

# Looking Ahead *Advanced*

## *Unit 5: The Texas Revolution*

Name:

Date:

Period:

### **So, Texas is Independent . . . Now What?**

The Texans won their independence from Mexico by capturing Santa Anna after the Battle of San Jacinto and requiring him to sign the Treaties of Velasco. Despite this victory, in many ways the hard work was only just beginning. Texans faced a number of significant challenges following the Texas Revolution. Let's take a look at some of these challenges below.

**First**, Santa Anna had signed the Treaties of Velasco, but the Mexican government didn't actually acknowledge Texas' independence. The centralist government in Mexico City argued that the Treaties of Velasco were void, or not valid, because Santa Anna had been prisoner of the Texans when he signed them. In other words, he didn't sign them willingly. To the Mexican government, Texas was still part of Mexico.

**Consider this:** What do you think might happen as a result of the centralist government in Mexico City refusing to acknowledge Texas independence? What additional challenges could this present for Texans?

**Second**, the Texans had borrowed a great deal of money to pay for the Texas Revolution, primarily from wealthy New Orleans merchants. After the war, Texas was about 1.25 million dollars in debt. Today, that would be over 42 million dollars! After the war, the New Orleans creditors, or the people who had loaned them the money, were ready to be repaid.

**Third**, the war had destroyed land, homes, and property in Texas. When people fled the approaching centralist army during the Runaway Scrape, they often destroyed things that could be valuable to Santa Anna's troops. This even included entire towns, like San Felipe de Austin. As a result, many Texas families lost everything they owned during the war. After the war, Texans had to begin the hard work of rebuilding their homes and communities.

**Consider this:** How do governments typically raise money to cover their expenses, including debt? What challenges do you think the Texas government would face trying to raise the money to repay its war debt?

**Fourth**, Mexico was not the only country that refused to recognize Texas' independence. In fact, no other country in the world recognized Texas as an independent nation at first. The United States recognized Texas' independence in 1837. A handful of other countries would go on to recognize Texas' independence by 1845, but most countries in the world never did.

**Consider this:** Why do you think most other countries never recognized Texas independence? How might this have been a challenge to Texas?

## Addressing the Challenges in Texas

The Texas government did not have many good options for addressing the challenges it faced after the Texas Revolution. One possible option was the annexation of Texas to the United States of America. This meant that Texas would join the U. S. as a new state in the union. The Texas government held a vote in September 1836 to determine if the people of Texas supported or opposed annexation to the U.S.

Read the following excerpt from the *Telegraph and Texas Register* newspaper of November 9, 1836, about the vote on annexation. Then answer the questions that follow.

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1. According to the excerpt, what was the outcome of the vote? Provide evidence from the excerpt to support your answer.
2. Do you think the United States would support or oppose Texas annexation? How might Mexico's view of Texas affect America's decision?