Why It Matters

As you study Unit 4, you will learn about Texas as a republic. After the creation of the United States from the original 13 colonies, other territories were granted statehood. Only Texas entered the union as a separate and independent nation. The distinctive nature of Texas owes much to its having been a republic before it was a state and to the influence of its settlers.

Primary Sources Library

See pages 690–691 for primary source readings to accompany Unit 4.

Going Visiting by Friedrich Richard Petri (c. 1853) from the Texas Memorial Museum, Austin, Texas. Socializing with neighbors was an important part of community life during the years of the republic. Not all Texas settlers wore buckskin and moccasins as this well-dressed family shows.
“Times here are easy… money plenty, the people much better satisfied.”

—Dr. Ashbel Smith, December 22, 1837
There are many reasons why people take the big step of leaving their homes and moving to an unknown land—and Texas, during the years 1820 to 1860, witnessed all of them. The newly arriving immigrant groups tended to settle in one particular area, since it was easier to work with and live around people who spoke the same language and practiced the same customs.

Many Mexicans came north while Texas was still a Spanish territory to set up farms on the fertile Coastal Plains. As the United States grew, more Native Americans, who had been forced off their lands east of the Mississippi, also moved into Texas. After Texas independence, thousands of Anglo Americans, mostly from the southern states, were drawn by the lure of cheap, plentiful land. Many came from slave-holding states and brought enslaved African Americans. Finally, immigrants from Germany and almost every other country in Europe arrived by ship to escape famine, political unrest, or religious persecution.

Texas’s wide-open spaces seemed to offer endless possibilities to anyone with dreams or a keen sense of adventure. Unfortunately, not all immigrant groups shared in the political freedom and economic opportunities Texas had to offer. Native Americans were pushed farther west or north into Oklahoma. Many African Americans—who made up one-third of Texas’s population in 1860—still lived in slavery, and Mexican residents faced continued prejudice.

Nevertheless, each immigrant group made its own unique contribution to Texas’s history and culture. Today Texans celebrate their ethnic heritage in festivals and competitions all across the state. Many of Texas’s place names, as well as the listings in local phone directories, still reflect those original patterns of settlement from the early nineteenth century.

1. Where did your immigrant ancestors settle? Do you live close to where they originally settled?

2. Describe a festival you have attended. What are your most vivid memories?
An Alabama-Coushatta performs a traditional Native American dance.

Juneteenth celebrations honor the day Texans received news that enslaved African Americans had been set free.

The XIT Rodeo and Reunion is held each August in Dalhart, Texas.

Ethnic Heritage, 1860
- African American: 30%
- Anglo American: 63%
- Mexican: 2%
- Other: 2%

Settlement in Texas, 1865
- African American
- Anglo American
- Czech
- French
- German
- Irish
- Mexican/Spanish
- Polish
- Norwegian
- Indian reservation

Extent of settlement
Why It Matters

The victory at San Jacinto began a 10-year period in which Texas was an independent nation. Those 10 years brought both challenges and achievements. Eventually Texas voluntarily gave up its independent status and became a part of the United States.

The Impact Today

• The existence of Texas as an independent republic continues to be a source of great pride to Texans. Several organizations such as the Daughters of the Republic of Texas and the Sons of the Republic of Texas were formed to honor the people who lived in Texas at that time and to preserve Texas history.

• The United States itself would have a vastly different character if Texas had chosen to remain a separate republic.

1836  
★ Sam Houston elected first president of the Republic of Texas  
★ Houston became capital of Texas

1837  
★ Mirabeau Lamar elected president

1838

1839  
★ Austin became new capital of Texas

1835  1837  1839

1837  
• Queen Victoria began her reign in Great Britain

1841  
• New Zealand became a British colony
**Sequencing Events Study Foldable** Time lines are used to list important dates in chronological order. Use this foldable to sequence key events that occurred in the first several years after Texas became a republic, or an independent nation.

**Step 1** Fold two sheets of paper in half from top to bottom.

**Step 2** Turn the papers and cut each in half.

**Step 3** Fold the four pieces in half from top to bottom.

**Step 4** Tape the ends of the pieces together (overlapping the edges very slightly) to make an accordion time line and label it as shown.

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**Reading and Writing** As you read the chapter, record key events that occurred each year during the important years of the Lone Star Republic.

---

**1844**
- Samuel Morse sent first long-distance telegraph message between Baltimore and Washington
- James K. Polk elected president of the United States

**1845**
- Texas became the 28th state in the United States of America

**1867**
- The Houston “Stonewalls” beat the Galveston “Robert E. Lees” in first recorded baseball game in Texas

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**TEXAS HISTORY Online**

**Chapter Overview**
Visit the [texans.glencoe.com](http://texans.glencoe.com) Web site and click on Chapter 12—Chapter Overviews to preview chapter information.
Sam Houston’s Government

Main Idea
After gaining independence, Texans faced the challenge of building a new nation.

Key Terms
capitol, annexation, expenditure, revenue, tariff

Reading Strategy
Organizing Information As you read this section, complete a chart like the one shown here by filling in the significance of each person listed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Person</th>
<th>Significance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Henry Morfit</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Wharton</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memucan Hunt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Pinckney Henderson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Read to Learn
• what problems faced the Republic of Texas during its first years.
• why Texans wanted the United States to annex Texas.

Section Theme
Government and Democracy Texas leaders worked to build a successful government that would be recognized and annexed by the United States.

Preview of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1836</th>
<th>1837</th>
<th>1838</th>
<th>1839</th>
<th>1840</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sam Houston</td>
<td>is elected first president</td>
<td>of Republic of Texas</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td></td>
<td>Houston designated as first</td>
<td>United States grants recognition</td>
<td>French recognizes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>capital of Republic of Texas</td>
<td>to Republic of Texas</td>
<td>Republic of Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 25</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A Texas Story

In his inaugural speech after taking the oath of office for president, Sam Houston said: “I am perfectly aware of the difficulties that surround me . . . Had it been my destiny, I would infinitely have preferred the toils, privations, and perils of a soldier, to the duties of my present station.”

