

Texas Joins the United States

(1845–1860)

The annexation of Texas by the United States was celebrated with a flag-raising ceremony in Austin.



Before becoming a U.S. senator, Thomas J. Rusk served on the Texas Supreme Court.



1845 The United States annexes Texas.
1846 Thomas J. Rusk and Sam Houston become the first Texans to serve in the U.S. Senate.

1847 George T. Wood is elected governor of Texas.

1852 Work begins on the Port Isabel Lighthouse. When completed, its light could be seen from 16 miles away.

1845

1847

1849

1851

U.S. and WORLD



1845 Great Britain announces that it will seize all slave-carrying ships sailing to Brazil.

1848 The Seneca Falls Convention calls for equal rights for women, including the right to vote.

1850 California is admitted to the United States.

These British sailors are attempting to capture a slave ship.



Build on What You Know

The Republic of Texas had finally won recognition from the United States, Mexico, and several European countries. But annexation was still on many people's minds. In the United States, it was a matter of fierce debate. For Texas, annexation would bring many changes.



The Port Isabel Lighthouse was used as an observation tower and to signal sailors.



Some supporters of the Know-Nothing Party sang party songs from song sheets.

1854 The American, or Know-Nothing, Party becomes active in Texas.

1855 The Governor's Mansion is built in Austin.

1859 Sam Houston easily defeats incumbent Hardin Runnels in the election for Texas governor.

1853

1855

1857

1859

1853 Commodore Matthew C. Perry of the U.S. Navy sails into Edo (now Tokyo) Bay, Japan. Perry soon signs treaties of peace and commerce with the Japanese.

1855 The Kansas Territory's legislature passes harsh pro-slavery laws that spark criticism.



Commodore Perry returned with gifts from the Japanese government.

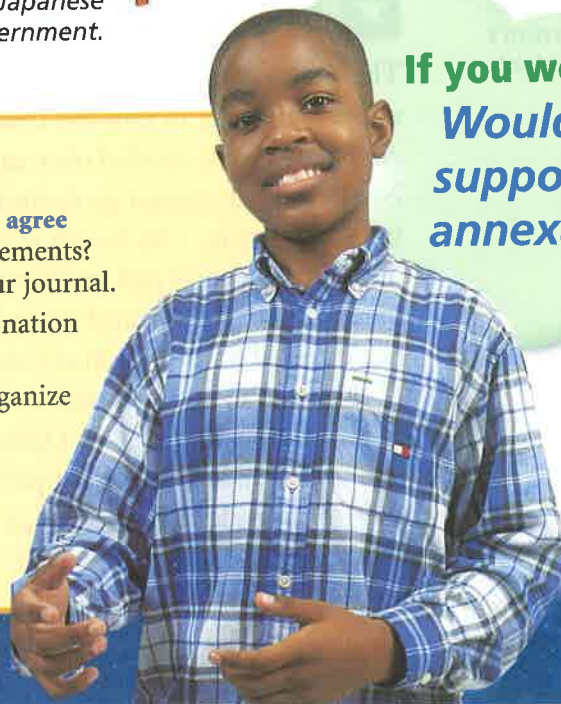
If you were there . . .
Would you support annexation?

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.

- **Geography** Most people in a nation support adding new territory.
- **Citizenship** People should organize into groups to make government respond to their demands.
- **Economics** Nations should not be allowed to go into debt.



The Annexation of Texas

Read to Discover

1. How did slavery and westward expansion affect the debate over annexation?
2. What events led to the annexation of Texas?

Why It Matters Today

During the 1840s, politicians could not agree on the issue of whether or not to annex Texas. Use CNNfyi.com or other **current events** sources to find information about an issue that politicians are debating today. Record your findings in your journal.

Define

- manifest destiny
- political parties
- nominated
- joint resolution

Identify

- John Tyler
- Jane McManus Cazneau
- James K. Polk
- Convention of 1845
- Texas Admission Act



This pitcher celebrates William Henry Harrison's campaign for president.

The Story Continues

The weather was cold and rainy, but William Henry Harrison was determined to give his first speech as president of the United States. He talked in the rain for an hour and 40 minutes. It proved to be his undoing—he caught pneumonia and died one month later. His vice president, John Tyler, became president. Tyler's position on Texas was clear: the Republic must be annexed.

★ The Treaty to Annex Texas

The annexation debate was long-standing. In 1836, Texans had voted overwhelmingly to join the United States. However, in the United States, Americans were divided over annexation largely along regional lines. The North had developed an economy that relied heavily on commerce and manufacturing. The South relied on agriculture and slave labor. As a result, northerners and southerners generally disagreed on policies affecting business, slavery, and trade. Many northerners did not want Texas to be admitted to the Union as a slave state because it would tip the balance of power in Congress toward the South. Most southerners wanted Texas to join the Union. A New Orleans newspaper declared, "The South will almost to a man sustain [support] the policy of . . . annexation."

