

# CHAPTER 12

## A New Nation

(1836–1845)

*Sam Houston was considered a hero after the Texas Revolution.*



*Mirabeau B. Lamar disagreed with many of Sam Houston's policies.*



1836 Sam Houston becomes the first popularly elected president of the Republic of Texas.



1837 The Texas government begins work in Houston, the new capital.

1838 Texans elect Mirabeau B. Lamar president.

1839 Texas passes a homestead law, protecting settlers' homes from being seized to pay debts.

1840 The new capital of Austin has 850 residents.

1836

1837

1838

1839

1840

**U.S. and  
WORLD**



1837 A financial panic leads to a depression in the United States.

1838 U.S. troops begin removing the Cherokee from Georgia to Indian Territory.

1839 The photographic process known as the daguerreotype is introduced at the Paris Academy of Sciences.

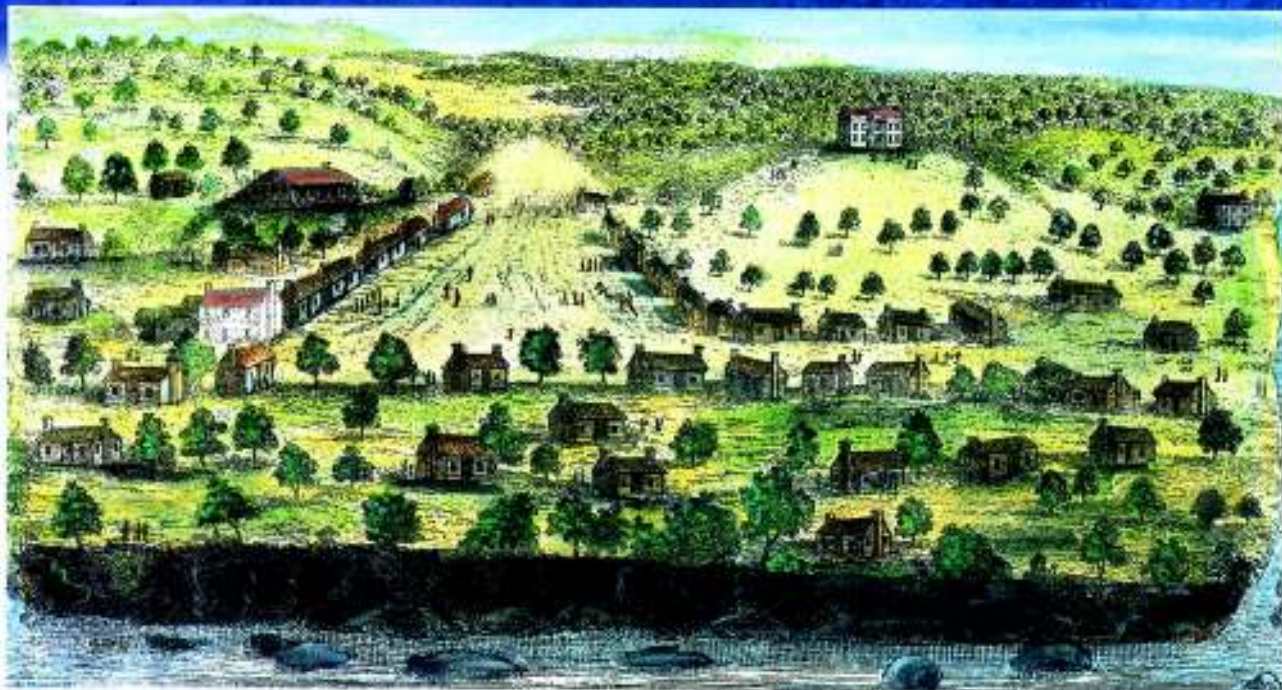


*Many Cherokee died on the journey known as the Trail of Tears.*

### Build on What You Know

In the fall of 1835, increasing conflict between Texans and the Mexican government erupted in the Texas Revolution. With the crushing victory at the Battle of San Jacinto in April 1836, Texas won the war and became an independent nation. However, the new Republic of Texas faced many challenges.





The Granger Collection, New York

Edwin Waller laid out the streets and oversaw the construction of the first government buildings in the new capital of Austin.

1841 Texans again elect Sam Houston president of the Republic.

1843 The Tehuacana Creek Councils lead to peace between Texans and several Texas Indian groups.

1844 President Sam Houston sends troops into East Texas to end the Regulator-Moderator War.

1841

1842

1843

1844

1845

1841 *Punch*, a periodical famous for its political humor, begins publication in London, England.



This first edition of *Punch* featured a cartoon on its cover.

1845 The U.S. Congress moves the presidential election day to the first week in November.

## You Be the Historian:



**What's Your Opinion?** Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Support your point of view in your journal.

- **Citizenship** Citizens express their points of view through voting.
- **Economics** A nation's economy is affected by events in bordering nations.
- **Government** Individuals can have a strong influence on the development of a nation.

If you were there . . .  
Whom would you choose to lead Texas?





# The Early Republic

## Read to Discover

1. What were the terms of the Treaties of Velasco, and how did both sides respond?
2. Why was the election of 1836 significant?

## Why It Matters Today

Because Texas was a democratic republic, its citizens elected their leaders. Use [CNNfyi.com](http://CNNfyi.com) or other **current events** sources to learn about elections in other countries today. Record your findings in your journal.

## Define

- annexation

## Identify

- Treaties of Velasco
- Sam Houston
- Mirabeau B. Lamar

## The Story Continues

Several Texans were camped near Buffalo Bayou after fleeing their homes during the Runaway Scrape. Suddenly, a woman on the edge of the group began pointing and shouting, “Hallelujah! Hallelujah!” A man on horseback was racing toward them and yelling, “San Jacinto! The Mexicans are whipped and Santa Anna a prisoner!” Everyone laughed, hugged, and cried from happiness at the victory.



