbering 1,400 and commanded by **General Adrián Woll**, occupied San Antonio. The Texas militia and the Texas Rangers rushed to San Antonio. After some heavy fighting, Woll’s army was driven out of Texas.

The Texans suffered losses in the fighting. The Mexican army trapped **Captain Nicholas Dawson** and a company of volunteers from Fayette County. Dawson and about 35 of the volunteers were killed. Dawson and his fallen soldiers were later buried on Monument Hill near La Grange, Texas.

The Mier Expedition

The Woll invasion angered Texans. Many citizens demanded that President Houston take action to protect the republic. Houston tried to settle the problems peaceably. Houston hoped that the U.S., France, and Great Britain would pressure Mexico to leave Texas alone.

In November 1842, Houston ordered **General Alexander Somervell** and a militia of 750 to patrol the area from San Antonio to Laredo. When Somervell’s forces reached Laredo, they found no signs of the Mexican army, so Somervell ordered his soldiers back to Gonzales. About 300 of the soldiers balked at the decision. Under the leadership



of **Colonel William S. Fisher**, these Texans moved down the Rio Grande and attacked the Mexican town of **Mier** (MEE•ehr). The Texans expected an easy victory. Early in

the battle, however, **General Pedro Ampudia** and 900 Mexican soldiers arrived to reinforce the troops defending Mier. After two days of fighting, the Texans, outnumbered and low on supplies, surrendered on December 26, 1842.

The Drawing of the Black Beans

The Mexican army began to march their captives to Mexico City, but the Texans overpowered their guards and escaped on February 11, 1843. The Texans lost their way in the mountains and some died of starvation and exposure. Mexican troops recaptured the survivors about a week later.

Santa Anna, now back in power in Mexico, ordered every tenth Texan executed as punishment for their escape attempt. Of the 176 men recaptured, 17 were to die. To determine which men would be executed, the prisoners were ordered to draw beans from a jar. Those who drew black beans were shot; those who drew white beans were marched to prison in Mexico City.

Thomas J. Green described the drawing of the black beans:

“The decimation [selection of every tenth prisoner to die] took place by the drawing of black and white beans from a small earthen mug. The white ones signified exemption, and the black death. One hundred and fifty-nine white beans were placed in the bottom of the mug, and seventeen black ones placed upon the top of them. The beans were not stirred, and had so light a shake that it was perfectly clear they had not been mixed together. Such was their anxiety to execute Captain Cameron, and perhaps the balance of the officers, that first Cameron, and afterward they, were made to draw a bean each from the mug in this condition.”

History Through Art

Mier Expedition: The Drawing of the Black Bean by Frederic Remington, 1896 This image captures the tension and anxiety of the prisoners whose fate will be decided by the bean they draw. [Does this image support Thomas Green's description in the text? Explain.](#)

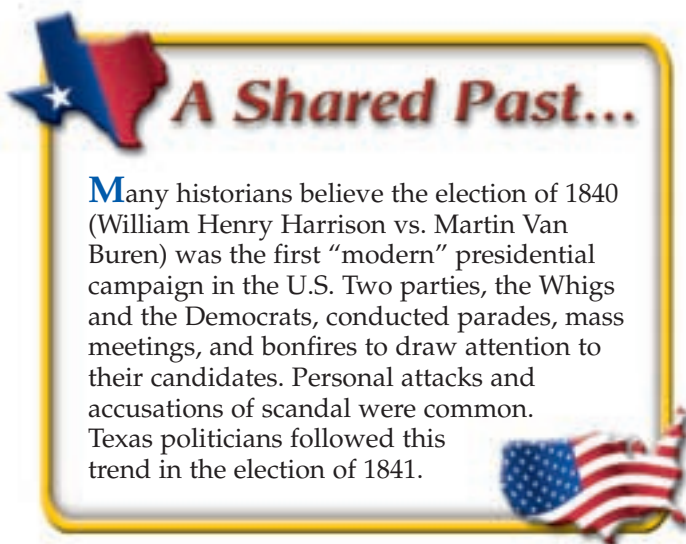


The remaining prisoners were transferred to Vera Cruz, where they joined the San Antonio prisoners Woll had taken. A few of the Texas captives were pardoned, eight prisoners managed to escape, and others died of disease or starvation. On September 16, 1844, those who remained in prison were released.