U.S. president **John Tyler**, a southerner, favored annexation. He and other Americans feared that Great Britain was gaining too much

influence in Texas. In 1843, U.S. officials began to work toward annexation. The next year Tyler sent an annexation treaty to the U.S. Senate for approval. Under the treaty, Texas would become a U.S. territory—the first step toward becoming a state. The treaty called for the United States to pay the Republic’s large public debt. In exchange, Texas would give all its public lands to the federal government.

When the treaty went to the Senate, former president John Quincy Adams wrote that “with it went the freedom of the human race.” At a rally in New York City, some 3,000 people protested the treaty. The Senate debated the treaty in June 1844. Some senators warned that annexing Texas would spark a war with Mexico. But the most bitter debate on the Senate floor was over the issue of adding another slave state to the Union. After three weeks of debate, the Senate rejected the treaty.

The debate came at a time when many U.S. settlers were moving westward. The West was seen as a place of opportunity, where farming and trade would provide economic growth. Many Americans believed that the United States was meant to expand across North America. Newspaper editor John O’Sullivan used the term **manifest destiny** to describe this belief. “The American claim is by the right of our manifest destiny to overspread and to possess [own] the whole of the continent which Providence [divine guidance] has given us.” Many Americans began to believe that it was the nation’s manifest destiny to annex Texas. Columnist Jane McManus—**Jane McManus Cazneau** after her 1849 marriage—helped turn northern opinion in favor of annexation.

★ Reading Check Supporting a Point of View Would you have supported annexation? Explain your answer.



Biography



Jane McManus Cazneau (1807–1878)

In 1833 Jane McManus Cazneau moved to Matagorda and tried to obtain a land grant. Cazneau gave money to support the Texas Revolution. After Texas gained its independence, she pushed for annexation in columns she wrote for the *New York Sun*. After living in New York for a time, Cazneau eventually returned to Texas, where she was an early settler at the town of Eagle Pass. **Why was Cazneau an important person in Texas history?**



Interpreting the Visual Record

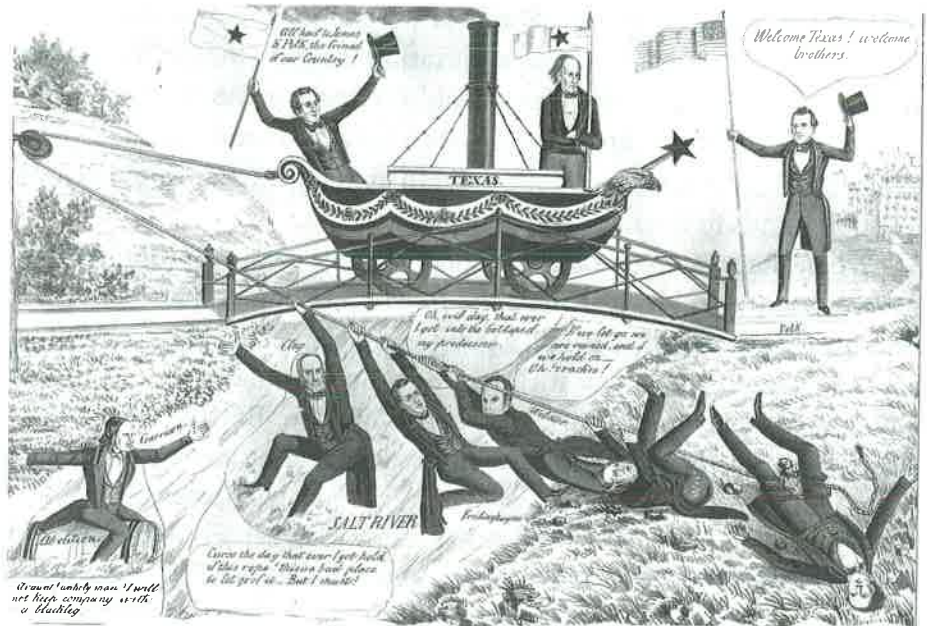
Manifest destiny. John Gast’s painting shows the westward movement of U.S. settlers across North America. **How does this painting show Americans’ belief that they had the right to expand across North America?**



The Granger Collection, New York

Interpreting Political Cartoons

"Texas Coming In." This political cartoon forecasts the annexation of Texas and shows Stephen F. Austin and Sam Houston riding a boat into the United States. According to this cartoon, is the United States pleased that Texas is joining the Union? **★ TEKS**



Polk showed his support for annexation in his campaign material.