## The Treaties of Velasco

The celebrations following the victory at San Jacinto were short-lived, partly because Mexican leaders had not yet recognized the war's end. As a result, some 2,000 Mexican troops under the command of General Vicente Filisola remained in Texas. Texans also needed to decide what to do with Mexican general and president Antonio López de Santa Anna, whom they had captured at San Jacinto. In exchange for his life, Santa Anna agreed to order the Mexican troops to leave Texas. Officials then took him to Velasco. On May 14, 1836, Santa Anna and Texas ad interim president David G. Burnet signed the two **Treaties of Velasco**. The first treaty, which was made public, included the following terms.

1. The war between Mexico and Texas was officially ended, and Texas was declared independent.
2. Santa Anna would not take up arms against Texas.
3. All Mexican forces would withdraw beyond the Rio Grande.



Newspapers across the United States, such as this Baltimore publication, announced the Texas victory at San Jacinto.



4. Prisoners would be exchanged.
5. The Mexicans would return all captured property.
6. Texas leaders would promptly return Santa Anna to Mexico.

The second treaty was kept secret. It provided for Santa Anna's immediate release. In exchange, he would try to persuade Mexican leaders to recognize Texas independence. Santa Anna also agreed to push for Mexican recognition of the Rio Grande as Mexico's border with Texas.

Many Texans wanted Santa Anna to be executed or imprisoned. Nonetheless, in June 1836 Santa Anna was put aboard the *Invincible* to sail to Mexico. Before the vessel could leave, a force led by Thomas J. Green blocked the port. This force was made up of volunteers who had only recently reached Texas and wanted the war to continue. Their actions convinced Burnet to imprison the Mexican leader.

Although Santa Anna was eventually released, Texas had violated a term of the treaties. Mexico also dealt a blow to the treaties—it refused to recognize the public treaty because Santa Anna had signed it while a prisoner. Mexico did not recognize the independence of Texas, and it still considered the region to be in rebellion. As a result, relations between Mexico and Texas remained unsettled.



David G. Burnet was president through the troubled times of the Texas Revolution. The ad interim government had to move several times to avoid Mexican forces.

**★ Reading Check Analyzing Information** What significant political event in Texas history occurred in 1836?



## The Republic of Texas, 1836

**Interpreting Maps** In the second Treaty of Velasco, Santa Anna secretly pledged to recognize Texas as an independent nation. However, the boundaries of the new nation were not firmly established.

### TAKS Skills

1. **Locate** What Texas regions did Mexico and Texas claim? **★ TEKS**
2. **Evaluating** Why do you think most of the Texas settlements were located in the eastern region of Texas? **★ TEKS**



## LONE STAR LEGACY

### The Lone Star Flag

The first official Texas flag was adopted by the Texas Congress on December 10, 1836. It had a blue background with a gold star in the center. It was replaced by the red, white, and blue Lone Star flag in 1839. The designer of the 1839 flag is unknown. Since then, changes have been made to the specifications for the flag, but the symbol of the state of Texas has remained essentially unchanged since 1839. **How did the appearance of the Lone Star flag change during the 1830s?**

## The Election of 1836

A second major challenge facing the Republic of Texas was to form a new government. The Constitution of 1836 required that elections be held to select new leaders. Texans would also decide whether to approve the Constitution of 1836 and whether to pursue **annexation** of Texas to the United States. Annexation is the formal joining of one political region to another. Burnet wrote in a letter that the election would probably “be conducted with a good deal of spirit.” Three well-known Texans ran for president—Stephen F. Austin, **Sam Houston**, and Henry Smith. Houston was the most popular candidate. “Old Sam Jacinto,” as he became known, had led Texans to victory. Many Texans shared the view of this supporter.

### Texas Voices

“No person ever met Sam Houston in the early days of the Republic without being impressed with his greatness. He was then about forty-two years of age, just the prime of life. Standing largely over six feet in height, with a massive, well formed hand, . . . a large head, a piercing gray eye, [and] a mouth and nose indicating character of fine proportions.”

—Francis R. Lubbock, quoted in *A Political History of the Texas Republic, 1836–1845*, by Stanley Siegel

Houston won the presidency by a large majority. For vice president, voters elected **Mirabeau B. Lamar**, another hero of San Jacinto. Texans also elected 30 representatives and 14 senators to the Republic’s new Congress. In addition, voters overwhelmingly approved the Constitution of 1836 and expressed a desire to pursue U.S. annexation. These issues decided, the Republic began to set up its national government.

**Reading Check** Finding the Main Idea Who did Texans elect in 1836?



## Section 1 Review



Questions 2, 3, 4a, 4b, 5

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keyword: ST3 HP12

**1 Define and explain:**

- annexation

**2 Identify and explain:**

- Treaties of Velasco
- Sam Houston
- Mirabeau B. Lamar

**3 Identifying Cause and Effect**

Copy the graphic organizer below. Use it to show how the Mexican government and Texans responded to the Treaties of Velasco, and why.



**4 Finding the Main Idea**

- What were the terms of each Treaty of Velasco?
- List five decisions that Texans made in the election of 1836.

**5 Writing and Critical Thinking**

**Identifying Points of View** Write a newspaper article describing the events that occurred when Santa Anna boarded the *Invincible*. In addition, explain why Green and Burnet acted as they did.

Consider the following:

- the terms of the Treaties of Velasco
- opposition to the treaties





# Houston's First Term

## Read to Discover

1. What were some actions of the first government of the Republic of Texas?
2. How did President Houston's administration try to solve problems with the military and the economy?
3. How did President Houston work to protect the rights of American Indians in Texas?

## Why It Matters Today

Economic problems were one of the many challenges facing the Republic of Texas. Use [ONfyi.com](http://ONfyi.com) and other **current events** sources to learn about current economic problems. Record your findings in your journal.