Later, President Mirabeau Lamar called himself a Texian during this period to foster a sense of pride and nationalism. Texans or Texians, the pioneers of the republic faced many dangers in securing the safety of their nation.

Houston Forms a Government

In September 1836, Texans elected Sam Houston as the first president of Texas and Mirabeau B. Lamar as the first vice president. Texans also approved the Constitution of 1836 and the proposal that Texas join the
United States. Houston and the Texas Congress met at Columbia in Brazoria County in October 1836 to organize the new government.

Houston named Stephen F. Austin as secretary of state, but he served only a few weeks. Austin died of pneumonia on December 27, 1836, at the age of 43. President Houston declared that “the Father of Texas is no more. The first pioneer of the wilderness has departed.”

Selecting a new capital was one of the first decisions of the new government. Columbia was too small. John K. Allen and his brother Augustus had founded Houston, on Buffalo Bayou. The Allens promised to build a handsome city if the congress would locate the capital there. In December 1836, congress designated Houston as the capital for three years. The decision on a permanent site was delayed.

Early visitors to the new capital often commented on the muddy streets, crudely built houses, and swarms of mosquitoes. Eventually, the government moved to the large, two-story capitol at the corner of Main Street and Texas Avenue.

Houston Faces Trouble With the Army

Houston also faced serious problems with the military. Many adventurers and soldiers had arrived in Texas too late to fight in the revolution but they wanted action. Army commander Felix Huston called for an invasion of Mexico.

President Houston wanted no part of such a plan. He realized that a war would be costly and could mean a quick end for the new republic. The president sent all but 600 of the soldiers home on leave and never recalled them to duty. The threat from the army disappeared.

The United States Delays Annexation

In the September 1836 elections, Texans had indicated their strong desire to join the United States. Most Texans had emigrated from the United States and wanted U.S. protection. Texas and the United States had strong cultural ties. 

Annexation, or becoming a part of the United States, did not come easily. Mexico refused to recognize Texas’s independence. The United States government did not want to annex Texas if it meant damaging relations with Mexico.

Another problem was slavery. Many anti-slavery groups in the United States were against
annexation because Texas would join the Union and tip the balance of power in the U.S. Senate towards the slave states. These groups were strong enough to block annexation and to delay official recognition of Texas as a republic.

**Reading Check** Examining Why was annexation a difficult process for Texas?

**Recognition as a Nation**

The United States did not officially recognize Texas as a nation for several months. In 1836, President Jackson sent Henry Morfit of Virginia to Texas on a fact-finding mission. Morfit recommended that the United States delay recognition of Texas. Morfit doubted that Texas could keep its independence against a Mexican invasion. President Jackson accepted Morfit’s recommendation, but President Houston did not give up. He sent William H. Wharton and Memucan Hunt to Washington, D.C., to work for both recognition and annexation.

Wharton and Hunt convinced Congress that Texas had a responsible government. On March 3, 1837, President Jackson granted official recognition of Texas.

President Houston now moved to open diplomatic negotiations with European powers. He sent J. Pinckney Henderson to obtain recognition and negotiate commercial treaties with France and Great Britain. At first these countries hesitated to recognize Texas because they did not want to offend Mexico. They also believed that Texas would be annexed quickly by the United States.

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**The Lone Star Republic, 1836**

The present-day borders of Texas were eventually set by the Compromise of 1850. In this agreement, Texas gave up claims to land for a large cash payment from the United States government.

Every explorer—English, French, and Spanish—named this northern river boundary after the color “red” due to the minerals that color the water currents.

The Treaty of Velasco of 1836 stated that Texas’s western boundary would not extend beyond the Rio Grande. After the Republic of Texas was established in 1836, a joint commission between the United States and Texas established the eastern boundary of Texas.

**Identifying Location** Identify a northern town on the map that is no longer part of Texas today.
Henderson continued to press for recognition of the Republic of Texas. France extended recognition on September 25, 1839, and a commercial treaty was negotiated between the two countries. A year later Great Britain and the Netherlands recognized Texas.

Houston hoped that if these countries, especially Great Britain, showed interest in Texas, the United States would move quickly to annex Texas. European countries were looking for ways to limit United States expansion. By the same token, the United States did not want European countries to have a foothold on the continent.

Identifying What countries recognized Texas as a nation during Houston’s presidency?

Native American and Texan Conflicts

As more and more Anglo Americans settled in central Texas, the Wichitas, Comanches, Kiowas, and other Native Americans resented the newcomers. They began a series of raids in 1836 that lasted for several years. In one attack, Comanches and Kiowas killed several settlers and kidnapped two women and several children, including Cynthia Ann Parker, from Parker’s Fort near present-day Groesbeck.

The frequency of the raids decreased after President Houston called on the Texas Rangers to patrol central Texas. In a letter to Major Thomas I. Smith, the president wrote:

“I have been informed that there are some persons on the frontier who have a disposition to molest the . . . Lipan Indians. They cannot be good citizens, or they would wish to preserve peace with them.

Should any property be stolen from the Indians, or injury done them, I hope you will have active measures taken for its restoration and for the preservation of their friendship.”

During this time Houston also tried to improve relations between Texans and the Cherokees in East Texas. Cherokees had moved into Texas under Mexican rule in the 1820s after being forced from their homes in Georgia. The provisional government sent Houston and others to reach an agreement with the Cherokees during the Texas Revolution.
In the February 1836 treaty, the Cherokees promised to remain peaceful during the Texas fight for independence. In return, the Texan negotiators promised the Cherokees title to their land. Later, however, the Senate of the Republic of Texas refused to accept this treaty. The Cherokees did not receive title to their land, and each day more settlers moved into land in East Texas claimed by Native Americans.