Feuds Lead to Unrest in East Texas

Late in his second term, Houston also had to deal with trouble that developed in East Texas from 1839 to 1844 near the old Neutral Ground Territory. The feud between the settlers in this part of Texas began over land titles. Two groups of settlers—the **Regulators** and the **Moderators**—had been fighting for several years. Each group had formed to keep law and order because there were few local officials available to do so. As a result of the conflict, property was burned and several people were murdered. A general state of unrest and lawlessness prevailed in Shelby and neighboring counties. Local law enforcement tried but could not stop the feud. Some of the lawmen were even personally involved on one side or the other.


In August 1844, the situation worsened and spread to surrounding counties in Texas and



A Shared Past...

Many historians believe the election of 1840 (William Henry Harrison vs. Martin Van Buren) was the first “modern” presidential campaign in the U.S. Two parties, the Whigs and the Democrats, conducted parades, mass meetings, and bonfires to draw attention to their candidates. Personal attacks and accusations of scandal were common. Texas politicians followed this trend in the election of 1841.

Louisiana. Houses were burned, people were driven out of their homes, and violence seemed to be everywhere. Houston sent 600 soldiers into the area to bring about peace. Houston himself traveled there and reminded the settlers that they were all Texans and should not fight each other. He persuaded both sides to end the Regulator–Moderator War.

 **Reading Check Summarizing** What occurred as a result of the Mier expedition?

SECTION 3 ASSESSMENT

Checking for Understanding

- Using Key Terms** Use the word **archives** in a sentence describing what kinds of documents these might be.
- Reviewing Facts** Why did the capital remain in Austin instead of moving to Houston in 1842?

Reviewing Themes

- Economic Factors** Public debt refers to money owed by a government. Why did the public debt of Texas continue to increase despite attempts by Houston to balance the budget?

Organizing to Learn

- Sequencing** Create a time line like the one shown here. Place the letters of the following events in the proper order.



- Fisher and his militia attack Mier.
- Mexican army commanded by Vásquez occupies San Antonio, Goliad, and Refugio.
- Escaped prisoners from the Mier expedition are recaptured.
- Houston tries to move archives from Austin.

Critical Thinking

- Explaining** What happened to those who drew a black bean as compared to a white bean? Why were the officers more likely to draw the black beans?
- Analyzing** How did Houston make temporary peace with the Native Americans?

TAKS PRACTICE

Drawing Conclusions What had the Regulators and the Moderators been fighting over for several years? What could have prevented this conflict?

Critical Thinking TAKS Skillbuilder



Distinguishing Fact From Opinion

Why Learn This Skill?

When studying past or current events, it is important to distinguish between fact and opinion. Facts relate exactly what happened, when and where it happened, and who was involved. An opinion expresses a feeling or belief about the event. You should know how to distinguish a fact from an opinion so that you will have accurate information and not confuse the two.

Learning the Skill

Here are some ways to distinguish facts from opinions:

- Check facts for accuracy by comparing them to other sources.
- Can you ask questions beginning with *who*, *what*, *when*, or *where*? If so, you are dealing with facts.
- Identify opinions by looking for statements of feelings or beliefs.
- Opinions often begin with “I believe” or “In my view.”
- Opinions often contain words like *should*, *would*, *could*, *best*, *greatest*, *all*, *every*, or *always*.

Practicing the Skill

Read each statement below. Then, on a separate piece of paper, write *F* if the statement is a fact or *O* if it is an opinion.

- 1 Houston is the most wonderful place in the world.
- 2 Comanches and Kiowas killed several settlers and kidnapped two women and several children from Parker’s Fort.
- 3 There was a cowardly tribe among us, the Tonkawas . . . hated by all other Indians of every tribe.