## Define

- administration
- cabinet
- expenditures
- revenue
- ratify

## Identify

- Felix Huston
- Albert Sidney Johnston
- Texas Rangers
- Panic of 1837
- Chief Bowles

## The Story Continues

On October 22, 1836, Sam Houston stood before the leading citizens of Texas. His sword from the Battle of San Jacinto hung at his side. The audience grew quiet as he prepared to take the oath of office. Houston spoke briefly of his plans for Texas. Then he paused, removed his sword, and grasped it in both hands. In an emotional voice, he declared that the sword was a symbol of his past position. "I have worn it . . . in defense of my country," he said. Now Houston faced new challenges as president of the Republic.



Sam Houston carried this short sword during the Battle of San Jacinto.

## ★ Houston's Administration

Sam Houston became the first popularly elected president of the Republic of Texas on October 22, 1836. Addressing the first Texas Congress, Houston laid out his goals. He stressed the need for peace with American Indians and the need to stay alert and guard against an attack by Mexico. He also expressed his hope of seeing Texas annexed to the United States.

Houston faced many challenges during his **administration**, or term of office. He began addressing them by appointing a **cabinet** of executive department heads to assist him. He appointed Stephen F. Austin as secretary of state and Henry Smith as secretary of the treasury. Houston




named Thomas J. Rusk as secretary of war and Samuel Rhoads Fisher as secretary of the navy. Austin served the Republic for only a few months. As a result of overwork and exposure to cold, he developed pneumonia. On December 27, 1836, Austin died at the age of 43. Texans mourned the loss of the leader who had dedicated his life to Texas. President Houston issued a statement expressing the nation's loss. "The father of Texas is no more. The first pioneer of the wilderness has departed." Houston ordered a 30-day period of mourning to honor Austin.

A second major task facing the Republic was the formation of a court system, as required by the constitution. The new Congress set up a supreme court, four district courts, 23 county courts, and justice courts. The Texas Supreme Court consisted of a chief justice and four associate justices, who also served as judges of the district courts. James Collinworth was appointed the Republic's first chief justice.

Another order of business was to specify the Republic's boundaries. To the south and west, the Congress claimed the Rio Grande as the border. The Mexican government did not recognize this border, however. Many people who lived south and west of the Nueces River still considered themselves Mexicans.

Selecting a capital was also an early issue. President Burnet had moved the capital of the ad interim government from Velasco to Columbia. Officials found the town too small, so they began looking for a new site for the capital. Two brothers, John and Augustus Allen, had recently founded a town near Harrisburg on Buffalo Bayou. Named in honor of Sam Houston, the town was little more than a village. Nonetheless, the Allen brothers tried to persuade Congress to choose Houston as the new capital. They even offered to provide government buildings and lodging for officials. In late 1836 the Congress named Houston the new temporary capital. The Texas government moved there the following spring, and the town grew rapidly. In January 1837 it had 12 residents and one log cabin, but within four months, some 1,500 people lived there.

 **Reading Check Summarizing** What were the early actions of Houston and the Texas Congress in the new Republic?

#### Interpreting the Visual Record

*Houston.* During Sam Houston's term, the village of Houston was selected as the center of government. This engraving shows the capitol building there. How does this engraving reflect life in the new capital?







## ★ Houston and Army Unrest

The new government soon faced a challenge from its own army. Many volunteers from the United States who had arrived too late to fight in the Texas Revolution were still eager for action. **Felix Huston**, the army's commander, and many others wanted to invade Mexico. President Houston considered such a move risky. To stop the growing unrest, he replaced Huston with **Albert Sidney Johnston**. This only led to more conflict. The decision angered Huston, and he challenged Johnston to a duel and severely wounded him.

With Johnston unable to take command, unrest in the army grew. One military commander urged soldiers to march on the capital. He wanted them to "chastise [scold] the President, kick Congress out of doors, and give laws to Texas." To regain control, Houston placed all but 600 troops on leave and never recalled them.

For defense and frontier protection, Houston relied instead on militia companies and the **Texas Rangers**. The Rangers were a defense force that tried to keep the peace along the frontier. Formed on November 24, 1835, the Texas Rangers had to be ready to ride at all times. In later years, the Rangers would become law officers. Although Houston's actions solved some problems, conflicts with the army continued to trouble the Republic.

**★ Reading Check Finding the Main Idea** What action did Houston take to solve growing unrest in the army? What role did the Texas Rangers play in his policies?



### Texas Rangers

Beginning in the 1830s the Texas Rangers were organized to protect settlers in Texas. Some of the first Rangers rode horses and used new pistols called revolvers. Over time, the Rangers have adapted to new duties and new technologies. Today the Rangers serve as a force of special law officers to keep the peace. The Rangers use modern weapons and drive vehicles with high-tech equipment. Since 1993, women have also served as Texas Rangers. People interested in the Rangers can visit the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum in Waco. **How has the technology used by the Texas Rangers changed since their early days?** ★ TENS



## Biography



The Granger Collection, New York

### Sam Houston (1793–1863)

When Sam Houston first rode into Texas in 1832, he was already a well-known hero in the United States. Although he was born in Virginia, his family had moved to Tennessee in 1807. Two years later he left home to live with the Cherokee. In 1813 he joined the U.S. Army, fighting under General Andrew Jackson. Houston then relied on his experience with the Cherokee as an Indian agent for the U.S. government. With the support of Jackson, Houston entered politics. He served Tennessee in the U.S. Congress and as governor. After again living with the Cherokee, Houston traveled to Texas in December 1832. Houston served his fellow Texans—first in the military and then in politics—for some 25 years. **What experiences helped Houston become a leader in Texas?** ★ TEXAS

## ★ Economic Policies

The new nation also had serious economic problems. The Republic's **expenditures**, or spending, far exceeded its **revenue**, or income. When Sam Houston took office, Texas had a national debt of \$1.25 million. The new government collected taxes and placed customs duties on imported goods. Texas officials tried to get loans in the United States. The Republic also put public lands up for sale. Despite these efforts, the Republic's debt continued to rise as its expenses increased.