Texas Debt Soars

Like many developing nations, the Republic of Texas constantly had money problems. Expenditures, or money paid out, were much greater than revenue, or money received. In addition, Texas had unpaid bills for the supplies and equipment of the revolution. When Houston became president, the debt was $1.25 million.

Congress took steps to raise money. It placed a tariff, or tax, on various goods imported into Texas. Congress also imposed property taxes, business taxes, and land title fees. These taxes were difficult to collect, and the government continued to spend more money than it collected. By the end of Houston’s first term as president, the public debt of Texas had climbed to $2 million.

The Release of Santa Anna

Some Texans hoped that the release of Santa Anna in November 1836 would lead to better relations with Mexico. After he was freed, Santa Anna briefly visited the United States. He returned to Mexico in March 1837. On his arrival, he renounced all promises he had made in Texas and declared that he had left politics forever. His retirement was brief. Within a few years, Santa Anna was back in power. Little had changed. Santa Anna’s release had not improved Texas–Mexico relations. The Mexican government still refused to recognize the independence of Texas.

How did Texas attempt to reduce its debt?
Main Idea
President Lamar’s policies differed sharply from Houston’s policies.

Key Terms
endowment fund

Reading Strategy
Classifying Information As you read this section, complete a table like the one shown here with the key issues, goals of Lamar’s administration, and what actions were taken.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Goals</th>
<th>Actions Taken</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Americans</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Read to Learn
• what policies Lamar’s administration used toward Native Americans.
• how the programs of the Lamar and Houston administrations were different.

Section Theme
Government and Democracy
Government policy promoted public education.

Preview of Events
1838
Mirabeau Lamar is elected president

1839
Lamar orders removal of Cherokees

October
Austin becomes new capital
Council House Fight between Texans and Comanches

A Texas Story
In his 1836 inaugural address, Sam Houston had expressed his desire to have peaceful relations with Native Americans. “Treaties of peace . . . and the maintenance of good faith with the Indians, present themselves . . . as the most rational grounds on which to obtain their friendship.”

Mirabeau Lamar Becomes President
The Constitution of 1836 stated that the president could not serve consecutive terms; therefore, Houston could not be reelected when his term ended in 1838. Texans elected Mirabeau B. Lamar, who had served as vice president under Houston. Lamar, who had great hopes for Texas, opposed annexation. He believed that one day Texas would be a powerful, independent nation that would extend all the way to the Pacific Ocean.
Improving education was one of the new president’s goals. As did Thomas Jefferson, Lamar believed that citizens of a republic must be educated so they could make intelligent decisions. In his inaugural address, he said:

“A cultivated mind is the guardian genius of Democracy, and while guided and controlled by virtue, the noblest attribute to man.”

Stirred by Lamar’s ideas, congress set aside nearly 18,000 acres of land in each Texas county for the support of public schools. Congress reserved an additional 288,000 acres (116,400 hectares) of public land in central Texas as a source of income for two universities. Later governments of Texas substituted land in West Texas. The value of the endowment fund multiplied when oil was discovered on these lands in the 1900s. Because of Lamar’s efforts, he is sometimes called the “Father of Education in Texas.”

The Capital Is Moved to Austin

It had been agreed that Houston would serve as the capital only until another site was chosen. In 1839 a commission and congress approved a site on the Colorado River near the village of Waterloo. Lamar was delighted with the decision. He wanted to expand Texas settlement westward.

The government appointed Edwin Waller to lay out streets and construct a capitol on the site. In October 1839, President Lamar and his cabinet arrived in the new capital, named Austin in honor of Stephen F. Austin. Austin joined Columbia, South Carolina, and Raleigh, North Carolina, as cities founded specifically to be capitals.

Lamar’s Policy Toward Native Americans

Lamar reversed Sam Houston’s policy toward Native Americans. Many Cherokees had settled on farms and in villages in northeastern Texas in what is today Smith and Cherokee Counties, and Lamar believed the Cherokees had no fair claim to the Texas lands they occupied.

In addition, President Lamar had heard rumors that Mexican agents were attempting to stir up the Cherokees against Texas. In the summer of 1839, President Lamar ordered the removal of the Cherokees from Texas. On July 16 the Texas army attacked the Cherokees near the
Neches River not far from present-day Tyler. Several Texans and nearly 100 Cherokees were killed. Among the dead was the leader of the Cherokees, Duwali, also known as Chief Bowles. The army burned Cherokee villages and farms. The surviving Cherokees were forced from their land and moved across the Red River, out of Texas.

Reading Check Explaining How did President Lamar view Cherokee ownership of land?

Raid Lead to Council House Fight

The government also tried to deal with the Comanche presence. During 1838 and 1839, Comanches raided several outlying settlements. After a series of battles with Texans along the upper Colorado River, however, the Comanches agreed to meet with Texas authorities. In the meeting held in San Antonio in 1840, hopes for peace quickly vanished. The Comanches had promised to bring their Anglo captives, but they produced only one, a girl named Matilda Lockhart. According to an eyewitness, “her head, arms, and face were full of bruises and sores.” Matilda told the Texans that 13 others were being held captive in the hills west of San Antonio. Angry Texan troops attempted to take the Comanche negotiators as hostages until the Comanches freed their captives. The Comanches resisted, and in the struggle—known as the Mirabeau Lamar was born in Georgia and moved to Texas in 1835. After the battle of San Jacinto, David Burnet appointed him secretary of war. He also served as major general and commander of the Texas army.

When Houston was elected president, Lamar became his vice president. Two years later he became the second president of the republic. Lamar was popular with Texans and was thought of as an eloquent speaker.

Lamar is responsible for choosing Austin as the capital of Texas. He earned the nickname “Father of Education in Texas” for urging congress to set aside land for public education, including two colleges or universities.
Council House Fight—7 Texans and 35 Comanches died. The Comanches killed many of their white captives and set out to avenge the Comanche deaths. One historian called the Council House Fight “the greatest blunder in the history of Texan–Native American relations,” because after the incident the Comanches refused to make treaties with Texans. They would talk peace with American soldiers, but not with Texans. Years of bitter warfare resulted and many lives were lost.