- 4 In the Council House Fight, 12 Comanche chiefs, 20 warriors, and several women and children were killed.
- 5 Congress passed acts in 1839 and 1840 that set aside nearly 18,000 acres (7,290 hectares) of land in each Texas county for public education.



Early Texas schoolhouse

- 6 She is a noble woman, wife, mother, and patriot—a woman of great thought and heart—yet the most modest and unpretentious of women—Texas is proud of her.



TAKS PRACTICE

Distinguishing Fact From Opinion Read an article from your local newspaper. Determine whether you can distinguish fact from opinion in the article. Write down some examples of opinions and facts from the article. Refer back to the questions under **Learning the Skill** if necessary. Share this with your class.



Glencoe’s **Skillbuilder Interactive Workbook**, Level 1, provides instruction and practice in key social studies skills.

Texas Becomes a State

Guide to Reading

Main Idea

Efforts for Texas annexation were given a boost by the changing political atmosphere in the United States.

Key Terms

manifest destiny
joint resolution

Reading Strategy

Organizing Information Complete a table like the one shown here by filling in the roles that these people played in the annexation of Texas.

Person	Role
James Polk	
John Tyler	
Anson Jones	
J. Pinckney Henderson	

Read to Learn

- about the "Texas Question."
- about the annexation of Texas.

Section Theme

Government and Democracy With the approval of the United States Congress, Texas became a state as soon as its people approved annexation and adopted a state constitution.

Preview of Events

1845

February 28
U.S. Congress passes joint resolution on annexation

July 4
Texas approves annexation

December 29
President Polk signs resolution making Texas a state

1846

February 19
Ceremony recognizes Texas as the 28th U.S. state



Sam Houston's sword and scabbard

A Texas Story



A strange thing happened during Houston's inaugural address. He was to give up his sword to symbolize the transition from war to peace. When the time came, Houston could not let go of it. He stood silent on the speaker's platform, staring at the sword in his hands. He finally spoke: "I have worn it with some humble pretensions in defence [sic] of my country; and should the danger of my country again call for my services, I expect to resume it, and respond to that call, if needful, with my blood and life."

The Texas Question

Throughout the years of the republic, most Texans still wanted Texas to join the United States. In 1836, they had voted overwhelmingly for annexation. Sam Houston had worked for this outcome throughout his

first term as president of the republic. However, the push for annexation stopped when Mirabeau B. Lamar, who did not favor becoming part of the U.S., succeeded Houston.

By Houston's second term, the "Texas Question" had become important in United States politics. Those against annexation believed that it would benefit southern slaveholders. They also argued that annexation would mean war with Mexico. Annexation was more popular than it had been in 1836. Thousands of Americans had immigrated to Texas, strengthening ties to the United States.

In April 1844, representatives from the United States and Texas signed a treaty that would make Texas a territory of the United States. The treaty also provided that Texas would give its public lands to the United States. In return for this, the United States agreed to pay all the debts of the Republic of Texas.

Some Texans were disappointed with the terms of the treaty. They had hoped for immediate statehood, but the treaty only made Texas a territory. Others fought the treaty, arguing that Texas should keep its very valuable public lands. Even under these terms, however, the majority of Texans favored the treaty of annexation.

Texans confidently expected the United States to accept the treaty. They were surprised when the United States Senate rejected it by a vote of 35 to 16. Many senators opposed the treaty because Texas would ultimately enter the U.S. as a slave state. This would give the South an advantage in the United States Senate. Other senators voted against the treaty because they did not want to anger Mexico. Still others voted against it because 1844 was an election year and they wished to avoid controversy. Yet, the Texas question soon became the center of controversy throughout the United States.

