

Study Guide



Chapter 12, Section 2

For use with textbook pages 362–368

INDEPENDENCE FOR TEXAS

KEY TERMS

Tejano	Mexican people who permanently lived in Texas (page 363)
empresario	A person who arranged the acquisition of land for new settlers to Texas (page 363)
decree	An official order (page 364)
annex	To take possession of (page 367)

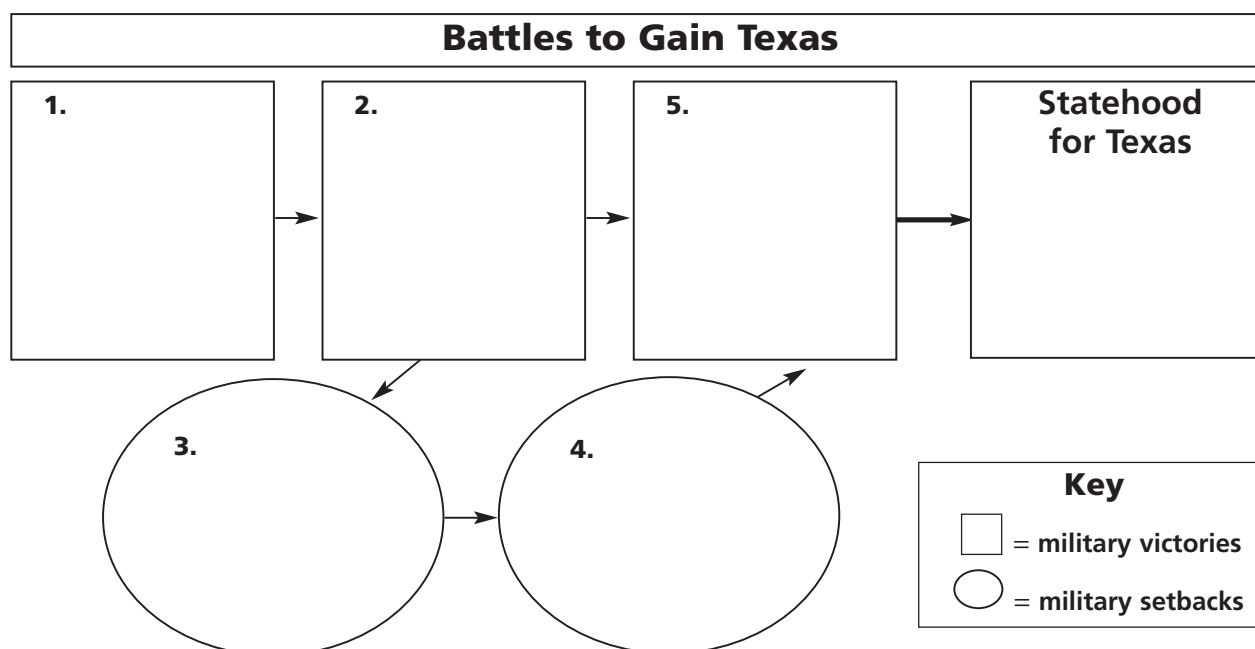
DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE

Have you ever succeeded in spite of very difficult challenges? Did you have any help in obtaining your success? Were there times when it seemed too challenging?

In the last section, you learned how the Northwest territory became part of the United States. This section focuses on the challenges Texas faced on its path to becoming a state.

ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS

Use the chart below to help you take notes as you read the summaries that follow. Think about the successes and failures that Texas troops encountered in their attempts to achieve statehood.



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READ TO LEARN

- **A Clash of Cultures** (pages 362–365)

Davy Crockett moved to Texas after losing his seat in Congress in 1835. He was starting over and wanted to help the Texans obtain their freedom. Americans claimed that Texas was part of the Louisiana Purchase. Spain disagreed. The United States ended its claim in 1819 as part of the Adams-Onís agreement.

Most people in Texas were **Tejanos**, Mexicans who lived in Texas, or Native Americans from the North. Spain wanted to expand the population of Texas by using **empresarios**, people who arranged land settlements. Texas had offered large sections of land to people who would settle in Texas with their families. After Mexico gained its independence from Spain, Stephen F. Austin organized a colony by recruiting 300 American families to settle in a fertile section of Texas. The settlers had to agree to learn Spanish, convert to Catholicism, and obey Mexican law in return for the land at a low price.

The Mexican government did not want all the growth in Texas to come from Americans. An official order, or **decree**, was issued in 1830 that ended American immigration, but promoted immigration from Mexico and Europe. The decree also placed a high tax on imports from the United States.

General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna became president of Mexico in 1833 and eliminated the Mexican constitution. Based on the request of the Texans, Santa Anna lifted the ban on American settlers, but he denied the request that Texas be a separate state. Santa Anna shifted the power away from the local people of Texas.

1. How did the Mexican government attempt to slow American growth in Texas?

- **The Struggle for Independence** (pages 365–367)

The conflict began in 1835 between the Texans and Mexican troops sent by Santa Anna. The Texans claimed victories in the towns of Gonzales and San Antonio with the help of volunteers like Davy Crockett, African Americans, and Tejanos. Many people left after these victories, believing that the war had been won. Santa Anna was preparing for his next battle.

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Santa Anna returned with his large army to San Antonio and attacked a mission called the Alamo. There were 150 Texans defending the Alamo, including Davy Crockett and a team from Tennessee, Jim Bowie, and the leader, William B. Travis. The defenders of the Alamo fought for 12 days until the Mexican army broke through the Alamo walls. A few women, children, and servants escaped. Everyone else was killed by the overwhelming attack.

Four days before the fall of the Alamo, Texan leaders declared independence from Mexico. Sam Houston was commander in chief. To avoid more Mexican conflict, Houston ordered Texan troops to leave the fort at Goliad, near the border. During their retreat the Mexican army fiercely attacked them.

Houston renewed his army and launched a surprise attack in San Jacinto on Santa Anna and his Mexican army. As the Texan force prevailed, they yelled, “Remember the Alamo! Remember Goliad!” At the time of his defeat, Santa Anna agreed to recognize the independence of Texas.

2. Why did the Texans yell, “Remember the Alamo! Remember Goliad!” at San Jacinto?

• The Lone Star Republic (pages 367–368)

As the new president of Texas, Sam Houston faced several challenges. He requested that the United States *annex*, or take possession of, Texas. The United States initially refused to annex Texas because it was considered a slave state. Its addition to the country would alter the balance of slave states and free states in Washington. Houston’s challenges increased when the Mexican government refused to acknowledge the independence of Texas, and Texas faced significant debt with no means of payment.

In 1844 James Polk was an active supporter of Manifest Destiny. He backed the annexation of both Texas and the Oregon Territory. Under his presidency in 1845, Texas became a state in the United States of America.

3. Why did the United States initially refuse to admit Texas into the country?