News of daring raids by the Kiowas and Comanches under the command of Buffalo Hump spread quickly throughout Texas. Volunteers gathered, commanded by Edward Burleson. Ben McCulloch led a group of Texas Rangers. At Plum Creek, the Texans encountered a Comanche party. Texans killed nearly 100 Comanches and lost only one of their own men.

The Texans invaded Comanche country in revenge for earlier attacks on Victoria and Linnville. In October 1840, Colonel John H. Moore led a surprise attack on a large Comanche village on the upper Colorado River. Nearly 130 Comanches died in the attack. Most of the southern Comanches withdrew toward the area of the Red River.

Texas Rebuilds Its Navy

Lamar thought that having a strong military would force Mexico to recognize the Republic of Texas. Lamar ordered the newly restored navy into Mexican waters. The navy aided rebels who were fighting for independence from Mexico in the province of Yucatán. Lamar hoped, in vain, that the Mexican government would recognize Texas in exchange for the promise that the Texan navy would not harass Mexican ships. When Sam Houston regained the presidency in 1841, he recalled the navy.

The Santa Fe Expedition

Although the Nueces River traditionally had been the boundary between Texas and Mexico, Texans claimed the Rio Grande as the border after the revolution. Texans were interested in controlling Santa Fe, the trading center on the upper Rio Grande. Santa Fe was the destination of traders from St. Louis, Missouri.

Lamar sent an expedition to Santa Fe to control the region and open trade with New Mexico. The Santa Fe expedition (consisting of soldiers, merchants, wagon drivers, and adventurers) began its trek on June 19, 1841, from a camp near Austin. Misfortune and hardship plagued the members every step of the way. Heat, lack of water and food, and attacks by Native Americans led to suffering.

As the expedition neared Santa Fe, the exhausted members encountered a Mexican army detachment that forced the Texans to surrender. The prisoners were marched more than 1,000 miles (1,609 km) from Santa Fe to Mexico City. Many died on the way, and others
perished in a Mexican prison. Most of those who survived were released in April 1842, after British and American diplomats worked for their release. The Santa Fe expedition was a failure in many ways. It angered the Mexicans, resulted in the loss of many lives, and failed to take control of Santa Fe.

**Financial Difficulties**

Lamar’s campaigns were costly, both in terms of colonists and Native Americans killed and in money. The Indian wars cost the Republic of Texas nearly $2.5 million during his three years in office. Lamar was just as extravagant in other matters, such as outfitting expeditions and reorganizing the Texas navy. He bought several ships, and kept the navy on active duty in the Gulf of Mexico.

Lamar failed in attempts to borrow money from the United States and European nations. Additional paper money, known as redbacks, was issued but quickly shrank in value. By the end of Lamar’s term, a paper dollar in Texas was worth about 15 cents. The public debt rose to $7 million. Many in Texas were becoming concerned about the increasing national debt.

**Critical Thinking**

5. **Explaining** Why did President Lamar want to have a strong military?

6. **Evaluating Solutions** How effective were President Lamar’s solutions to financial difficulties?

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**SECTION 2 ASSESSMENT**

**Checking for Understanding**

1. **Using Key Terms** Use the word *cabinet* in a sentence that pertains to President Lamar and the government of Texas.

2. **Reviewing Facts** Why was Houston not reelected when his first term ended in 1838?

**Reviewing Themes**

3. **Government and Democracy** Why did the Texas Congress reserve 288,000 acres of public land?

**Organizing to Learn**

4. **Listing** Create a web like the one shown below. List the problems that the Texans encountered during the Santa Fe expedition. Include details about what led to the expedition and what the results were. (The results would include any lessons learned.)

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**TAKS Practice**

**Determining Cause and Effect**

What was the effect of the Council House meeting in San Antonio between Texas authorities and the Comanches?
CHAPTER 12 The Lone Star Republic

The Bugles Are Silent

by John R. Knaggs

In this chapter, General Houston talks about annexation and the presidency.

. . . When [Houston] returned, [Elizabeth] was leaning against a column . . . “Samuel, I want you to know how much I appreciate the admirable manner in which your men conducted themselves tonight . . . I’m confident your army will be successful. You should become a man of means following the war . . . But you will need some property to fulfill your political aspirations. I assume you will become president of the Republic of Texas.”

“I intend to seek that office.”

“And beyond?”

“I would steer toward annexation into the United States.”

“After which you will become . . . perhaps even president of the United States.”

“I must admit, I would seek the office, if I had the opportunity.”

“I hope you will indeed become president . . . fulfilling your highest aspiration.”

“I have never said that was my highest aspiration.”

“What could be more important?”

“. . . I turned my back on Anglo society rejoining the Cherokees as a member of the tribe . . . One night . . . Chief Bowles sat me down for a talk. He said that I had run away to find myself, but that I had remained lost. ‘You must return to your people,’ he said. ‘You are blessed with a rare opportunity to obtain the most valuable of all possessions, wisdom. You must sow carefully the fields of knowledge and understanding. Then, my brother, you will reap wisdom, which is more precious than wealth or power. Your destiny is to lead your people; but without wisdom, the sun of life, you will remain in despair.’”

ANALYZING LITERATURE

Evaluate and Connect

What do you believe Chief Bowles was trying to tell General Houston when he spoke with him about wisdom and leading his people?

Interdisciplinary Activity

Journalism Prepare a CNN-style interview with Elizabeth after the election of General Houston as the president of Texas. What information might she have to share with the citizens of the Republic of Texas?
Main Idea
Sam Houston’s return to the presidency signaled a change in the government’s economic and Native American policies.

Key Term
archives

Reading Strategy
Organizing Information As you read this section, complete a chart like the one shown here, outlining important events and their outcomes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Outcome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Archives War</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woll Invasion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mier Expedition</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regulator–Moderator War</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Read to Learn
• what ways President Houston tried to reduce government spending.
• about conflicts with Mexico.
• how Houston attempted to resolve the Texan–Native American conflicts.