History *Through Art*

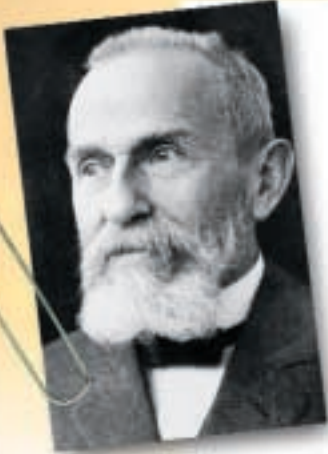
Emigrants to the West by W.M. Cary, 1880 Many settlers immigrated to Texas.
[What dangers would be met along the road to the West?](#)





People of Texas

Anson Jones 1798-1858



Anson Jones settled in Texas in 1833 and established a successful medical practice. As tension increased between Texas and Mexico, Jones joined the army. Later, he was appointed Texas's minister to the United States, and secretary of state.

In 1844, he was elected the last president of the Republic of Texas and held this office until Texas's annexation, which he opposed. Jones resigned his presidency and turned over the government to Governor Henderson, the first governor of the state of Texas.

After Texas became a state, Jones hoped to be elected to the U.S. Senate, but Sam Houston and Thomas Jefferson Rusk were chosen. Jones's stand on statehood had cost him his political career. He never got over his defeat, and he died a bitter man.

Polk Wins Election

Annexation became an issue during the United States presidential election of 1844. The Democratic Party candidate was **James K. Polk** of Tennessee. Polk, as well as his supporters, wanted Texas to become part of the United States. **Henry Clay** of Kentucky, the Whig Party candidate, was against immediate annexation. He feared the country would split over the issue of slavery. Polk's victory in a very close election showed that most of the voters favored annexation.

Annexation gained momentum from growing support for expansion. Settlers wanted to live in the fertile lands in Oregon, California, and Texas. Merchants wanted ports on the Pacific coast where American ships could stop on their way to trade with Asia. Most Americans believed the United States was destined to expand coast to coast. This belief was called **manifest destiny**.

Even before Polk took office, **President John Tyler** asked Congress to reconsider annexation. Tyler argued that Congress could no longer delay its decision. The voters had expressed their wishes, and it was time for Congress to act.

Reading Check Identifying Who were the two U.S. presidential candidates in 1844?

Congress and Texas Approve Annexation

Congressional leaders who wanted annexation proposed that Texas be annexed by a **joint resolution**. This resolution, passed by both houses of Congress, would have the force of law and would require only a simple majority of votes in each house. Approving a treaty, on the other hand, required a two-thirds majority in the Senate.

On February 28, 1845, Congress passed a joint resolution for annexation. It contained terms more favorable to Texas than those of the treaty of 1844. Texas could enter the Union as soon as its people approved annexation and adopted a state constitution. Texas could keep its public lands but could sell some of these lands to pay its debts. The resolution also stated that Texas could be divided into as many as five states with the approval of Texas and the United States. President Tyler signed the resolution on March 1 and submitted the offer to the Texas government. Most Texans were pleased with the terms. The joint resolution provided for immediate statehood, bypassing the time Texas would be a territory.

Anson Jones, elected president of Texas in 1844, called a special session of the Texas Congress to consider the terms of annexation, which were quickly accepted. The people would have to


endorse annexation and draft a new state constitution. The convention, meeting in Austin on July 4, 1845, overwhelmingly backed annexation. The convention then wrote a new state constitution.

On October 13, Texas approved annexation by a vote of 4,254 to 257 and ratified the constitution by 4,174 to 312. The Congress of the United States consented to the Texas Constitution of 1845. On December 29, 1845, President Polk signed the resolution that made Texas a state.

Mexico Offers Recognition


Mexico refused to recognize Texas independence until 1845, when the United States and Texas finally agreed on annexation. Great Britain and France both preferred that Texas remain an independent nation rather than become a part of the United States. For this reason, British and French diplomats tried to convince Mexico that it should recognize Texas independence. In May 1845, Mexico agreed to acknowledge an independent Texas on one condition—Texas must reject annexation by the United States.

