

The Road to Revolution 1826–1835

SECTION 1 Tensions Mount Between Mexico and Texas

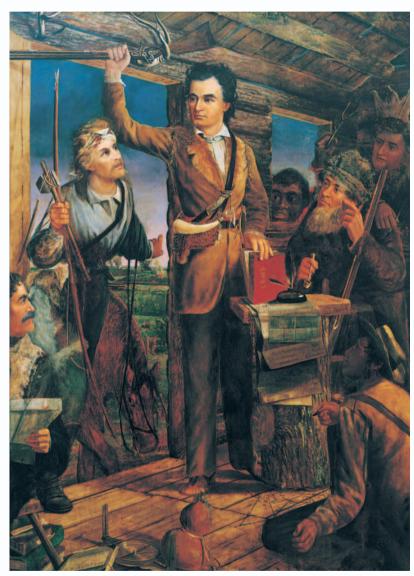
- **SECTION 2** A Bitter Division Evolves
- **SECTION 3** The Conflict Escalates



VIEW THE **Texas on Tape** CHAPTER 9 VIDEO LESSON.

I fully hoped to have found Texas at peace and in tranquility, but regret to find it in commotion; all disorganized, all in anarchy, and threatened with immediate hostilities. This state of things is deeply to be lamented.

> Texas empresario Stephen F. Austin



Henry Arthur McArdle, Settlement of Austin's Colony



SKILL BUILDER

Reading Social Studies



Frederic S. Remington, Drum Corps [Mexican Troops]

Before You Read

What comes to mind when you hear the word *revolution*? Do you think of military battles? Or do you see revolution as a form of change or movement? You are probably familiar with several different kinds of revolutions.

Think about

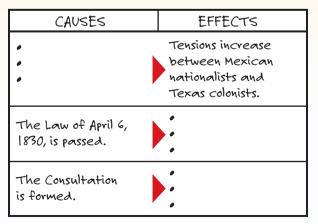
- the American Revolution
- a cultural revolution
- the revolution of the planets around the sun



Many events led to the Texas Revolution. Completing this graphic organizer for Chapter 9 will help you put in order the events that led in part to revolution.

- Copy this cause-and-effect chart in your Texas Notebook.
- As you read the chapter, look for the major events that led to the Texas Revolution.
- Complete the chart by writing either the causes or the effects for each event.

Organizing Information





Tensions Mount Between Mexico and Texas

TERMS & NAMES

OBJECTIVES

- Constitution of 1824, states' rights, nationalist, Haden Edwards, Fredonian Rebellion, Manuel Mier y Terán, Law of April 6, 1830, provision, customs duty
- 1. Explain why tensions arose between the Mexican government and the Texas settlers.
- **2.** Identify the events that led to the passage of the Law of April 6, 1830.
- **3.** Describe the effect that the Law of April 6, 1830, had on Texas colonists.

Why It Matters Now

The issue of immigration continues to cause conflict today between the United States and Mexico.

MAIN IDEA

Not long after colonization began in Texas, conflicts erupted between the Mexican government and the colonists. Even though Mexican officials attempted to control the conflicts, their efforts served to anger and unify the colonists.

WHAT Would You Do? Write your response to Interact with History in your Texas Notebook.

INTERACT WITH HISTORY

Imagine that you recently arrived in Texas from the United States. You have friends and family who hope to join you in Texas soon. You have sworn to adopt the Mexican culture and follow the rules required of all Mexican citizens. The Mexican government is considering closing the border to American settlers in order to preserve the Mexican way of life. Would you try to adapt to the Mexican culture? In what ways? What would you tell your family in the United States?



Mexican passport



State flag of Coahuila y Tejas

states' rights theory that a state could choose whether to obey or enforce federal laws

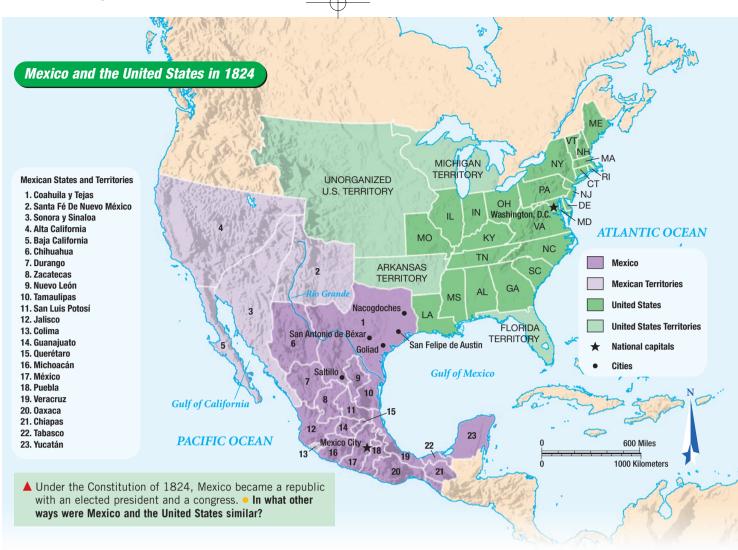
Differences Arise

The new colonists in Texas busied themselves building homes and starting their life in a new land. The settlers who came from the United States also had to adjust to living in a country with its own laws and government. Many cultural differences existed between the settlers and the government officials. Problems soon arose.