Section Theme
Economic Factors Texas attempted to balance the budget, yet the debt increased.

Preview of Events

**1842**

March
Mexican army invades southern Texas and retreats

September
Mexican army occupies San Antonio and retreats

December
Texas army attacks Mexican town of Mier and then surrenders

A Texas Story

In a bitter campaign filled with gossip and scandal, Sam Houston defeated Lamar’s chosen successor—David G. Burnet—for the presidency. Houston had disliked Lamar’s policies and programs and wanted to undo the damage he felt Lamar’s administration had done to Texas. The major issues during Houston’s second term were the budget, the threat of invasion from Mexico, and annexation by the United States.

A Policy of Economy

When Houston regained the presidency in 1841, he eliminated dozens of government positions and cut the size of the army. He tried to sell navy ships, but angry citizens of Galveston prevented the sale.

Despite these attempts to cut costs, the debt of the republic increased, largely because of the high interest that had to be paid.
A Temporary Peace

Houston also tried to renew peaceful and fair dealings with Native Americans. His letter of October 9, 1842, to Indian commissioners expressed his views concerning Native American rights:

“Neither the Indians nor the whites shall pass into the territory of the other without lawful permission... Should a white man kill an Indian or commit any crime upon an Indian on his property... he shall be punished by laws of the republic.”

Treaties signed with various Native American groups at Bird’s Fort and at Torrey’s Trading House ensured a period of calm for several years.

Invasion Triggers the Archives War

The Santa Fe expedition produced a response from Mexico. In March 1842 a Mexican army of about 500 soldiers, commanded by General Rafael Vásquez, invaded Texas and occupied San Antonio, Goliad, and Refugio.

Although Vásquez withdrew after several days, many Texans panicked. President Houston declared a public emergency and tried to save the government archives, or official documents, by moving them from Austin to Houston. Many Austin residents suspected that Houston intended to move the capital from Austin permanently. When government officials tried to move the archives, some Austin residents, led by Angelina Eberly, fired on them. This skirmish, called the Archives War, ended with the archives—and the capital—remaining in Austin.

Woll Invades Texas

In September 1842, Mexican forces invaded Texas again. This time a larger Mexican army, numbering 1,400 and commanded by General Adrián Woll, occupied San Antonio. The Texas militia and the Texas Rangers rushed to San Antonio. After some heavy fighting, Woll’s army was driven out of Texas.

The Texans suffered losses in the fighting. The Mexican army trapped Captain Nicholas Dawson and a company of volunteers from Fayette County. Dawson and about 35 of the volunteers were killed. Dawson and his fallen soldiers were later buried on Monument Hill near La Grange, Texas.

The Mier Expedition

The Woll invasion angered Texans. Many citizens demanded that President Houston take action to protect the republic. Houston tried to settle the problems peaceably. Houston hoped that the U.S., France, and Great Britain would pressure Mexico to leave Texas alone.

In November 1842, Houston ordered General Alexander Somervell and a militia of 750 to patrol the area from San Antonio to Laredo. When Somervell’s forces reached Laredo, they found no signs of the Mexican army, so Somervell ordered his soldiers back to Gonzales. About 300 of the soldiers balked at the decision. Under the leadership of...
Colonel William S. Fisher, these Texans moved down the Rio Grande and attacked the Mexican town of Mier (MEE•ehr). The Texans expected an easy victory. Early in the battle, however, General Pedro Ampudia and 900 Mexican soldiers arrived to reinforce the troops defending Mier. After two days of fighting, the Texans, outnumbered and low on supplies, surrendered on December 26, 1842.

The Drawing of the Black Beans

The Mexican army began to march their captives to Mexico City, but the Texans overpowered their guards and escaped on February 11, 1843. The Texans lost their way in the mountains and some died of starvation and exposure. Mexican troops recaptured the survivors about a week later.

Santa Anna, now back in power in Mexico, ordered every tenth Texan executed as punishment for their escape attempt. Of the 176 men recaptured, 17 were to die. To determine which men would be executed, the prisoners were ordered to draw beans from a jar. Those who drew black beans were shot; those who drew white beans were marched to prison in Mexico City.

Thomas J. Green described the drawing of the black beans:

> The decimation [selection of every tenth prisoner to die] took place by the drawing of black and white beans from a small earthen mug. The white ones signified exemption, and the black death. One hundred and fifty-nine white beans were placed in the bottom of the mug, and seventeen black ones placed upon the top of them. The beans were not stirred, and had so light a shake that it was perfectly clear they had not been mixed together. Such was their anxiety to execute Captain Cameron, and perhaps the balance of the officers, that first Cameron, and afterward they, were made to draw a bean each from the mug in this condition.

**History Through Art**

*Mier Expedition: The Drawing of the Black Bean* by Frederic Remington, 1896

This image captures the tension and anxiety of the prisoners whose fate will be decided by the bean they draw. Does this image support Thomas Green’s description in the text? Explain.
The remaining prisoners were transferred to Vera Cruz, where they joined the San Antonio prisoners Woll had taken. A few of the Texas captives were pardoned, eight prisoners managed to escape, and others died of disease or starvation. On September 16, 1844, those who remained in prison were released.

**Feuds Lead to Unrest in East Texas**

Late in his second term, Houston also had to deal with trouble that developed in East Texas from 1839 to 1844 near the old Neutral Ground Territory. The feud between the settlers in this part of Texas began over land titles. Two groups of settlers—the **Regulators** and the **Moderators**—had been fighting for several years. Each group had formed to keep law and order because there were few local officials available to do so. As a result of the conflict, property was burned and several people were murdered. A general state of unrest and lawlessness prevailed in Shelby and neighboring counties. Local law enforcement tried but could not stop the feud. Some of the lawmen were even personally involved on one side or the other.