To make matters worse, the United States experienced a financial crisis in 1837. This **Panic of 1837** led to an economic depression. Texas, which traded heavily with the United States, soon felt the effects. Business slowed, and goods became scarce. The Republic's limited money supply posed another economic problem. Texans manufactured few goods and therefore had to import many items. As imports exceeded exports, money drained from the Republic. The government tried to increase the money supply by printing paper money. However, the Republic had no gold and silver to back this money. As the debt of the Republic grew and confidence in the government fell, the value of its money dropped.

★ **Reading Check Analyzing Information** How did economic problems in the United States affect Texas?

## ★ Land Policy under Houston

Although the Republic was in debt, it was rich in land. In 1836 Texas claimed more than 200 million acres of public land. The Constitution of 1836 provided for a land policy based on Spanish, Mexican, and southern U.S. practices. Heads of families living in Texas on March 2, 1836—excluding African Americans and American Indians—were guaranteed 4,606 acres. Single men aged 17 and over were guaranteed 1,476 acres of land. Veterans of the Texas Revolution received additional land. Later laws provided smaller land grants to more recent settlers. In all, the Republic distributed nearly 37 million acres under this land policy.

To encourage immigration, the Republic established a colonization policy in the early 1840s. Based on the Mexican *empresario* system, this policy gave agents contracts to settle immigrants in Texas. The Republic distributed another 4.5 million acres under this system.

Texas officials hoped the various land policies would help the economy by increasing settlement. Some of the early policies did not require settlers to live on the land they received, so some speculators acquired land in hopes of selling it for a quick profit. But land speculation was rarely profitable because land was so easy to obtain in the Republic.

★ **Reading Check Making Generalizations and Predictions** How do you think the Republic's land policy affected immigration to Texas?





### Interpreting the Visual Record

**Texas Indians.** Houston believed that American Indians and Texas settlers could live together in peace. Based on this engraving, how do you think Indians' lives differed from those of settlers in Texas? **YES**

## ★ Houston's American Indian Policy

As settlements spread onto American Indian land, many conflicts arose. American Indians wanted to keep their land, but many Texans wanted to remove them from Texas—by force if necessary. President Houston opposed such action and supported a peaceful solution. He wanted to avoid a full-scale Indian war, which the Republic could not afford.

Houston sympathized with Indians' desire to control their land. During the Texas Revolution, he had negotiated a treaty guaranteeing the Cherokee title to and control of land in East Texas. The Texas Senate refused to **ratify**, or approve, the treaty, however. Some of the more than 400 Cherokee who lived to the north of Nacogdoches were angry that they had not received title to their land. In addition, Mexican agents had convinced some Cherokee to fight the Texans. President Houston urged the Cherokee to be patient. He told them that he would do everything in his power to help them hold on to their land. Houston wrote to **Chief Bowles**, a Cherokee leader and friend. "Do not be disturbed by the troubles which are around you, but be at peace." Houston set aside land for the Cherokee in an attempt to keep peace. This action angered Texas settlers who wanted the land and viewed the Cherokee as Mexican allies. Houston's efforts at peace seemed likely to fail.

Chief Bowles agreed to help Texas officials establish peace with Plains Indians to the west, where fighting had increased. New settlers were moving west by the hundreds. The Comanche, Kiowa, Wichita, and other Plains Indians viewed these newcomers as invaders. In May 1836, before Houston took office, Comanche and Kiowa forces had attacked Fort Parker. They killed most of the 34 residents and took five captives.

### That's Interesting!

#### Houston: The Raven

When Sam Houston went to live with the Cherokee, Chief Olooteka adopted him. Olooteka gave Houston the name *Colonneh*, meaning "the Raven." Later, Houston married Diana Rogers Gentry and became a citizen of the Cherokee nation. Houston admired many American Indian customs. He also enjoyed wearing Cherokee clothing, even after he moved to Texas.



Houston's moccasins were highly decorated.



## Biography



### Chief Bowles

(c. 1756–1839)

Chief Bowles, whose Cherokee name was Duwali, was born in North Carolina. As U.S. settlement expanded in the South, he and his village were forced to move. In 1819 they settled in Texas. There, he served on a Cherokee decision-making council and later formed a strong friendship with Sam Houston.

**Why do you think Chief Bowles chose to go to Texas?**

Houston and the Congress developed an American Indian policy to reduce conflict and protect Texas settlers. The policy established a line of forts along the frontier and encouraged trade with Indians. It was hoped the policy would promote peace and friendship with Texas Indians. While Texas Rangers patrolled the frontier, Houston tried to negotiate and sign treaties with Texas Indians. He described this approach.

### Texas Voices

“Treaties of peace and amity [goodwill], and the maintenance of good faith with the Indians, present themselves to my mind as the most rational [reasonable] grounds on which to obtain their friendship. Let us abstain [cease] on our part from aggressions, establish commerce with the different tribes, supply their useful and necessary wants, maintain even-handed justice with them, and natural reason will teach them the utility [usefulness] of our friendship.”

—Sam Houston, quoted in *Documents of Texas History*, edited by Ernest Wallace

Houston attempted to make peace with each American Indian group in Texas. He was one of the few Texas leaders who believed that Indians and settlers could live together in peace. Most Texans in the Republic disagreed with Houston, preferring to remove American Indians from Texas. Some Texans thought Houston’s policy was slowing westward development. Ongoing conflict between American Indians and Texas settlers also made it difficult to maintain peaceful relations.

**Reading Check Identifying Points of View** Why did some Texans oppose President Houston’s American Indian policy?



## Section 2 Review

★ **TBIS** Questions 2, 3, 4a, 4b, 5

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keyword: ST3 HP12

- 1 Define and explain:**
- administration
  - cabinet
  - expenditures
  - revenue
  - ratify

- 2 Identify and explain:**
- Felix Huston
  - Albert Sidney Johnston
  - Texas Rangers
  - Panic of 1837
  - Chief Bowles

- 3 Analyzing Information**
- Copy the graphic organizer below. Use it to show how Sam Houston’s administration tried to solve the Republic’s problems.