Though accepting the offer would ensure that Texas and Mexico would enjoy improved relations, Texas was not interested. The Texas Congress quickly rejected the Mexican proposal and voted to accept annexation by the United States.



A Shared Past...

The United States Congress tried to admit states in pairs—one slave state and one free state—so the U.S. Senate would be equally balanced between slave and free states. The admission of Florida as the 27th state tipped the balance toward slave states. Texas became the 28th state and tipped the balance even more. Iowa and Wisconsin soon were added to the Union to restore the balance in the Senate.



“The Republic of Texas Is No More”

On February 19, 1846, at a ceremony in front of the Texas capitol, Anson Jones, the last president of the republic, turned over the government to J. Pinckney Henderson of San Augustine, the first governor of the state. President Jones closed his farewell address by declaring that “the final act in this great drama is now performed: the Republic of Texas is no more.” The Lone Star flag was lowered, and the Stars and Stripes was raised. Texas officially became the 28th state in the United States of America.

 **Reading Check Analyzing** Why did the U.S. Congress favor annexation by joint resolution?

SECTION 4 ASSESSMENT

Checking for Understanding

1. **Using Key Terms** Define **manifest destiny** and **joint resolution**.
2. **Reviewing Facts** Why were some people in the United States against annexing Texas?

Reviewing Themes

3. **Government and Democracy** Why (to the surprise of many Texans) did the United States Senate reject the treaty of 1844 to annex Texas?


Organizing to Learn

4. **Creating Charts** Create a chart like the one shown here, outlining the important dates in the annexation of Texas.

Date	Event
February 28, 1845	
March 1, 1845	
July 4, 1845	
October 13, 1845	
December 29, 1845	
February 19, 1846	

Critical Thinking

5. **Identifying Viewpoints** The annexation of Texas to the U.S. caused different opinions among Texans. Why did some Texans favor annexation in 1845? Why did some Texans oppose annexation?



TAKS PRACTICE

Drawing Inferences Why do you suppose Sam Houston would not give up his sword during his inauguration ceremony?

Chapter Summary

The Lone Star Republic

Key Issues During the Republic of Texas

President	Issues and Events
Sam Houston 1836–1838	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New capital is Houston. • U.S. grants Texas official recognition. • Houston attempts to improve relations with Native Americans. • Debt of Texas increases.
Mirabeau Lamar 1838–1841	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lamar sets aside land for public education. • Comanches raid Texas settlements. • Austin becomes the capital. • Comanches withdraw to the High Plains. • Santa Fe expedition fails.
Sam Houston 1841–1844	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Texas signs peace treaties with some Native American tribes. • Houston settles civilian disputes. • Mexican and Texan troops engage in military skirmishes.
Anson Jones 1844–1846	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. Congress votes to annex Texas. • Texas approves of annexation with the U.S. • Texas joins the U.S. on December 29, 1845.

Reviewing Key Terms

1. For each term in the left-hand column, choose a word from the right-hand column that relates to it and write a sentence including the two terms.

joint resolution	tariff
expenditure	annexation
cabinet	capitol
endowment fund	revenue

Reviewing Key Facts

2. List two reasons why annexation of Texas to the United States was delayed.
3. Describe the actions of the Native Americans in central Texas during 1836 and 1837.
4. Why did the government debt of Texas grow during the beginning of the republic?
5. Examine what Lamar hoped to accomplish by sending the Texas navy into Mexican waters. What happened to the navy when Sam Houston became president?
6. Describe the results of the Texas attack on the Mexican town of Mier.
7. What did selecting a black bean mean for those Texans who were taken prisoner after the Mier expedition?
8. List three terms of the joint resolution for annexation.

Critical Thinking

9. **Synthesizing Information** Why was President Houston concerned about the treatment of Native Americans?
10. **Making Comparisons** Compare the presidencies of Houston and Lamar. Make a chart like the one below.