In August 1844, the situation worsened and spread to surrounding counties in Texas and Louisiana. Houses were burned, people were driven out of their homes, and violence seemed to be everywhere. Houston sent 600 soldiers into the area to bring about peace. Houston himself traveled there and reminded the settlers that they were all Texans and should not fight each other. He persuaded both sides to end the Regulator–Moderator War.

Many historians believe the election of 1840 (William Henry Harrison vs. Martin Van Buren) was the first “modern” presidential campaign in the U.S. Two parties, the Whigs and the Democrats, conducted parades, mass meetings, and bonfires to draw attention to their candidates. Personal attacks and accusations of scandal were common. Texas politicians followed this trend in the election of 1841.
**Why Learn This Skill?**

When studying past or current events, it is important to distinguish between fact and opinion. Facts relate exactly what happened, when and where it happened, and who was involved. An opinion expresses a feeling or belief about the event. You should know how to distinguish a fact from an opinion so that you will have accurate information and not confuse the two.

**Learning the Skill**

Here are some ways to distinguish facts from opinions:

- Check facts for accuracy by comparing them to other sources.
- Can you ask questions beginning with *who, what, when, or where*? If so, you are dealing with facts.
- Identify opinions by looking for statements of feelings or beliefs.
- Opinions often begin with “I believe” or “In my view.”
- Opinions often contain words like *should, would, could, best, greatest, all, every, or always.*

**Practicing the Skill**

Read each statement below. Then, on a separate piece of paper, write *F* if the statement is a fact or *O* if it is an opinion.

1. Houston is the most wonderful place in the world.
2. Comanches and Kiowas killed several settlers and kidnapped two women and several children from Parker’s Fort.
3. There was a cowardly tribe among us, the Tonkawas . . . hated by all other Indians of every tribe.
4. In the Council House Fight, 12 Comanche chiefs, 20 warriors, and several women and children were killed.
5. Congress passed acts in 1839 and 1840 that set aside nearly 18,000 acres (7,290 hectares) of land in each Texas county for public education.

6. She is a noble woman, wife, mother, and patriot—a woman of great thought and heart—yet the most modest and unpretentious of women—Texas is proud of her.

**Critical Thinking**

Distinguishing Fact From Opinion

Read an article from your local newspaper. Determine whether you can distinguish fact from opinion in the article. Write down some examples of opinions and facts from the article. Refer back to the questions under *Learning the Skill* if necessary. Share this with your class.

Glencoe’s *Skillbuilder Interactive Workbook*, Level 1, provides instruction and practice in key social studies skills.
Texas Becomes a State

Main Idea
Efforts for Texas annexation were given a boost by the changing political atmosphere in the United States.

Key Terms
manifest destiny
joint resolution

Reading Strategy
Organizing Information  Complete a table like the one shown here by filling in the roles that these people played in the annexation of Texas.

Read to Learn
• about the “Texas Question.”
• about the annexation of Texas.

Section Theme
Government and Democracy  With the approval of the United States Congress, Texas became a state as soon as its people approved annexation and adopted a state constitution.

Preview of Events
1845
February 28  U.S. Congress passes joint resolution on annexation
July 4  Texas approves annexation
December 29  President Polk signs resolution making Texas a state

1846
February 19  Ceremony recognizes Texas as the 28th U.S. state

A Texas Story
A strange thing happened during Houston’s inaugural address. He was to give up his sword to symbolize the transition from war to peace. When the time came, Houston could not let go of it. He stood silent on the speaker’s platform, staring at the sword in his hands. He finally spoke: “I have worn it with some humble pretensions in defence [sic] of my country; and should the danger of my country again call for my services, I expect to resume it, and respond to that call, if needful, with my blood and life.”

The Texas Question
Throughout the years of the republic, most Texans still wanted Texas to join the United States. In 1836, they had voted overwhelmingly for annexation. Sam Houston had worked for this outcome throughout his...
first term as president of the republic. However, the push for annexation stopped when Mirabeau B. Lamar, who did not favor becoming part of the U.S., succeeded Houston.

By Houston’s second term, the “Texas Question” had become important in United States politics. Those against annexation believed that it would benefit southern slaveholders. They also argued that annexation would mean war with Mexico. Annexation was more popular than it had been in 1836. Thousands of Americans had immigrated to Texas, strengthening ties to the United States. In April 1844, representatives from the United States and Texas signed a treaty that would make Texas a territory of the United States. The treaty also provided that Texas would give its public lands to the United States. In return for this, the United States agreed to pay all the debts of the Republic of Texas.

Some Texans were disappointed with the terms of the treaty. They had hoped for immediate statehood, but the treaty only made Texas a territory. Others fought the treaty, arguing that Texas should keep its very valuable public lands. Even under these terms, however, the majority of Texans favored the treaty of annexation.

Texans confidently expected the United States to accept the treaty. They were surprised when the United States Senate rejected it by a vote of 35 to 16. Many senators opposed the treaty because Texas would ultimately enter the U.S. as a slave state. This would give the South an advantage in the United States Senate. Other senators voted against the treaty because they did not want to anger Mexico. Still others voted against it because 1844 was an election year and they wished to avoid controversy. Yet, the Texas question soon became the center of controversy throughout the United States.

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### History Through Art

**Emigrants to the West** by W.M. Cary, 1880

Many settlers immigrated to Texas. What dangers would be met along the road to the West?
Polk Wins Election

Annexation became an issue during the United States presidential election of 1844. The Democratic Party candidate was James K. Polk of Tennessee. Polk, as well as his supporters, wanted Texas to become part of the United States. Henry Clay of Kentucky, the Whig Party candidate, was against immediate annexation. He feared the country would split over the issue of slavery. Polk’s victory in a very close election showed that most of the voters favored annexation.

Annexation gained momentum from growing support for expansion. Settlers wanted to live in the fertile lands in Oregon, California, and Texas. Merchants wanted ports on the Pacific coast where American ships could stop on their way to trade with Asia. Most Americans believed the United States was destined to expand coast to coast. This belief was called manifest destiny.