★ The Annexation Resolution

The annexation treaty and manifest destiny became important issues in the U.S. presidential election of 1844. The **political parties** held differing positions on these issues. Political parties are groups of people who help elect government officials and influence government policies. The Democratic Party **nominated**, or chose as its candidate, **James K. Polk** of Tennessee. Polk wanted the United States to annex Texas and expand west. Polk's chief opponent was Whig Party candidate Henry Clay of Kentucky. At first, Clay opposed annexation. He worried that it might result in war with Mexico. But in an effort to win votes in the South, he softened his opposition, while trying to reassure northern voters. But Clay's efforts to take both sides of the issue cost him the election. He offended voters in both the North and the South, giving Polk the victory.

Most Americans, including President Tyler, considered Polk's election a sign of the public's approval of annexation.

★ Analyzing Primary Sources
Identifying Points of View
What conclusions did Tyler draw from Polk's election?

Texas Voices

“A controlling majority of the people and a larger majority of the states have declared in favor of immediate annexation. . . . It is the will of both the people and the states that Texas shall be annexed to the Union . . . immediately.”

—U.S. president John Tyler, annual message to Congress

Tyler therefore requested that both houses of Congress pass a **joint resolution**, or formal expression of intent, for annexation. A joint resolution required only a simple majority to pass. This was less than the two-thirds majority required for a treaty. In February 1845 the U.S. Congress passed the joint resolution to annex Texas.

★ Reading Check Finding the Main Idea How did Polk's election affect the annexation of Texas?

★ Texas Enters the United States

The joint resolution's terms were more favorable to Texas than the annexation treaty's terms had been. Texas would enter as a state rather than as a territory. Texans had to approve annexation and then write a new constitution. The new state could keep its public lands, but some would have to be sold to pay the public debt. Texas had to turn much of its public property, such as military supplies, over to the United States.

Texas president Anson Jones presented the offer of annexation from the United States to the Texas Congress along with the offer of recognition from Mexico. The final decision, he believed, should be made by the people of Texas. He also called for a convention to consider annexation. The delegates to the **Convention of 1845** assembled in Austin on July 4, 1845, and quickly approved annexation. Then they began work on a new constitution. Texans were proud of being independent, but there were good reasons for joining the United States. Most Texans were originally from the United States, and many still had families living there. Texas and the United States also shared strong business ties. The federal government would also provide Texas with military protection, a sound money system, and postal service. On October 13, Texas voters approved annexation by a vote of 4,254 to 267. Texans also approved the new state constitution. On December 29, 1845, President Polk signed the **Texas Admission Act**, making Texas the 28th state. One Texan explained,

Texas Voices

“Truly we have every reason to be happy! To rejoice over the prosperity we enjoy! We are . . . united once more by the strong tie of national sympathy to all that we ever loved.”

—W. B. DeWees, *Letters from an Early Settler of Texas*

★ Reading Check Evaluating Why did most Texans favor annexation?

Section 1 Review

★ TEKS Questions 2, 3, 4a, 4b, 5

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keyword: ST3 HP15

1 Define and explain:

- manifest destiny
- political parties
- nominated
- joint resolution

2 Identify and explain:

- John Tyler
- Jane McManus Cazneau
- James K. Polk
- Convention of 1845
- Texas Admission Act

3 Categorizing

Copy the graphic organizer below. List the leaders and groups who favored or opposed annexation.

For Annexation	Against Annexation
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4 Finding the Main Idea

- a. What impact did slavery and westward expansion have on the annexation debate?
- b. Beginning with the annexation treaty, identify in order the events that led to annexation.

5 Writing and Critical Thinking

Comparing and Contrasting Write a paragraph comparing a northerner's view of annexation with most Texans' views.

Consider the following:

- northerners' and southerners' views on slavery
- annexation's effect on the U.S. Congress

Daily Life

Statehood Celebrations

Many Texans wanted Texas to join the United States. Celebrations began well before Texas was actually annexed to the Union. In 1844 one Texan wrote Anson Jones, who was then serving as Texas secretary of state, to tell him of local celebrations. "Our town is illumined [lit] by burning of tar barrels . . . and loud festival shoutings and rejoicings at the now certain prospect of annexation." Newspapers and flyers asked readers whether they supported the annexation of Texas. **Why would Texans celebrate before annexation?**



Newspapers and flyers asked readers whether they supported the annexation of Texas.

Forming a Government

Read to Discover

1. How did the Constitution of 1845 lay the foundation for new state government?
2. What steps were taken to organize the government of the new state?