Problem	Solution/Action
Unruly army	
Debt	
Lack of a clear land policy	
Conflict with American Indians	

- 4 Finding the Main Idea**
- What were two early actions of the Republic’s Congress?
  - What economic policies did the Republic establish, and how successful were they?

- 5 Writing and Critical Thinking**

**Evaluating** Imagine that you are a member of Sam Houston’s cabinet. Write a short evaluation of Houston’s American Indian policy explaining why you support it.

Consider the following:

- the cost of a full-scale war against American Indians
- recent conflicts with American Indians





# Lamar's Presidency

## Read to Discover

1. What steps did Lamar's administration take to address the issue of public education?
2. What problems did Lamar's administration face?
3. How did changes in Texas policy lead to wars with Texas Indians?

## Why It Matters Today

Mirabeau B. Lamar faced many challenges during his presidency. Use [ONfyi.com](http://www.onfyi.com) and other **current events** sources to learn about the problems facing a political leader today. Record your findings in your journal.

## Define

- consecutive terms
- charter
- capitol
- homestead law
- red backs

## Identify

- Rutgersville College
- Edwin Waller
- Battle of the Neches
- Council House Fight
- Battle of Plum Creek

## The Story Continues

Early one August morning, a few people in Linnville noticed a huge cloud of dust on the horizon. As the dust cloud neared, the residents realized that it was a Comanche raiding party. Some 1,000 Comanche swept down on the town. They captured and killed residents and stole horses. As they left, the Comanche burned the town. The raid was an angry response to a massacre that had occurred earlier at a peace conference.



The Comanche often carried shields like this one during raids and conflicts.

## ★ Lamar in Office

Sam Houston was no longer president when the Comanche raid on Linnville occurred. In September 1838, Texans had elected new leaders. Houston could not run for re-election because, under the Republic's constitution, a president could not serve **consecutive terms**, or two terms in a row. Even if Houston could have run, he might not have been re-elected. Many Texans disliked his policies, particularly his American Indian policy. Texans elected Mirabeau B. Lamar as their new president and David G. Burnet as vice president. Both men strongly disagreed with Houston's policies and personally disliked him.

On taking office in 1839, President Lamar stressed the need for a public education system. He stated that a "cultivated [educated] mind is




## Biography



### Mirabeau B. Lamar


(1798–1859)

A native of Georgia, Mirabeau B. Lamar came to Texas in 1835 to join the fight for Texas independence. After the war, Lamar served as vice president and then as president of the Republic. Lamar pursued an aggressive Indian policy and opposed annexation to the United States. He also faced many challenges, including a growing public debt and ongoing conflicts with Mexico. By the end of his presidency, Lamar had lost much popular support. He briefly retired from politics and focused on his love of writing poetry. In 1857 Lamar re-entered the political world, becoming U.S. minister to Nicaragua and Costa Rica. He died in 1859, two months after his assignment ended.

**What political positions did Lamar hold in the Republic?** 

the guardian genius of Democracy.” Following Lamar’s lead, the Congress passed education acts in 1839 and 1840. These acts granted each county 17,712 acres of land to support public schools. The government also set aside 231,400 acres for the future establishment of two public universities.

The first college in the Republic to receive a **charter**—a document granting permission to operate—was **Rutgersville College**. This private college opened in 1840 in Rutgersville, near La Grange. However, the Republic never established a public school system or public universities. Because of low land prices, the land grants set aside to fund these schools were not yet worth much money. Nonetheless, because of his efforts, Lamar is known today as the Father of Texas Education.

 **Reading Check Finding the Main Idea** How did Lamar’s administration try to promote public education?

## ★ A New Capital

During Lamar’s administration, the government also selected a permanent capital for Texas. President Lamar and many members of the Congress were unhappy with Houston as the capital. Lamar thought Houston was too far east. He wanted to move the political center of Texas west, closer to the edge of Texas settlement. Lamar believed this move would strengthen the Republic’s control of the region.


In 1839 the Congress appointed a group to choose a site for a permanent capital. The group selected a village named Waterloo, located along the Colorado River. The government renamed this town Austin in honor of Stephen F. Austin. Judge **Edwin Waller** was sent to Austin to lay out the streets and begin building government offices. A temporary **capitol**, or a building in which government officials meet, was soon completed. Homes and other government offices were built, and businesses opened along the town’s main street, Congress Avenue.

Not everyone was pleased with the new capital, however. Many Texans, including Sam Houston, claimed Austin was isolated and too far west. They feared it would be vulnerable to Mexican attack because of its location. Austin was also in Comanche territory and would therefore be exposed to Plains Indian raids. One such criticism appeared in a Houston newspaper on April 17, 1839.

### Texas Voices

“The [capital’s] location has been made at Waterloo [Austin], an inconsiderable [unimpressive] hamlet [village]. . . . The country around this point is represented to be exceedingly [very] fertile and beautiful, and the climate remarkably healthy. It is, however, almost entirely uninhabited [unsettled], and . . . more exposed than any other point on the frontier.”

—Telegraph and Texas Register

 **Analyzing Primary Sources**  
**Identifying Bias** Why else might the writer be critical of Austin becoming the Texas capital?



Life in frontier Austin was difficult and dangerous. However, as more people moved to Austin, the town began to prosper. By 1840 more than 850 people lived there, including diplomats from France, Great Britain, and the United States. Eventually, most Texans became satisfied with their new capital.

**★ Reading Check Identifying Points of View** What geographic factor made some Texans unhappy with Austin's location?

## ★ Land and Economic Policies

The Lamar administration continued the Republic's land policy. In January 1839 the Congress passed a **homestead law** that protected a family's home and up to 50 acres of land from seizure for debts. Thus, most creditors could not take a Texan's home and sell it to cover a debt.