For the most part, the colonists accepted the conditions established by the original Spanish government and the new Mexican government. Some colonists did not make sincere efforts to become loyal citizens of Mexico. They kept many of their own customs. The settlers established their own schools and even started their own newspaper. Mexican government officials worried that the colonists were becoming too independent.

A Question of States' Rights

Tensions also arose over the balance of power between the state and national governments. Like the United States, Mexico was organized into states. Mexico's Constitution of 1824 established a states' rights



government—one in which most powers are given to the state government. Before this time, the federal government in Mexico City had held most of the power. Most settlers in Texas supported the states' rights government because it allowed more local control. The Constitution of 1824 placed the province of Texas in the Mexican state of Coahuila y Tejas, with its capital at the city of Saltillo.

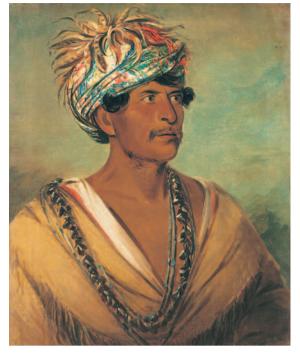
Some leaders of the Mexican national government did not approve of the states' having so much power under the Constitution of 1824. They felt that the power should belong to the national government. These Mexican nationalists also were concerned that too many settlers from the United States were moving to Texas. They believed that a growing population from the United States and a strong state government might encourage the colonists to seize Texas and join the United States. These fears led to increased hostilities.

Competing Land Claims

Problems with the Mexican government also arose over conflicting claims over land. In 1825 Haden Edwards received an empresarial grant covering a large portion of eastern Texas near Nacogdoches. The land granted to Edwards was close to the border with the United States and relatively far from Austin's grant and from San Antonio. When Edwards surveyed the area, he found many people already living there. Among nationalist a person who supports policies that promote national interests



When Haden Edwards arrived in Texas in 1825 to receive his empresarial grant in the Nacogdoches area, he was probably surprised to discover that there were already Mexican, Native Texan, and American settlers occupying the territory. • Why do you think Nacogdoches had more settlers than other parts of Texas?



 Cherokee leaders such as Tah Chee led their people west to escape conflict with settlers in the East.
 In what ways does this painting by George Catlin differ from common stereotypes of Native Americans?

ulticultural

Texas Cherokees

Around 1820 a group of Cherokees fleeing conflict settled in East Texas. They were unable, however, to get titles to their lands, Richard Fields, who was part Cherokee, and John Dunn Hunter, captured as a child and raised as a Native American. took up their cause. After failing to obtain the titles. Fields and Hunter joined the Fredonian Rebellion. They hoped to create a republic with rights for Native Americans. However, their actions were condemned by the Cherokee Tribal Council. • Why might the Mexican government have refused to give land titles to the Cherokees?

them were descendants of Mexicans who had settled in the area many years before. There were also some Cherokee families who had come to Texas after being forced from their homes in the East. Edwards, like all the other empresarios, was required to honor any land grant previously given to a settler. Unfortunately for Edwards, he was the only empresario with a large number of such grants in his territory.

Edwards posted notices stating that people who held grants should come forward with proof of ownership. Many did not have this proof. Edwards said that settlers who could not prove legal ownership of their land would lose it. This angered many people. Reports of Edwards's actions alarmed Stephen F. Austin, who wrote him a letter of warning.

TEXAS VOICES

Your observations generally are in the highest degree imprudent and improper, and such as are calculated to ruin yourself and materially to injure all the American settlements; for example, you have publicly stated . . . that the Spaniards around Nacogdoches were a set of 'Washenangos,' and that you would put them all over the Sabine [River]; that you had the absolute right of disposing of the land within your colony as you pleased . . . ; that you despised the class of people who were now settlers in the country, and only wanted rich men, and would drive away all the poor devils who had been the first to settle, unless they paid you your price. . . . One moment's sober reflection will show you the imprudence and impropriety of such declarations.

Stephen F. Austin, letter, March 1826

Many people in the area wrote letters to the Mexican officials and complained of Edwards's actions. The officials sided with the settlers. In response, Edwards's brother Benjamin, who handled most of the local affairs, wrote angry letters to the Mexican governor, Víctor Blanco.