Why It Matters Today

In 1845, Texans gathered to create a new constitution. Use CNNfyi.com or other **current events** sources to find information about public involvement in government today. Record your findings in your journal.

Define

- biennial
- corporations

Identify

- James Pinckney Henderson
- Thomas J. Rusk
- José Antonio Navarro

The Story Continues

Texans stood, some with tears in their eyes, as the Republic's flag was lowered from the capitol for the last time. Before the flag could touch the ground, Sam Houston caught it. President Anson Jones declared, "The final act in this great drama is now performed; the Republic of Texas is no more." Many Texans looked forward to their future as citizens of the United States, and when the American flag was raised, cheers erupted from the crowd.



During the ceremony for the annexation of Texas, the Republic of Texas flag was lowered, and the American flag raised.

★ The Convention of 1845

On February 19, 1846, President Anson Jones formally turned the Texas government over to **James Pinckney Henderson**, the state's first governor. Texans were thrilled. Noah Smithwick remembered the event. "When the stars and stripes, the flag of our fathers, was run up . . . cheer after cheer rent [tore] the air."

The Constitution of 1845 provided a framework for the new state government. The constitution was written at the Convention of 1845, which had assembled on July 4 in Austin. When the convention began, delegates chose **Thomas J. Rusk** as convention president. Rusk had helped write the constitution of the Republic of Texas in 1836. At the Convention of 1845 he received assistance from many able delegates who were experienced judges, lawyers, and legislators. As one newspaper reporter declared, "The delegates to the convention . . . would

rank high in any country.” Most delegates were originally from the southern United States. The only Tejano delegate, **José Antonio Navarro**, was also the only native Texan to serve at the convention. One delegate was missing. Sam Houston had traveled to Tennessee to pay his respects to former U.S. president Andrew Jackson, who had died in early June 1845. To honor Jackson, delegates wore black armbands as they formed committees to write the constitution.

The delegates used the constitutions of the United States, the Republic of Texas, and the state of Louisiana as models. They spent nearly two months working on the new state constitution. The resulting document was widely praised. Texans ratified the constitution in October 1845 by a vote of 4,174 to 312.

★ TEKS **Reading Check Finding the Main Idea** What was the background of many of the delegates to the Convention of 1845?

★ The Constitution of 1845

Under the new constitution, the Texas government had three branches. The governor headed the executive branch and served a two-year term. The same person could not serve as governor more than four years in any six-year period. The legislative branch consisted of a senate and a house of representatives. House members served two-year terms, and senators served for four years. The state legislature met once every two years, or in **biennial** sessions. The judicial branch, or court system, consisted of the supreme court—the highest state court—and the district courts. The governor appointed judges, until 1850, when a constitutional



Interpreting the Visual Record

A new government. After the Constitution of 1845 was completed, Sam Houston joined the U.S. Senate. What does this illustration reveal about how business was conducted in the U.S. Senate in the 1840s?