This protection became important as the Republic's financial problems worsened. The public debt increased, while the value of Texas currency fell. The Republic responded by issuing new paper money certificates, which were commonly called **red backs**. The value of these red backs dropped quickly—they were worthless within three years of their printing. The Republic's debt was largely to blame. Because of rising military expenses, the government spent more than it collected in revenue. Military spending rose from \$881,000 under Houston to more than \$1.5 million under Lamar. Part of this money went to reoutfit the Texas navy with six new ships.

**★ Reading Check Summarizing** What were some of the Republic's financial problems during Lamar's administration?

### Interpreting the Visual Record

*Austin.* The first capitol in Austin was a one-story building with a stockade to protect it from raids. What types of transportation did early settlers use in Austin? **★ TEXS**





## Indian Battles in Texas, 1836–1845

**Interpreting Maps** During Lamar's presidency, conflicts between Texas troops and American Indians erupted throughout the Republic.

### TAKS Skills

**1. Locate** Where did the conflicts between Texas Indians and soldiers occur? ★ **TEKS**

**2. Drawing Inferences and Conclusions** How do you think these conflicts affected settlement in the different regions of Texas? ★ **TEKS**



## ★ Lamar's American Indian Policy

President Lamar's American Indian policy contributed to the rise in military spending. Lamar disliked Indians and wanted to remove them from Texas. Unlike Houston, he did not believe Indians had a right to their land. In his inaugural address, Lamar outlined his Indian policy.

### 📖 Analyzing Primary Sources

**Making Generalizations and Predictions** What is Lamar's view of American Indians, and how do you think this will affect the Republic's Indian policy?

### Texas Voices

“The white man and the [American Indian] cannot dwell in harmony together. Nature forbids it. . . .

I experience no difficulty in deciding on the proper policy to be pursued towards them. It is to push a rigorous [harsh] war against them; pursuing them to their hiding places without mitigation [relief] or compassion, until they shall be made to feel that flight from our borders without hope of return, is preferable to the scourges [horrors] of war.”

—Mirabeau B. Lamar, quoted in *Lone Star*, by T. R. Fehrenbach

In 1839 Lamar ordered the Cherokee to leave Texas. When the Cherokee refused, Lamar sent some 500 soldiers led by Kelsey Douglass to forcibly remove them. In July fighting broke out near the Neches River. After several days of fighting in this **Battle of the Neches**, more than 100 Cherokee lay dead, including Chief Bowles. Texas forces then pursued most of the surviving Cherokee north into Indian Territory in the United States. Some other American Indians, including the Caddo and Shawnee, also left northeastern Texas during this time.



Conflict between Texas settlers and the Comanche had also worsened. In January 1839 Lamar sent Colonel John H. Moore to attack the Comanche living west of Texas settlements. Moore and his troops fought the Comanche in a series of conflicts. As a result of these raids, the Comanche eventually agreed to peace talks.

On March 19, 1840, about 65 Comanche men, women, and children arrived at the Council House in San Antonio for peace talks. Texas officials had ordered the Comanche to bring all their captives. However, the Comanche representatives brought only a few. One captive, a teenage girl named Matilda Lockhart, reported that the Comanche still held 15 Texans captive. When Texans demanded their release, the Comanche peace chief, Muk-wah-ruh, responded that he did not have authority over the Comanche holding those captives. Then the Texans tried to take the Comanche representatives hostage in exchange for the captives. The Comanche leaders called for help from their friends who were waiting outside. Fighting broke out in and around the Council House. By the battle's end, 35 Comanche lay dead, including 12 chiefs, 3 women, and 2 children. At least seven Texans also died. This **Council House Fight** probably destroyed any chance of peace.

When other Comanche heard about the massacre, they were outraged. First, they put their Texan captives to death. Then a large Comanche raiding party struck the settlements of Linnville and Victoria, killing more than 20 settlers, burning houses, and stealing supplies and livestock. Texas settlers called for revenge for the Comanche raids. A force of volunteers, regular soldiers, and Texas Rangers formed and began searching for the Comanche. Under the command of Edward Burleson, Mathew Caldwell, Felix Huston, and Ben McCulloch, the Texans found the Comanche on August 11, 1840. The Texas force attacked. During the **Battle of Plum Creek**, more than 130 Comanche were killed. One Texan was killed, and seven were wounded.

**★ Reading Check Identifying Cause and Effect** What was Lamar's policy toward American Indians, and what did he hope to achieve with it?

#### Interpreting the Visual Record

**Battle of Plum Creek.** A volunteer force of settlers defeated the Comanche raiding party near present-day Lockhart, pushing the Comanche farther west. **What does this painting reveal about how the Comanche fought their enemies?** ★ TEKS







Texas settlers established small farms across the frontier.

## ★ The Results of Lamar's Policies

Despite this victory, many Texas settlers still feared the Comanche. Texas officials decided to strike farther into the frontier area known as Comanche country. In October, Colonel Moore led a force northwest in search of Comanche camps. Along the Colorado River, nearly 300 miles upriver from Austin, he found a Comanche village. The Texas force caught the Comanche by surprise and destroyed the village. Some 130 Comanche died in the conflict. Following these defeats, the Comanche moved farther north beyond the Red River, out of range of Texas forces.

By the end of his term, President Lamar had achieved his goal of removing the Cherokee from East Texas. The Comanche had also been pushed farther north and west, opening up vast lands for settlement. Speculators and settlers were pleased with the prospect of more land and a safer frontier.

However, Lamar's new policy proved a disaster for Texas Indians. American Indians in Texas had lost land and suffered severely. Some Texans were also concerned about the increased warfare and the expense that went with it. Lamar's American Indian policy had cost the Republic \$2.5 million. It had also led to the loss of many lives.