The Edwards Brothers

Another problem arose when Edwards overturned an election for alcalde of Nacogdoches. Most of the legal settlers voted for Samuel Norris, a resident since 1820. Edwards, however, decided that his son-inlaw, Chichester Chaplin, had won. Chaplin was supported by settlers who were in the area illegally. Edward's action produced even more complaints. Governor Blanco had enough of the Edwards brothers. He reversed the election decision and issued an order that took away Edwards's land grant. He also ordered Edwards and his brother to leave Texas.

Haden Edwards claimed that he had spent \$50,000 securing and developing his grant, and he did not intend to lose it. Instead, he negotiated a treaty with some of the Cherokees in the area. They also were unhappy with the Mexican government because officials would not give them titles to the land they occupied north of Nacogdoches.



The Fredonian Rebellion

The tensions in Texas finally resulted in a clash between the Texas colonists and the Mexican government. This conflict, known as the Fredonian Rebellion, occurred near Nacogdoches in 1826. To many Mexican nationalist leaders, this conflict confirmed their fears that Texas settlers were trying to take over Texas.

Edwards, Cherokee leaders John Hunter and Richard Fields, and a few others formed the Fredonian Republic and claimed that the area was no longer under Mexican control. On December 16, 1826, Benjamin Edwards led a small group into Nacogdoches, declaring independence and waving a red and white flag. Though reports vary, it is believed that the words Independence, Liberty, and Justice were written on the flag. The group took over a building known as the Old Stone Fort and removed the alcalde. They occupied the building for over a month, claiming it as the capitol of Fredonia.

When word of the Fredonian Rebellion reached Mexican authorities, it confirmed their fear that Texans intended to seize Texas. Soldiers commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Mateo Ahumada (ah•oo•MAH•dah) were sent to suppress the rebellion. Stephen F. Austin worried that Edwards's disloyalty would reflect badly on all colonists in Texas. He sided with the Mexican government against Edwards. Austin's militia joined the Mexican troops when they reached San Felipe. Together they marched to Nacogdoches.

The conflict ended quickly in January 1827. The Fredonians gave up even before Mexican military forces arrived in Nacogdoches. The Edwards brothers fled to safety in Louisiana, and the Cherokees executed Hunter and Fields for their involvement. In the end, the Fredonian Rebellion only caused the Mexican government to become more concerned about what was happening in Texas.

An Attempt to Purchase Texas

Because so many people had come to Texas from the United States, Mexican officials feared that the settlers had secret ties with the United States. These fears increased when the United States offered to purchase The Old Stone Fort at Nacogdoches served briefly as the capital of Fredonia, over which flew a new flag. What did the Mexican government learn from the Fredonian Rebellion?



The word *Fredonia* was a catch phrase used during the American Revolution to mean "a free country". When Haden Edwards chose this name for his republic, it symbolized the republic's freedom from the Mexican government.

Members of the Cherokee nation joined the Fredonians in their fight for freedom. The flag they designed included the color red to symbolize the Cherokees. • Why do you think Native Americans were included in the movement? INDEPENDENCE

LIBERTY AND JUSTICE

Fredonian flag no longer exists but was probably similar to this.

The



Joel Poinsett brought back a botanical treasure from a visit to Mexico in 1825. He found a shrub with large red leaves growing on the hillsides. He took specimens and brought them to his greenhouse in South Carolina. Although Poinsett was a U.S. congressman and an ambassador, he is most often remembered for introducing the poinsettia to the nation.



 General Manuel Mier y Terán's inspection of Texas led to the passing of the Law of April 6, 1830.
 Why did the law trouble Texans? Texas in 1826. U.S. president John Quincy Adams sent Joel R. Poinsett to Mexico with an offer to pay up to \$1 million in exchange for all or part of Texas. Adams was not enthusiastic about the offer. He wanted to win the support of people in the western United States by favoring westward expansion.

Poinsett believed strongly in bringing Texas into the United States. However, he blundered in his efforts and further raised the suspicions of the Mexican government. Poinsett's mistake was to publicly announce his reasons for being in Mexico before he had officially presented the purchase offer to Mexican officials. When Poinsett did present Adams's offer, the Mexican officials were offended that anyone would think they would consider selling part of their country.

The Mier y Terán Report

The increasing number of settlers from the United States in Texas, the Fredonian Rebellion, and the offer by the United States to purchase Texas fueled concerns of Mexican nationalists. In 1828 government leaders sent General Manuel Mier y Terán, a respected commander, to investigate the conditions in Texas. He spent almost a year touring the area and then wrote a report about his findings.

