Annexation Debate to State

• Annexation
• 1845–1860

INSTRUCTIONAL SUGGESTIONS

1. SIX-TAB BOOK: Using the “Annexation” section of “A Brief Sketch of Texas History” in the Texas Almanac and the Six-Tab Book (see the Appendix), students will create a book about the annexation of Texas. On the tabs, students will write these names:
   • Sam Houston
   • Anson Jones
   • John Tyler
   • Andrew Jackson
   • James K. Polk
   • Isaac Van Zandt

Under each tab, they will describe each person’s role in the annexation. On the back of each tab, students will illustrate the person or event described. In the upper corner of the page, students will rank the individuals in their booklet from 1–5, (1 being the most important to annexation, 5 being the least).

On a separate sheet of paper, students will explain why they believe each individual deserves the ranking they were given.

2. NEWSPAPER LETTER: Students will write a letter to a newspaper editor supporting or opposing the annexation of Texas, using the “Annexation” section of “A Brief Sketch of Texas History.” In their letter, they must select an occupation of someone who lived in Texas in 1845. (Examples: students might choose to be a farmer, a merchant, a government employee, a Texas Ranger, or a member of the clergy.) They will have to decide whether that person was “for” or “against” annexation and then try to persuade their fellow Texans to their side.

3. POLITICAL CARTOON: Create a political cartoon from the point of view of a citizen of the United States during the Texas annexation debate. Students will show understanding of the reasons why some U.S. citizens were not eager to add Texas to the Union. Use Index key word: “Annexation.”

4. WORD PUZZLE: Using the “Annexation” and “1845–1860” sections of “A Brief Sketch of Texas History,” students will complete the Early Statehood Word Puzzle.
Early Statehood Word Puzzle

1. In 1845, the United States went to war with _________________________.

2. One of the first encounters of the War with Mexico took place at _________________________.

3. The _________________________ of 1850 settled Texas’ public debt and land disputes.

4. _________________________ was president of the United States during the War with Mexico.

5. The first Europeans to push the frontier into west-central Texas were from _________________________.

6. General Winfield ________________ led the capture of Mexico City in 1847.

7. The United States acquired the American ______________________ after the War with Mexico.

8. _________________________ was the leader of the German immigrants to Texas.


10. The disputed area was south of the _________________________ River.

11. The Treaty of Guadalupe ________________ ended the War with Mexico.

12. _________________________ was the largest money crop in Texas.

13. People such as _________________________ dominated elections during early statehood.

14. After the War with Mexico, the _________________________ ________________ became the boundary between the United States and Mexico.
Early Statehood Word Puzzle

1. ___ E ___ ___ ___ ___
2. ___ A ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
3. ___ ___ ___ R ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
4. ___ ___ L ___
5. ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ Y
6. S ___ ___ ___ ___
7. ___ ___ ___ T ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
8. ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ A ___ ___
9. T ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
10. ___ ___ E ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
11. H ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
12. ___ O ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
13. ___ O ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
14. ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ D ___ ___

Texans voted to make Austin the state capital in the 1850 election. This woodcut from the Texas Almanac 1858 shows “The Capitol at Austin,” which was completed in 1853 and located at the head of Congress Avenue. From the Almanac Archive: http://www.texasalmanac.com/archive.