In addition, Lamar's policies had contributed to a soaring national debt. During his term, the debt rose from \$3.3 million to more than \$8 million. One Texan wrote in 1840 that times had become "terribly severe." Once again, Texans were ready for a change.

**Reading Check Finding the Main Idea** In what ways was Lamar's Indian policy harmful to both American Indians and the Republic?



### Section 3 Review



Questions 2, 3, 4a, 4b, 5

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keyword: ST3 HP12

#### 1 Define and explain:

- consecutive terms
- charter
- capitol
- homestead law
- red backs

#### 2 Identify and explain:

- Rutersville College
- Edwin Waller
- Battle of the Neches
- Council House Fight
- Battle of Plum Creek

#### 3 Summarizing

Copy the graphic organizer below. Use it to show how President Lamar dealt with the problems facing his administration.

Problem	Solution/Action

#### 4 Finding the Main Idea

- What did the Lamar administration do to promote education in Texas?
- Why did the public debt continue to be a problem for the Republic?

#### 5 Writing and Critical Thinking

TAKS

**Analyzing Information** Imagine that you are a U.S. official sent to Texas. Write a short report on how changes in Texas policy led to wars with American Indians.

Consider the following:

- Lamar's American Indian policy
- conflicts between Texans and American Indians during Lamar's administration



# Houston's Second Administration

## Read to Discover

1. What policies did Sam Houston adopt during his second administration?
2. What were the causes of the Regulator-Moderator War?

## Why It Matters Today

In 1841 the Republic's debt had become a major national problem. Use [CNNfyi.com](http://CNNfyi.com) and other **current events** sources to learn about a current nation's debt. Record your findings in your journal.

## Define

- balanced budget

## Identify

- Treaty of Tehuacana Creek
- Regulator-Moderator War

## The Story Continues

Texan James Morgan was worried about his future. Morgan hoped to make money in a new business deal but was concerned about land prices. A piece of land that had been worth \$55,000 two years earlier had sold for only \$800. Morgan was shocked by the price. "We're perfectly drained & times awfully hard indeed in the money way," he wrote a friend.



The Republic of Texas issued land grants to encourage settlement. Some Texans bought land, speculating that the value would rise.

## Houston Returns to Office

In 1841, Texans returned to the polls to elect a new president. Sam Houston and David G. Burnet both ran for the office. Many people had grown unhappy with the last administration's American Indian policy, the worthless red backs, and the rising debt. Once again, Texans chose Sam Houston to lead them. They elected Edward Burlinson as vice president.

In his second term as president, Houston struggled to reduce the growing national debt. He hoped to achieve a **balanced budget**, or a budget in which spending does not exceed revenue. To save money, Houston cut government jobs and salaries. He also cut the size of both the Texas army and the Texas Rangers. Houston even persuaded the Congress to sell the navy, but the sale was never carried out. As a result of these cutbacks, government spending dropped from \$4.8 million



### Interpreting the Visual Record

**Treaty of Tehuacana Creek.** During his second term, Sam Houston met with the Comanche to sign a peace treaty. What do you think the white flags inside the circle symbolize?



during Lamar's presidency to a little more than \$500,000. Even with this drastic reduction, Houston could not balance the budget. The Republic's debt continued to rise, reaching \$12 million by 1845.

In an attempt to solve the nation's money-supply problems, Houston had new paper money printed to replace the red backs. The government restricted how much of this money was issued to try to maintain its value. However, the value of the new money quickly fell because Texans had little faith in the money their government issued.

President Houston also returned Texas to the peaceful American Indian policy of his first term. He established more frontier trading posts to encourage trade with Texas Indians, and he signed peace treaties with various groups. Many Texas Indians began working for peace at the same time. In August 1842 the Caddo signed a peace treaty with the Texas government. They also agreed to help persuade 20 other Indian groups to attend a peace council. In March 1843 nine Indian groups—including the Caddo, Tawakoni, and Waco—met with Texas officials. This council was held at Tehuacana Creek, south of present-day Waco. The Indian and Texas leaders agreed to stop fighting. They planned a larger peace council to be held in September at Fort Bird on the Trinity River, near present-day Dallas. There Texas officials and nine Indian groups signed a treaty to put an end to fighting.

The Comanche, still angered by the massacre at the Council House, did not attend. However, in October 1844 Houston and Chief Buffalo Hump of the Penateka Comanche met at Tehuacana Creek and signed the **Treaty of Tehuacana Creek**. This peace and trade agreement did not establish boundaries for Comanche land. This issue later resurfaced and further strained relations between Texans and the Comanche. Nonetheless, under Houston's guidance, peace between American Indians and settlers returned to the Texas frontier.

**Reading Check Making Generalizations and Predictions** Do you think Houston's peace policy will succeed? Explain your answer.



### The Size of the Texas Government

The Texas government has grown tremendously since the days of the Republic. Today's government includes some 250 agencies, boards, and commissions. State employees number in the hundreds of thousands. Paying for this enormous government cost more than \$49 billion in 2000. In contrast, the Republic of Texas government needed only about \$130,000 to operate in 1845. This amount would equal about \$2.1 million today.

**Why do you think state government costs so much more today?**



## ★ The Regulator-Moderator War

While relations with Texas Indians were improving, violence broke out among settlers in Shelby County in East Texas. This region, known as the Redlands, bordered on the old Neutral Ground. Law enforcement was weak in the area, and as a result, many bandits and outlaws had moved there. One resident described the people who lived in the Redlands.

### Texas Voices

“It is nothing uncommon for us to inquire of a man why he ran away from the [United] States. Few persons feel insulted by such a question. They generally answer for some crime or other which they have committed.”

