

Looking Ahead *Grade Level*

Unit 5: The Texas Revolution

Name:

Date:

Period:

Texas is Independent . . . Now What?

The Texans won their independence from Mexico after the Battle of San Jacinto on April 21, 1836, when they captured Santa Anna and required him to sign the Treaties of Velasco. The war was over, but 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 not valid because Santa Anna had signed them while he was the Texans' prisoner. 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?

Check three answer options that you think were MOST likely to occur.

- ☐ The Texans might declare war on Mexico to force the centralist government to officially recognize Texas' independence.
- ☐ The Mexican government might threaten to invade and reclaim Texas as part of Mexico.
- ☐ The Mexican government might refuse to trade or do business with the people of Texas.
- ☐ The people of Texas might attempt to gain support from the United States or other countries.
- ☐ Other countries might refuse to work with Texas because they do not want to harm their own political relationships with Mexico.
- ☐ Other countries like the United States might step in and fight for the official independence of Texas from the centralist government of Mexico.
- ☐ Other countries might boycott, or refuse to do business, with Mexico as a result.

Second, the Texans had borrowed a lot 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, Texas struggled to pay that money back.

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 cities, 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 pay for their expenses? What challenges do you think the Texas government would face trying to raise the money to repay its war debt?

Governments typically raise money by _____

One challenge the Texas government might have faced trying to repay its war debt was _____

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? Check the TWO that you think are most likely to be true.

- ☐ Texas wasn't big enough or important enough for other countries to recognize it.
- ☐ The Texas economy didn't produce anything of value that other countries were interested in.
- ☐ Many countries didn't support the system of slave labor that existed in Texas.
- ☐ Some countries did not want to hurt their relationship with Mexico by recognizing Texas as independent.
- ☐ The Texas government never successfully established diplomatic relations with other significant nations.

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 means 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.

<p> Á é k k k g é s i r s g r r ^ ã ä k g k é ó é ä ä s ä k i Q æ r k s { á ~ ä é ^ é ä è f k g é ~ p ^ k ñ ^ é s ~ é ~ é r k Q s ä k i N é ^ ä k ã ~ p " { k ä s g ^ i ^ ä ä è f { s ä k i é ~ é r k g ~ ä s i k ä ^ é s ~ ~ p é r k á k ~ á k / F Q æ p r k ó r ^ i k k ñ ä ä k ä ä k i é r k s ä p k k z q ä ^ i é r k s ä i s ä r k ä ~ é ^ é { ~ { k é ~ ä ä è f k g é / Q æ p r k ó r ^ i k i s ä r ^ è ^ s { s ö è á ^ ä ^ z k k i i k g z ä k i é r ^ é é r k ó i s z f k ä k è s ä k i é ~ é r k q ä k ^ é ä k á è f z g ^ p { s ö ~ p é r k @ ~ ä r / Q æ p r k ^ á á k ^ z s ä { ^ i k f ó ^ i s z q á k ~ á k / F Ä w k ^ ä k g r k k ä k i f ó é r k r ~ á k é r ^ é é r k ó i s z ä k g k s ä k è ä é ~ ^ á ^ ä é s ä ^ é ~ p é r k s ä g s s ö á ~ z é s ^ / i ä k z q s ~ è ä ä s r ä ^ i r ^ z è ä i k z ~ { k Q é ~ é r k q ä k ^ é p ^ { s ö ~ p p ä k k { k Ä </p>	<p>Transpired: occurred, happened.</p> <p>Momentous: Significant, important</p> <p>Unanimity: Total agreement</p> <p>Unparalleled: Extraordinary</p> <p>Appeal: Request</p> <p>Hail: To greet someone</p>
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- According to the excerpt, what was the outcome of the vote?
 - A large majority of Texans voted in favor of annexation
 - A large majority of Texans voted in opposition to annexation
 - No majority was reached on the issue of annexation
- Which line from the excerpt provides the best evidence to support your answer to the previous question. (*The lines are labeled by letter in the excerpt above.*)
 - A
 - B
 - C
 - D
- Do you think the United States would support or oppose Texas annexation? Why