Issue	Houston	Lamar
Education		
Native Americans		
Military		
Debt		

11. **Determining Cause and Effect** How did Santa Anna's release affect Texas's relations with Mexico?
12. **Analyzing Information** The Texas voters approved both annexation and the constitution by a great majority. Why do you think so many Texans wanted to be annexed by the United States? What do you think they hoped to gain?



Self-Check Quiz

Visit the texans.glencoe.com Web site and click on **Chapter 12—Self-Check Quizzes** to prepare for the chapter test.

CLICK HERE



Geography and History Activity

Draw the following on a blank map of Texas. Refer to the map titled *The Lone Star Republic* on page 272 to complete the following directions.

- 13. Label and draw stars next to the republic’s first and second capitals.
- 14. In the area of East Texas, draw three arrows pointing toward the Red River. Label the area “Cherokees.”
- 15. In the area of central Texas, write the names of the following tribes: Wichitas, Comanches, and Kiowas.

Cooperative Learning Activity

- 16. **Evaluating the Presidents** As presidents of the Republic of Texas, Sam Houston (who served twice), Mirabeau Lamar, and Anson Jones had many problems to solve. Divide into groups of three or four students. As a group, decide what grade (A to F scale) you would give each president of the republic. Give Sam Houston a grade for each term. Consider the following issues: foreign relations, relations with Native Americans, establishing a government, reducing the debt, education, and conflicts among Texans. The group should write a report card for each president.

Practicing Skills

- 17. **Distinguishing Fact From Opinion** To get accurate information about past and current events, you must be able to distinguish between facts and opinions. Read the following account of the Council House Fight. Then write two examples of fact and two examples of opinion.

On Tuesday, 19th of March, 1840, 65 Comanches came to town to make a treaty. They brought with them, and reluctantly gave up, Matilda Lockhart, whom they captured in December 1838 . . .

This was the third time these Indians had come for a talk, pretending to seek peace, and trying to get ransom money for their . . . captives. Their proposition now was that they should be paid a great price for Matilda . . . Now the Americans, mindful of the treachery of the Comanches, answered . . .

“We will . . . keep four or five of your chiefs, whilst the others of your people go to your nation and bring all the captives, and then we will pay all you ask for them . . . This we have determined, and, if you try to fight, our soldiers will shoot you down.”

—From *Memoirs of Mary Maverick*, 1921

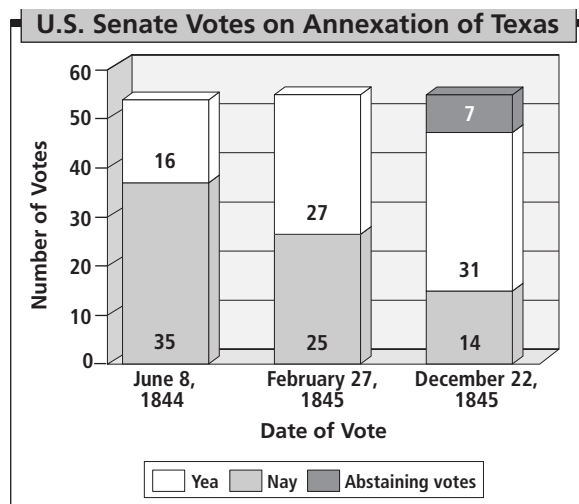


Portfolio/TAKS Writing Activity

- 18. **Persuasive Writing** Imagine you are a Texan in 1840 who favors annexation. Write a letter to a friend who does not want Texas in the United States. Try to persuade your friend to support your position. Save your work for your portfolio.

TAKS PRACTICE

Use the graph to answer the following question.



In February of 1845, about how many more U.S. senators supported the annexation of Texas than in June of 1844?

- F 5 G 10 H 15 J 20

Test-Taking Tip:

Decide what information you require and disregard any information that you do not need. The two numbers that you need to answer the problem are the number of senators who supported annexation in June and the number who supported it in February.

Economics & History

To Protect and to Serve

All societies try to find ways to guard their citizens from threats posed by those who do not obey laws. During the 1820s and early 1830s, the people of Texas formed volunteer companies for self-protection. These companies patrolled the frontier regions looking for danger and, when their work was completed, returned home to care for their families and tend to their fields.