Even before Polk took office, President John Tyler asked Congress to reconsider annexation. Tyler argued that Congress could no longer delay its decision. The voters had expressed their wishes, and it was time for Congress to act.

Congress and Texas Approve Annexation

Congressional leaders who wanted annexation proposed that Texas be annexed by a joint resolution. This resolution, passed by both houses of Congress, would have the force of law and would require only a simple majority of votes in each house. Approving a treaty, on the other hand, required a two-thirds majority in the Senate.

On February 28, 1845, Congress passed a joint resolution for annexation. It contained terms more favorable to Texas than those of the treaty of 1844. Texas could enter the Union as soon as its people approved annexation and adopted a state constitution. Texas could keep its public lands but could sell some of these lands to pay its debts. The resolution also stated that Texas could be divided into as many as five states with the approval of Texas and the United States. President Tyler signed the resolution on March 1 and submitted the offer to the Texas government. Most Texans were pleased with the terms. The joint resolution provided for immediate statehood, bypassing the time Texas would be a territory.

Anson Jones, elected president of Texas in 1844, called a special session of the Texas Congress to consider the terms of annexation, which were quickly accepted. The people would have to...
endorse annexation and draft a new state constitution. The convention, meeting in Austin on July 4, 1845, overwhelmingly backed annexation. The convention then wrote a new state constitution.

On October 13, Texas approved annexation by a vote of 4,254 to 257 and ratified the constitution by 4,174 to 312. The Congress of the United States consented to the Texas Constitution of 1845. On December 29, 1845, President Polk signed the resolution that made Texas a state.

**Mexico Offers Recognition**

Mexico refused to recognize Texas independence until 1845, when the United States and Texas finally agreed on annexation. Great Britain and France both preferred that Texas remain an independent nation rather than become a part of the United States. For this reason, British and French diplomats tried to convince Mexico that it should recognize Texas independence. In May 1845, Mexico agreed to acknowledge an independent Texas on one condition—Texas must reject annexation by the United States.

Though accepting the offer would ensure that Texas and Mexico would enjoy improved relations, Texas was not interested. The Texas Congress quickly rejected the Mexican proposal and voted to accept annexation by the United States.

The United States Congress tried to admit states in pairs—one slave state and one free state—so the U.S. Senate would be equally balanced between slave and free states. The admission of Florida as the 27th state tipped the balance toward slave states. Texas became the 28th state and tipped the balance even more. Iowa and Wisconsin soon were added to the Union to restore the balance in the Senate.

“**The Republic of Texas Is No More**”

On February 19, 1846, at a ceremony in front of the Texas capitol, Anson Jones, the last president of the republic, turned over the government to J. Pinckney Henderson of San Augustine, the first governor of the state. President Jones closed his farewell address by declaring that “the final act in this great drama is now performed: the Republic of Texas is no more.” The Lone Star flag was lowered, and the Stars and Stripes was raised. Texas officially became the 28th state in the United States of America.

**Reading Check** **Analyzing** Why did the U.S. Congress favor annexation by joint resolution?

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**SECTION 4 ASSESSMENT**

**Checking for Understanding**

1. **Using Key Terms** Define manifest destiny and joint resolution.

2. **Reviewing Facts** Why were some people in the United States against annexing Texas?

**Reviewing Themes**

3. **Government and Democracy** Why (to the surprise of many Texans) did the United States Senate reject the treaty of 1844 to annex Texas?

**Organizing to Learn**

4. **Creating Charts** Create a chart like the one shown here, outlining the important dates in the annexation of Texas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 28, 1845</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 1, 1845</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 4, 1845</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 13, 1845</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 29, 1845</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 19, 1846</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Critical Thinking**

5. **Identifying Viewpoints** The annexation of Texas to the U.S. caused different opinions among Texans. Why did some Texans favor annexation in 1845? Why did some Texans oppose annexation?

**Drawing Inferences** Why do you suppose Sam Houston would not give up his sword during his inauguration ceremony?
**Reviewing Key Terms**

1. For each term in the left-hand column, choose a word from the right-hand column that relates to it and write a sentence including the two terms.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Related Word</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>joint resolution</td>
<td>tariff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>expenditure</td>
<td>annexation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cabinet</td>
<td>capitol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>endowment fund</td>
<td>revenue</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Reviewing Key Facts**

2. List two reasons why annexation of Texas to the United States was delayed.

3. Describe the actions of the Native Americans in central Texas during 1836 and 1837.

4. Why did the government debt of Texas grow during the beginning of the republic?

5. Examine what Lamar hoped to accomplish by sending the Texas navy into Mexican waters. What happened to the navy when Sam Houston became president?

6. Describe the results of the Texas attack on the Mexican town of Mier.

7. What did selecting a black bean mean for those Texans who were taken prisoner after the Mier expedition?

8. List three terms of the joint resolution for annexation.

**Critical Thinking**

9. **Synthesizing Information** Why was President Houston concerned about the treatment of Native Americans?

10. **Making Comparisons** Compare the presidencies of Houston and Lamar. Make a chart like the one below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Houston</th>
<th>Lamar</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Americans</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debt</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11. **Determining Cause and Effect** How did Santa Anna’s release affect Texas’s relations with Mexico?

12. **Analyzing Information** The Texas voters approved both annexation and the constitution by a great majority. Why do you think so many Texans wanted to be annexed by the United States? What do you think they hoped to gain?
**Geography and History Activity**

Draw the following on a blank map of Texas. Refer to the map titled The Lone Star Republic on page 272 to complete the following directions.

13. Label and draw stars next to the republic’s first and second capitals.

14. In the area of East Texas, draw three arrows pointing toward the Red River. Label the area “Cherokees.”

15. In the area of central Texas, write the names of the following tribes: Wichitas, Comanches, and Kiowas.

**Cooperative Learning Activity**

16. **Evaluating the Presidents** As presidents of the Republic of Texas, Sam Houston (who served twice), Mirabeau Lamar, and Anson Jones had many problems to solve. Divide into groups of three or four students. As a group, decide what grade (A to F scale) you would give each president of the republic. Give Sam Houston a grade for each term. Consider the following issues: foreign relations, relations with Native Americans, establishing a government, reducing the debt, education, and conflicts among Texans. The group should write a report card for each president.