—W. B. DeWees, *Letters from Texas*

In 1840 a feud began between Alfred George and Joseph G. Goodbread over fake land certificates. George persuaded Charles W. Jackson to kill Goodbread. Jackson then organized a group, called the Regulators, to “fight crime.” In turn, Goodbread’s supporters formed the Moderators. Both sides attacked each other and anyone else who got in their way. Local officials, many of whom had become involved, could not stop the feud. People were ambushed and shot. Judges were threatened, and prisoners hanged without trial. Houses were burned, and people were driven from their homes. Eventually, each side numbered in the hundreds. Finally, in August 1844 President Houston sent soldiers to stop the feud. These troops brought an end to the **Regulator-Moderator War**. Peace had again returned to East Texas.



Houston sent troops to end the Regulator-Moderator War. Few soldiers had fine uniforms like this one, which belonged to a Texas officer.

**Reading Check Sequencing** Describe in order the events that led to the Regulator-Moderator War.



## Section 4 Review



TEKS Questions 2, 3, 4a, 4b, 5

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Homework  
Practice  
Online

keyword: ST3 HP12

- 1 Define and explain:**
  - balanced budget
- 2 Identify and explain:**
  - Treaty of Tehuacana Creek
  - Regulator-Moderator War

- 3 Identifying Cause and Effect**

Copy the graphic organizer below. Use it to list reasons that Sam Houston was elected to a second term. Then list the results of this election.

Causes	Event	Results
1.	Houston is elected to a second term as president.	1.
2.		2.
3.		3.

- 4 Finding the Main Idea**
  - a. How did Sam Houston attempt to solve the Republic’s economic problems?
  - b. What were the results of Houston’s peace policy toward American Indians?

- 5 Writing and Critical Thinking**

**TAKS**

**Supporting a Point of View** Do you agree with Houston’s decision to send in troops to put down the Regulator-Moderator War? Provide reasons to support your answer. Consider the following:

  - violence resulting from the feud
  - local officials’ role in the feud



## The Chapter at a Glance

Examine the following visual summary of the chapter. Then use the visual to create a short quiz about the major issues the Republic of Texas faced during the Houston and Lamar administrations. ★TEKS



## Identifying People and Ideas

★TEKS

Use the following terms or people in historically significant sentences.

- |                        |                         |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Treaties of Velasco | 6. Texas Rangers        |
| 2. annexation          | 7. red backs            |
| 3. Sam Houston         | 8. Battle of the Neches |
| 4. Mirabeau B. Lamar   | 9. Battle of Plum Creek |
| 5. cabinet             | 10. balanced budget     |

## Understanding Main Ideas

★TEKS

## Section 1 (pp. 256–258)

1. What did Texas leaders and Santa Anna agree to in the Treaties of Velasco?

## Section 2 (pp. 259–264)

2. What problems did Sam Houston face in his first term as president?

## Section 3 (pp. 265–270)

3. How did President Lamar address the need for a public education system in the Republic?
4. Why did conflicts with American Indians increase during Lamar's administration?

## Section 4 (pp. 271–273)

5. What policy changes did Sam Houston make during his second administration?

6. What was the Regulator-Moderator War, and how did Sam Houston end it?

## You Be the Historian

★TEKS

## Reviewing Themes

1. **Citizenship** Choose one of the early candidates for president of the Republic and explain why you would vote for that person.
2. **Economics** Analyze the impact of the U.S. economy and the Panic of 1837 on the Republic's economy.
3. **Government** How did Houston and Lamar shape the history of the Republic of Texas?



TAKS

## Practice: Thinking Critically

★TEKS

1. **Analyzing Information** Identify the major issues the Republic of Texas faced.
2. **Comparing and Contrasting** Compare and contrast the presidencies of Sam Houston and Mirabeau B. Lamar.
3. **Summarizing** Describe the defining characteristics of the Republic of Texas years.



### Interpreting Political Cartoons **★TEKS**

Study the political cartoon below. Then use the information in the cartoon to answer the questions.



- Which statement best describes what is occurring in this political cartoon created after the Battle of San Jacinto?
  - General Santa Anna and General Cos are surrendering to Sam Houston.
  - Houston is ordering the execution of Santa Anna.
  - Houston is surrendering to Santa Anna.
  - Houston and Santa Anna are meeting to sign a treaty.
- What is Santa Anna doing that helps you answer question 1?

### Analyzing Primary Sources **★TEKS**

Read the following quote from a letter that Sam Houston wrote to a council of Texas Indians. Then answer the questions.

"My brothers: The path between us . . . has become white . . . the sun gives light to our footsteps. . . I send councillors with my talk. . . Hear it, and remember . . . I have never opened my lips to tell [an American Indian] a lie. . . Let the war-whoop be no more heard in our prairie—let songs of joy be heard upon our hills. In our valleys let there be laughter and in our wigwams let the voices of our women and children be heard . . . and when our warriors meet together, let them [have] peace and be happy."

- What does President Houston hope to achieve by writing the letter?
  - He would like to have all American Indians removed from Texas.
  - He is explaining that the Texas government cannot afford to fight Indians.
  - He would like to achieve peace with American Indians.
  - He would like to convince Texas Indians that they do not have a right to their lands.
- What does President Houston's letter reveal about his attitude toward American Indians in Texas?

## Alternative Assessment

### Linking to Community **★TEKS**

Research events that happened in your area during the period of the Republic of Texas. Then create an illustrated time line showing some of these events, the dates, and the order in which they occurred. You might look for the development of new towns, elections of local officials, the start of new businesses or schools, raids or battles, or other events. Find at least one event to contribute to the class time line.

**BUILDING YOUR  
Portfolio**

### Internet connect

**Internet Activity:** go.hrw.com  
**KEYWORD:** ST3 TX12 **★TEKS**

Access the Internet through the HRW Go site to locate primary and secondary sources on the Council House Fight and the Battle of Plum Creek. Write a summary of one of the sources you find. Note any bias in the sources and how the bias influenced its conclusions. Make sure you use standard grammar, spelling, sentence structure, and punctuation in your summary.