The ad interim, or temporary, government created three companies of citizen-soldiers in 1836 and charged them with protecting Anglo settlers from attacks by Native Americans. They were also to serve as an army in the event of an invasion by Mexico. In this way, the Texas congress was fulfilling one of the major duties of any government—to guarantee the safety of its citizens.



Jack Hays (*above right*) was a member of the Texan Mounted Militia (*above*).

Texas Rangers

Unfortunately, the ad interim Texas government could ill afford a military force of any kind. It paid volunteers little or nothing at all.

The men had to provide their own horses and bring their own firearms. Often, the Rangers, as these men eventually came to be called, had to live off the land. About all the government could do was pledge to pay them \$25 a month, provide them with land, and supply them with



Jack Hays

ammunition. Many Rangers served their terms out of dedication and civic duty. Some, however, used their authority for personal gain. Occasionally, innocent people suffered from the rough system of frontier justice.

Sam Houston became the republic's first president in September 1836, but his election did not bring the Rangers better conditions or wages. There were limits to how much the Rangers would endure in the name of patriotism. Once finished with their scouting assignments, they generally returned home.

Jack Hays

Rangers like Jack Hays added to their small government income by working as surveyors. Ranger duties called for protecting surveyors while they

worked near Native American hunting grounds. Since Hays was out on the frontier anyway, he accepted jobs from private individuals who wished to have their land marked and measured. In this manner, Hays was able to supplement his government salary.

Hays went on to become one of the most famous of the Texas Rangers during the 1840s. President Mirabeau B. Lamar adopted a “get-tough” policy against those who opposed the goals of the new republic. Congress issued legislation in 1841 creating new Ranger companies to resolve conflicts with the Native Americans and protect the republic from Mexico. Jack Hays won an appointment to head one of the Ranger forces.

This time the congress did better for the Rangers, paying them \$30 monthly. Hays’s pay was \$150. However, it was still not easy for the Rangers to support themselves. Some even had to borrow money to pay for their expenses while on duty, as there were few government benefits.

Patrolling the Plains

Fearing for his own safety, Hays purchased a Colt revolver. This handgun had just been manufactured and it seemed ideal for protecting settlers on the frontier. Because it could shoot five

Texas Rangers continue to serve Texans today.



TEXAS FICTION

One of the persistent myths of Texas Ranger history is that, until recently, all Rangers were of Anglo European descent. Surviving enlistment records prove that Texans of Hispanic and Native American descent served from the Mexican period well into statehood. Mounted militia units were called rangers as early as 1823. The Texas Rangers, created in 1835, served as a substitute for an army when Texas lacked the funds to maintain a large military force.

rounds without reloading, most of the Rangers wanted the handgun. Since the government had limited finances, Hays may have bought his own Colt from a Waco merchant. Other Rangers acquired their revolvers secondhand from the Texas navy, which had procured the weapons for its sailors in 1839.

Hays and his fellow Rangers spent much of their time during the Lamar administration as employees of the government, safeguarding Texas immigrants and handling issues with Native American tribes angered over Anglo movement westward. Rangers also patrolled the frontier looking for raiding expeditions from south of the Rio Grande. When war broke out with Mexico in 1846, companies of Rangers fought beside U.S. Army troops. Jack Hays was among them.

TAKS PRACTICE

- 1. Making Generalizations** What reasons other than pay may exist to attract a person to a job?
- 2. Making Inferences** How might working for the government differ from working for a business?
- 3. Writing About Economics** Write a paragraph that develops one of the themes listed below. Use standard grammar, spelling, sentence structure, and punctuation. Include information and examples from the feature as details to support your argument.
 - a.** Careers in law enforcement or the military provide opportunities to serve one’s country.
 - b.** Government workers deserve generous job benefits.
 - c.** Individuals can show patriotism or civic-mindedness.