Biography

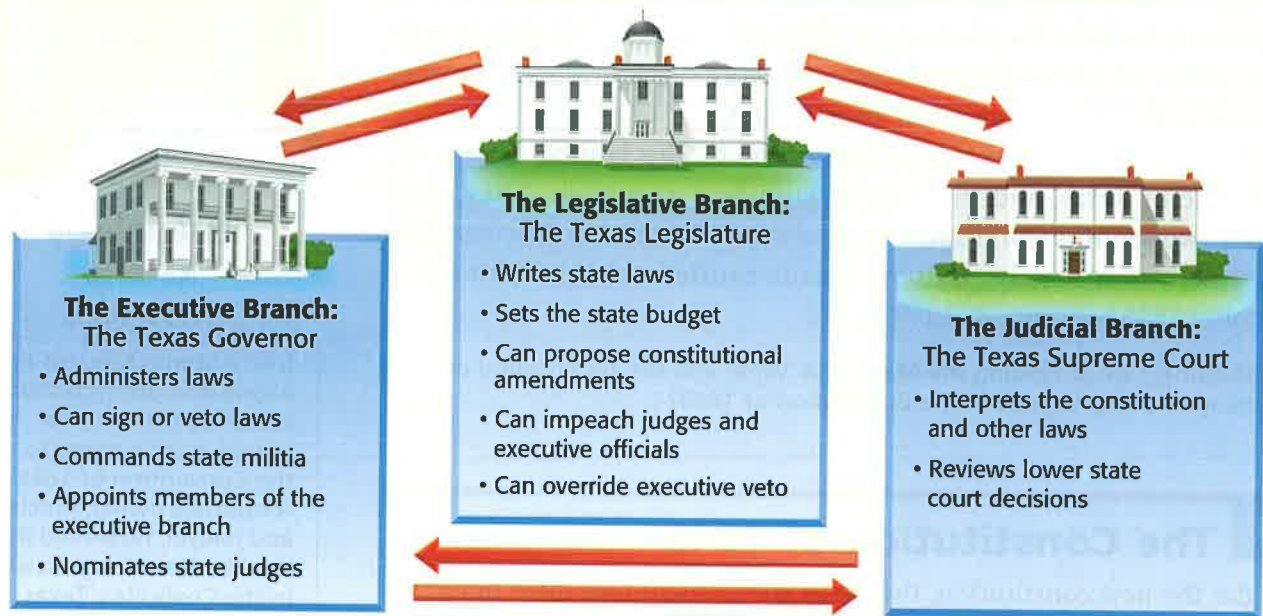


José Antonio Navarro
(1795–1871)

José Antonio Navarro had a long and distinguished career by the time he served as a delegate to the Convention of 1845. A business owner, rancher, and lawyer, he served in the Mexican Congress and in the Coahuila y Texas state legislature. Navarro supported Texas independence and signed the Republic's Declaration of Independence. He also helped write the Republic's constitution and served in its Congress. After statehood, he was twice elected to the Texas Senate. **How did Navarro contribute to Texas history?** **★ TEKS**

The Separation of Powers

The Texas Constitution of 1845 established a separation of governing powers, in which the powers of each branch are limited. The system is similar to the one established in the U.S. Constitution.



Visualizing History

1. Government In what ways is each branch able to check or limit the powers of the other two branches? ★ TEKS

2. Connecting to Today How does the separation of powers help provide limited government? ★ TEKS

amendment allowed voters to elect judges. Voters also elected the governor and the members of the state legislature, but only white men 21 years of age or older could vote. African Americans, American Indians, and women could not vote or hold office. In this respect, Texas was like most other states in the Union. As with the Republic's constitution, the new state constitution continued to protect slavery.

The state constitution protected homesteads, or families' homes and lands up to 200 acres each, from creditors. It also provided legal protections for women. Proposals to protect the property rights of women had sparked considerable debate during the convention. The delegates decided that a husband could not sell the family homestead without his wife's permission. Married women could also own property separately from their husbands. Some of these legal protections for women stemmed from old Spanish laws.

The constitution also tried to protect Texans and the government from certain business practices. Thomas J. Rusk explained Texans' views.

Analyzing Primary Sources
Identifying Points of View
Why does Rusk dislike banks?

Texas Voices

“Thousands [of people] . . . have been ruined by banks. . . I wish by no vote of mine . . . to authorize the institution [creation] of a bank which may benefit a few individuals but will carry here as elsewhere ruin, want, [and] misery.”

—Thomas J. Rusk, quoted in *Thomas J. Rusk: Soldier, Statesman, Jurist*, by Mary Whatley Clarke

The constitution banned banks because the vast majority of Texans were farmers who saw little need for banks and distrusted them. Many banks had failed during bad economic times in the Republic. The constitution also prevented the state legislature from taking on more than \$100,000 in debt unless an emergency existed. **Corporations**, or companies that sell shares of ownership to investors to raise money, needed the legislature's permission to operate. A corporation's right to operate could be taken away if it used unfair business practices.

★ Reading Check Summarizing What were some of the main provisions of the Constitution of 1845?

★ The First State Election

The first state election was held on December 15, 1845. The major candidates had been delegates to the Convention of 1845. James Pinckney Henderson soundly won the governor's race, defeating Dr. James B. Miller. Albert C. Horton won the race for lieutenant governor. John Hemphill kept the post he had held in the Republic—chief justice of Texas. State officials took office on February 19, 1846.

The daily operations of government were transferred from the Republic to the state. Army posts, many public buildings, and other properties were turned over to the federal government. The state legislature met to decide who would represent Texas in the U.S. Senate. It came as no surprise that the legislators chose Sam Houston and Thomas J. Rusk. One Texan noted the appointments with approval. "These two great men placed the country before self." Within weeks, the two men left their homes for Washington.

★ Reading Check Analyzing Information Why did the Texas legislature select Sam Houston and Thomas J. Rusk as U.S. senators?

That's Interesting!

A Ban on Duels

The constitution banned anyone who took part in a duel from holding any state office. Some Texans had used dueling to settle arguments. For example, in 1837 President Houston appointed Albert Sidney Johnston commander of the Texas army. Felix Huston, the commander at that time, refused to give up control and challenged Johnston to a duel. Johnston accepted the challenge and was badly wounded.



