

# Texas Annexation *Grade Level*

## *Unit 6: The Republic of Texas*

Name:

Date:

Period:

### **The Long Road to Annexation**

The Republic of Texas won its independence from Mexico in 1836. For the next decade, the young country faced constant challenges. Texas struggled with economic hardship as its debt increased each year. Forming international alliances and trade partnerships was difficult. There were often violent clashes with Texas Indians, and the young country was unable to protect its borders from Mexican invasions.

During this time, the Republic of Texas applied for annexation to the United States in 1836 and again in 1844. Both applications were rejected, which was a harsh blow to Texas. From the American point of view, however, annexing Texas could lead the U.S. into war with Mexico, and would almost certainly upset the balance of political power between slave and free states in America. For many American politicians, it was not worth the risk.

Then in 1845, the U.S. Congress finally approved Texas' annexation. The issue still was not supported by many American politicians, and it barely got enough votes in the U.S. congress to pass. In contrast, for most Texans annexation to the U.S. was widely supported. Becoming a state in the United States would finally bring Texas economic stability and military protection.

The Republic of Texas accepted the United States' terms for annexation on December 29, 1845, becoming the 28<sup>th</sup> state in the union.

1. Which of the following statements are true about Texas annexation according to the passage above? Choose **TWO**.

- ☐ The Republic of Texas government promoted annexation to the U.S. arguing it would prevent future Mexican invasions, however most Texans disagreed.
- ☐ The majority of Texans supported annexation to the U.S. because it promised economic stability and protection of its borders.
- ☐ Many in the U.S. congress were still uncertain about annexing Texas to the U.S. because it would likely bring war with Mexico and increase division over the issue of slavery in the Union.
- ☐ In the United States, overwhelming public support for the issue of Texas annexation calmed many fears of war with Mexico or the growth of slavery.

## The Terms of Texas Annexation to the United States

**Term 1:** Some states joined the United States of America as territories rather than states. The U.S. federal government managed the territories until they met the requirements to apply for full statehood. The terms of Texas' annexation, however, admitted Texas **not** as a territory, but as a state with full representation in Congress and the ability to write its own constitution.

1. Which of the following advantages did Texas have in joining the U.S. as a state rather than a territory? Check all that apply.
  - ☐ Texas could run its own state government.
  - ☐ Texas could declare war on Mexico to protect its borders.
  - ☐ Texas could write its own state laws as long as they followed the U.S. constitution.
  - ☐ Texas could elect its own leaders like a governor and state representatives.
  - ☐ Texas could make slavery legal within its borders.
  - ☐ Texas could elect two senators and at least one representative to the federal congress in Washington D.C.
  - ☐ Texas could apply for statehood when it met all the requirements.

**Term 2:** The Republic of Texas hoped that the United States would take responsibility for its debt when it became a state in the Union. The annexation offer that the U.S. congress made to Texas, however, required Texas to maintain responsibility for its own debt when it joined the Union.

**Term 3:** When most states joined the Union, they typically gave up control of their public lands to the federal government. The federal government could then use or sell the lands as it saw fit. According to Texas' terms of annexation, however, the state government of Texas was granted the right to maintain control over its public lands.

2. According to Term Two, what happened to Texas' debt when it joined the U.S.?
3. Term three states that Texas would keep ownership of all its public lands. How could this term help the Texans with the issue of their debt in term two?

**Term 4:** Texas agreed to turn over control of its public buildings and military sites and equipment to the United States government. This included structures like the Alamo and military items like Texas' navy ships.

**Term 5:** The United States government and military assumed responsibility for protecting Texas from threats and enforcing its borders as claimed by the Texas government. This included the southern border at the Rio Grande and the lands on Texas' western frontier, both of which were strongly disputed by Mexico.

4. In 1842, the Mexican army invaded the Republic of Texas and occupied San Antonio twice. According to terms 4 and 5, what would be the result if the Mexican army marched into Texas after annexation to the U.S.?

If the Mexican army marched into Texas after its annexation to the United States, the most likely result would be \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

**Term 6:** Texas has the ability to divide its territory into five separate states if it ever chooses to do so.

5. Why do you think the United States included this term? Choose all answers that you think are likely to be correct based on your prior knowledge.
- ☐ The U.S. believed that Mexico would be less likely to declare war over the issue of Texas annexation if it was no longer one unified state.
  - ☐ The U.S. hoped to decrease Texas' economic power in an attempt to convince Great Britain to lose interest in Texas cotton.
  - ☐ It could prove difficult for one state government to manage such a large area.
  - ☐ It provided the opportunity to add more slave or free states to the Union in order to maintain the balance of power between the two groups in congress.
  - ☐ The vast regional differences in the state might be better served by governments local to their specific region.