**Practicing Skills**

17. **Distinguishing Fact From Opinion** To get accurate information about past and current events, you must be able to distinguish between facts and opinions. Read the following account of the Council House Fight. Then write two examples of fact and two examples of opinion.

   On Tuesday, 19th of March, 1840, 65 Comanches came to town to make a treaty. They brought with them, and reluctantly gave up, Matilda Lockhart, whom they captured in December 1838 . . .

   This was the third time these Indians had come for a talk, pretending to seek peace, and trying to get ransom money for their . . . captives. Their proposition now was that they should be paid a great price for Matilda . . . Now the Americans, mindful of the treachery of the Comanches, answered . . .

   “We will . . . keep four or five of your chiefs, whilst the others of your people go to your nation and bring all the captives, and then we will pay all you ask for them . . . This we have determined, and, if you try to fight, our soldiers will shoot you down.”

   —From Memoirs of Mary Maverick, 1921

**Portfolio/TAKS Writing Activity**

18. **Persuasive Writing** Imagine you are a Texan in 1840 who favors annexation. Write a letter to a friend who does not want Texas in the United States. Try to persuade your friend to support your position. Save your work for your portfolio.

**Use the graph to answer the following question.**

**U.S. Senate Votes on Annexation of Texas**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of Vote</th>
<th>Yea</th>
<th>Nay</th>
<th>Abstaining votes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 8, 1844</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 27, 1845</td>
<td>27</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 22, 1845</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In February of 1845, about how many more U.S. senators supported the annexation of Texas than in June of 1844?

- F  5
- G 10
- H 15
- J 20

**Test-Taking Tip:**

Decide what information you require and disregard any information that you do not need. The two numbers that you need to answer the problem are the number of senators who supported annexation in June and the number who supported it in February.
All societies try to find ways to guard their citizens from threats posed by those who do not obey laws. During the 1820s and early 1830s, the people of Texas formed volunteer companies for self-protection. These companies patrolled the frontier regions looking for danger and, when their work was completed, returned home to care for their families and tend to their fields.

The ad interim, or temporary, government created three companies of citizen-soldiers in 1836 and charged them with protecting Anglo settlers from attacks by Native Americans. They were also to serve as an army in the event of an invasion by Mexico. In this way, the Texas congress was fulfilling one of the major duties of any government—to guarantee the safety of its citizens.

Unfortunately, the ad interim Texas government could ill afford a military force of any kind. It paid volunteers little or nothing at all. The men had to provide their own horses and bring their own firearms. Often, the Rangers, as these men eventually came to be called, had to live off the land. About all the government could do was pledge to pay them $25 a month, provide them with land, and supply them with ammunition. Many Rangers served their terms out of dedication and civic duty. Some, however, used their authority for personal gain. Occasionally, innocent people suffered from the rough system of frontier justice.

Sam Houston became the republic’s first president in September 1836, but his election did not bring the Rangers better conditions or wages. There were limits to how much the Rangers would endure in the name of patriotism. Once finished with their scouting assignments, they generally returned home.

Rangers like Jack Hays added to their small government income by working as surveyors. Ranger duties called for protecting surveyors while they...
worked near Native American hunting grounds. Since Hays was out on the frontier anyway, he accepted jobs from private individuals who wished to have their land marked and measured. In this manner, Hays was able to supplement his government salary.

Hays went on to become one of the most famous of the Texas Rangers during the 1840s. President Mirabeau B. Lamar adopted a “get-tough” policy against those who opposed the goals of the new republic. Congress issued legislation in 1841 creating new Ranger companies to resolve conflicts with the Native Americans and protect the republic from Mexico. Jack Hays won an appointment to head one of the Ranger forces.

This time the congress did better for the Rangers, paying them $30 monthly. Hays’s pay was $150. However, it was still not easy for the Rangers to support themselves. Some even had to borrow money to pay for their expenses while on duty, as there were few government benefits.

**Patrolling the Plains**

Fearing for his own safety, Hays purchased a Colt revolver. This handgun had just been manufactured and it seemed ideal for protecting settlers on the frontier. Because it could shoot five rounds without reloading, most of the Rangers wanted the handgun. Since the government had limited finances, Hays may have bought his own Colt from a Waco merchant. Other Rangers acquired their revolvers secondhand from the Texas navy, which had procured the weapons for its sailors in 1839.

Hays and his fellow Rangers spent much of their time during the Lamar administration as employees of the government, safeguarding Texas immigrants and handling issues with Native American tribes angered over Anglo movement westward. Rangers also patrolled the frontier looking for raiding expeditions from south of the Rio Grande. When war broke out with Mexico in 1846, companies of Rangers fought beside U.S. Army troops. Jack Hays was among them.

Texas Rangers continue to serve Texans today.

One of the persistent myths of Texas Ranger history is that, until recently, all Rangers were of Anglo European descent. Surviving enlistment records prove that Texans of Hispanic and Native American descent served from the Mexican period well into statehood. Mounted militia units were called rangers as early as 1823. The Texas Rangers, created in 1835, served as a substitute for an army when Texas lacked the funds to maintain a large military force.

**TAKS Practice**

1. **Making Generalizations** What reasons other than pay may exist to attract a person to a job?

2. **Making Inferences** How might working for the government differ from working for a business?

3. **Writing About Economics** Write a paragraph that develops one of the themes listed below. Use standard grammar, spelling, sentence structure, and punctuation. Include information and examples from the feature as details to support your argument.

   a. Careers in law enforcement or the military provide opportunities to serve one’s country.
   b. Government workers deserve generous job benefits.
   c. Individuals can show patriotism or civic-mindedness.