Some Texans owned sets of dueling pistols.



Section 2 Review



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



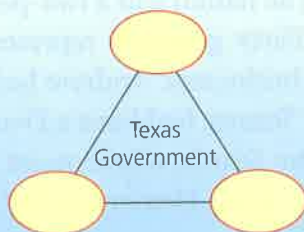
Homework Practice Online

keyword: ST3 HP15

- 1 Define and explain:**
- biennial
 - corporations

- 2 Identify and explain:**
- James Pinckney Henderson
 - Thomas J. Rusk
 - José Antonio Navarro

- 3 Summarizing**
- Copy the web diagram below. Use it to identify the three branches of the new state government established by the Constitution of 1845.



- 4 Finding the Main Idea**

- Who could vote and hold office under the Constitution of 1845?
- After the Constitution of 1845 was approved, how was the state government formed?

- 5 Writing and Critical Thinking**

Supporting a Point of View Imagine that you are a delegate to the Convention of 1845. Write a letter to the voters of Texas, explaining why you voted for or against the sections that banned banks and restricted corporations. Consider the following:

- Texans' experience with banks
- what the voters who elected you do for a living



Political and Economic Issues

Read to Discover

1. What were the positions of political parties, and how did they affect Texas politics?
2. Who were the early governors of Texas?
3. How was the state's public debt paid?

Identify

- Know-Nothing Party
- George T. Wood
- Peter Hansborough Bell
- Elisha M. Pease
- Hardin Runnels

Why It Matters Today

Texas governors tried to improve conditions in the state. Use CNNfyi.com or other **current events** sources to find information about what issues governors face today. Record your findings in your journal.

The Story Continues

In 1857, near the end of his career in the U.S. Senate, Sam Houston decided to run for governor of Texas as an independent candidate. Houston knew the race would be difficult, so he planned an aggressive campaign. “The people want excitement, and I had as well give it as anyone.” Houston campaigned vigorously throughout the state. He traveled in a red buggy, sometimes sleeping on the ground.



Houston might have used this traveling dining set during his red buggy campaign.

★ Political Parties

Political parties did not exist in the Republic of Texas or in the state in the early years following annexation. Instead, groups of Texans supported particular persons, such as Sam Houston or Mirabeau B. Lamar. There were no parties to organize voters around political issues. In the late 1840s Texans started to join political parties that had been organized in the United States. The nation had a two-party system.

The Democratic Party generally represented the views of farmers and owners of small businesses. Andrew Jackson, a former U.S. president and a favorite of Texans, had been a Democrat. The party was very strong throughout the South, where most Texas leaders came from originally. In addition, many Democrats had supported the annexation of Texas.

Most Texas leaders joined the Democratic Party, and most Texans voted for Democratic candidate Lewis Cass in the 1848 presidential election. By 1856 some 90 percent of Texas counties sent delegates to the state Democratic convention. The Democratic Party was so strong in Texas that every governor elected between 1845 and 1857 was a Democrat. The popularity of the party led to some problems. Because they usually had little to fear from opposing political groups, the Democrats often fought among themselves. Splits within the party often involved Sam Houston, the most important figure in Texas politics.

Some Texans supported the Whig Party, the other major political party in the United States. Whigs supported banking and large business interests. They had opposed the annexation of Texas. These were not popular positions with most Texans. In the mid-1850s the Whig Party collapsed when its members became divided over the slavery issue. Many Whigs in the North joined with smaller groups to form the Republican Party. Republicans believed that slavery should not be allowed into any territories of the United States. For that reason, the Republican Party had almost no support in Texas and the South.

In the mid-1850s the American Party—commonly called the **Know-Nothing Party**—briefly appeared. This party acquired its name because when asked questions by outsiders, its secretive members answered, “I know nothing.” This party supported slavery and wanted to keep immigrants and Catholics out of government. The Know-Nothings gained some support in Texas, but most Texans were not interested in their views. Many Texans were recent immigrants or Catholics or both. The Know-Nothing candidate for governor in 1855 lost the election but received some 18,000 votes. For a short time, Texans heard rumors that Sam Houston had joined the Know-Nothing Party. Houston denied this, saying, “Now, of the Know-Nothings I know nothing; and of them I care nothing.” After the party faded in popularity, most Know-Nothing Texans became Democrats. By 1857 the Know-Nothing Party of Texas had disappeared.

TEXAS **Reading Check Summarizing** What were the beliefs of each of the parties that challenged Democrats in Texas?

★ Early Governors of Texas

James Pinckney Henderson, the state’s first governor, served only one term in office. During part of that term, he was away leading Texas troops in a war between the United States and Mexico. Lieutenant Governor Albert C. Horton fulfilled the governor’s duties during this time. Henderson chose not to run for re-election in 1847. Texas voters elected **George T. Wood** as their new governor. Wood was a plantation owner and friend of Sam Houston’s. Frontier defense and disputes over the location of the state’s northern and western boundaries were important issues during his administration. Wood ran for re-election in

Biography



Elisha M. Pease

(1812–1883)

One of the popular early governors was Elisha M. Pease. Pease moved to Texas in 1835. He fought in the Battle of Gonzales and helped write the Republic’s constitution. Pease was governor of Texas three times. Under his leadership, the legislature created the Permanent School Fund. In addition, he led the effort to pay off the state’s debt. When Pease left office, the state was debt-free and in solid financial condition.

Why is Governor Pease considered an effective leader? 



LINKING
PAST to
PRESENT

The Governor's Mansion

The Governor's Mansion in Austin is the fourth-oldest governor's mansion still in use in the United States. The early governors of Texas lived in Austin hotels or boarding-houses. In 1854 the legislature set aside \$17,000 to build an executive mansion. The building was completed in 1856. Elisha M. Pease was the first governor to live in the mansion. In 1976 the mansion became a National Historic Landmark. Today visitors are welcome to tour the mansion. **Why is it important for the governor to have a residence in Austin?**

1849. One observer noted that Texans who disliked Houston “will move heaven and earth to defeat Wood.”

Wood lost the election to **Peter Hansborough Bell**, a veteran of the Texas Revolution. Like Wood, the new governor tried to establish the extent of the state's territory. Bell claimed that part of New Mexico belonged to Texas. Texas voters re-elected him in 1851. Bell resigned from office a few months before his term ended to take a seat in the U.S. Congress. Lieutenant Governor J. W. Henderson became the governor for the remaining 28 days of Bell's term. In 1853, Texans elected **Elisha M. Pease** to the state's highest office. Pease was an active popular governor who supported education and other reforms. He defeated the Know-Nothing candidate to serve a second term in 1855.

In 1857 Sam Houston and **Hardin Runnels** ran for governor. Runnels, a wealthy cotton plantation owner from Bowie County, received the Democratic Party's nomination. Houston campaigned hard for the office. He gave 60 speeches in little more than two months during the hot Texas summer. Even so, Houston lost in a bitter campaign—the only election he ever lost. During Runnels's term in office, conflicts between settlers and American Indians increased. Runnels proved unable to deal with the problem effectively. When Houston ran against Runnels in 1859, he defeated Runnels easily. With that victory, Houston had served Texas as army commander, president of the Republic, senator, and governor.



Reading Check Sequencing Name in order the governors of Texas during the 1840s and 1850s.

★ Debts and Land Issues

The governors, like the presidents of the Republic, had to deal with the public debt and create a land policy. In 1845 the Republic of Texas owed some \$10 million. The annexation resolution made the state responsible for paying this debt by selling some of its public lands. The state had plenty of land to sell. But buyers who did not homestead on the land had to purchase it. At the price of 50 cents per acre, there were few buyers. The debt continued to rise, reaching more than \$12 million by 1850.

The federal government and Texas developed a plan to eliminate the debt. Texas gave up its claim to 67 million acres of land in present-day Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Wyoming. In return, the federal government gave Texas money to help pay the debt. The debt was paid off by 1855.

Texas still owned millions of acres of public land. The state gave much of it to settlers, each of whom could claim homesteads of 320 acres. The settlers had to live on the land and improve it in some way—typically by farming the land. The state set aside other lands for colleges, public schools, and universities. Additional lands were set aside for improvements such as roads, harbors, and railroads. By 1898 there were no unclaimed public lands left in Texas.

★ Reading Check Drawing Inferences and Conclusions
How did the state government use its public lands to improve the state?

CONNECTING TO ECONOMICS AND MATH

The Republic's Debt

Because the Texas government spent more than it received in revenue, the public debt grew by leaps and bounds. As the debt went unpaid and even increased, the interest mounted. By 1851, interest alone on the debt totaled \$3.1 million.

The following chart shows how debt accumulated by the Republic grew from 1836 to 1851. Use the numbers in the chart to create a color-coded bar graph illustrating the increase of the debt.

YEAR	DEBT
1836	\$1.25 million
1845	\$9.9 million
1851	\$12.4 million

Source: *Handbook of Texas*

Interpreting Data

- By how many millions of dollars had the Republic's debt increased from 1836 to 1845? **★ TEKS**
- How many times greater was the debt in 1851 than the debt in 1836? **★ TEKS**

★ Section 3 Review

★ TEKS Questions 1, 2, 3a, 3b, 4

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**Homework
Practice
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keyword: ST3 HP15

1 Identify and explain:

- Know-Nothing Party
- George T. Wood
- Peter Hansborough Bell
- Elisha M. Pease
- Hardin Runnels

2 Sequencing

Copy the time line below. Use it to show the winners in the race for governor between 1845 and 1859.

1845 _____
1847 _____
1849 _____
1851 _____
1853 _____
1855 _____
1857 _____
1859 _____

3 Finding the Main Idea

- What were the positions of the political parties in Texas, and what effect did they have on Texas politics?
- How did the state pay its debt?

4 Writing and Critical Thinking


Identifying Points of View Write a paragraph describing the Democratic and Whig positions, and which was more popular.

Consider the following:

- which party opposed slavery
- the popularity of annexation in Texas



The Chapter at a Glance

Examine the following visual summary of the chapter. Then use the visual to create an outline of the major political and economic issues of Texas during the era of early statehood. Exchange your outline with a classmate to use as a study guide. 



Identifying People and Ideas

Use the following terms or people in historically significant sentences.

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. nominated | 6. corporations |
| 2. joint resolution | 7. James Pinckney Henderson |
| 3. James K. Polk | 8. Thomas J. Rusk |
| 4. Texas Admission Act | 9. Know-Nothing Party |
| 5. biennial | 10. Elisha M. Pease |

Understanding Main Ideas

Section 1 (pp. 314–317)

1. Identify the different points of view of the Democratic and Whig Parties on annexation.
2. Why is 1845 a significant date in Texas history?

Section 2 (pp. 318–321)

3. Why did Texans create a new constitution in 1845?
4. How did the Constitution of 1845 affect women?

Section 3 (pp. 322–325)

5. Why did many Texans support the Democratic Party?

You Be the Historian

Reviewing Themes

1. **Geography** How did westward expansion affect the debate in the United States over the annexation of Texas?
2. **Citizenship** How did political parties change politics in Texas?
3. **Economics** Why was the public debt an important issue for Texas?


TAKS

Practice: Thinking Critically

1. **Supporting a Point of View** Express your point of view on annexation. Offer reasons to defend your viewpoint.
2. **Analyzing Information** Analyze the causes and events that led to Texas statehood.
3. **Identifying Points of View** Identify the different points of view of the Democratic, Whig, Know-Nothing, and Republican Parties on the issue of slavery.

Interpreting Political Cartoons ★ TEKS

Study the political cartoon below. Then use the information in the cartoon to help you answer the questions that follow.



1. During the 1850s the Know-Nothing Party was active in Texas. Which statement best explains why the cartoonist drew Sam Houston with a fishing net?
 - a. to show Houston's efforts to capture support for the Know-Nothing Party
 - b. to show Houston's luck winning support for the Know-Nothing Party
 - c. because Houston liked politics
 - d. because Houston liked to go fishing

2. Do you think the cartoonist agreed with Sam Houston? Why or why not?

Analyzing Primary Sources ★ TEKS

Read the following quote by Charles Elliott, the British minister to the Republic of Texas. Then answer the questions.

"Since I have been here [in Great Britain], I have had some good opportunity of judging of the real state of feeling in this country respecting annexation, and I am persuaded it is entirely out of the question. . . . The single . . . practicable solution for all parties concerned is the acknowledgment of her independence by Mexico, and the steady adherence [loyalty] to it by Texas. I was concerned, indeed, to see that some movements had been made in your [Texas] Congress . . . for they are not calculated to work good effects in Mexico, or . . . elsewhere."

3. Which of the following statements best describes the author's point of view?
 - a. Texas would benefit by being annexed by the United States.
 - b. Texas would benefit by Mexican recognition and remaining independent.
 - c. The United States would benefit by annexing Texas.
 - d. Great Britain had no opinion on what Texas should do.
4. What might have influenced Elliott's point of view on the issue of annexation?

Alternative Assessment

Linking to Community ★ TEKS

Texans elected state officials for the first time in 1845. There are many elected officials in your community.

Choose one and find out what that person's responsibilities are. What are the qualifications for that person's office? What party does he or she belong to? What leadership qualities does the person bring to the office? Create a

feature newspaper article that discusses your findings. Be sure to use standard grammar, spelling, sentence structure, and punctuation in your article.



Internet connect

Internet Activity: go.hrw.com
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Access the Internet through the HRW Go site to research the lives and accomplishments of early Texas governors. Based on your research, create a database that includes when and where they were born, their years in office, their accomplishments, and any other information about these leaders that you find useful or interesting.