In his report Mier y Terán expressed concern about the Anglo American colonists. He claimed that they outnumbered Mexican settlers by 10 to 1. Though this figure may have been exaggerated, there *were* far more Anglos than Mexicans in Texas, especially in East Texas. Mier y Terán also noted that the influence of the United States was growing in Texas and that many settlers ignored laws against trading with the United States. In his report he made it clear that Mexico must gain control of Texas.

TEXAS VOICES

Thus, I tell myself that it could not be otherwise than that from such a state of affairs should arise an antagonism between Mexicans and foreigners which is not the least of the smoldering fires which I have discovered. Therefore, I am warning you to take timely measures. Texas could throw the whole nation into revolution.

Manuel Mier y Terán

Mexican officials wanted to make Texas less attractive to current or future colonists from the United States. So in 1829 nationalists persuaded President Vicente Guerrero to abolish slavery in Mexico. Since Anglo Texans held most of the slaves in Mexico, the officials thought that this act would slow immigration from the United States.

The Law of April 6, 1830

In further efforts to control Texas colonists, especially Anglo Americans, Mexican officials passed the Law of April 6, 1830. It outlawed immigration from the United States to Texas and canceled all empresarial grants that had not been fulfilled. As a result, settlers from the United States would no longer be allowed to colonize any Mexican border state including Texas. However, the government encouraged Mexican and European settlers to relocate to Texas. The Law of April 6, 1830, even provided land and money for these settlers.

The law also included other provisions designed to slow, if not stop, Anglo American immigration into Mexico. Slaves could no longer

be brought into Mexico to work the fields for Anglo American colonists. New forts and presidios, guarded by convict-soldiers, were established to stop illegal immigration. The law also placed **customs duties** on all goods entering Texas from the United States. This meant that colonists would have to pay more for supplies from the United States.

The law alarmed Anglo Texans. Its ban on bringing slaves into Mexico would hurt their ability to develop the cotton industry. Texans felt that the new taxes would hurt Texas's economy. They were also upset that their friends and relatives in the United States would not be able to join them. They felt that they had been wronged by the Mexican government.

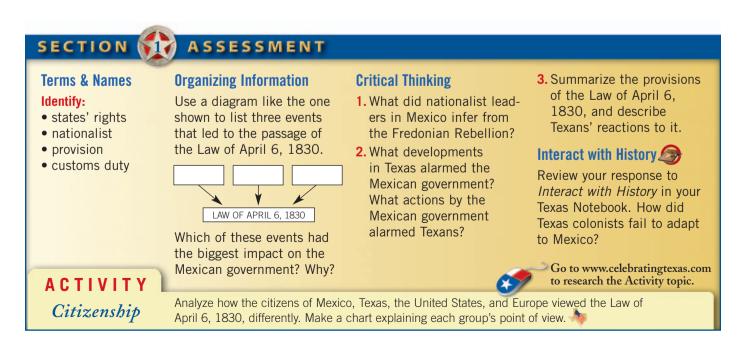
The Law of April 6, 1830, also raised serious political questions within Mexico. Under the Constitution of 1824, the law's provisions should have been a matter for the state, not the national government. Mexicans who believed in the states' rights Constitution of 1824 felt that the national government had gone too far. Instead of resolving the crisis, the 1830 law increased tensions between Texas and the Mexican government.



 Schooners like this one built in the 1850s, frequently sailed into Texas ports. Some smuggled in goods and slaves. Although Mexico agreed to allow settlers to bring slaves with them, it was illegal to buy and sell slaves. This law was not strictly enforced, however, until 1830.
 Why did Anglo Texans feel so strongly about bringing in more slaves?

provision a specific requirement set by a law

customs duty a tax that is collected on goods that are taken into or out of a country





A Bitter Division Evolves

TERMS & NAMES

WHAT Would You Do?

in your Texas Notebook.

Write your response to Interact with History

Antonio López de Santa Anna, allegiance, centralist, John Davis Bradburn, Anahuac, Turtle Bayou Resolutions, resolution, Battle of Velasco, delegate, Convention of 1832, Convention of 1833

OBJECTIVES

- 1. Describe the controversy surrounding the Constitution of 1824.
- **2.** Explain the significance of the Turtle Bayou Resolutions.
- **3.** Identify the events that led to the arrest of Stephen F. Austin.

Why It Matters Now

Early battles and the Conventions of 1832 and 1833 established the foundations of an independent Texas.

MAIN IDEA

Clashes between Texas colonists and Mexican leaders over states' rights led Texans to petition for a separate state.

INTERACT WITH HISTORY

Imagine that you are a Texas colonist. You are unhappy with some of the changes that the Mexican government has made. You and the other colonists want to let the Mexican leaders know that you are upset, but you do not want to appear as if you are rebelling against the government. You decide to write a letter to the government officials. What would you include in your letter?

Unrest in Texas

The Law of April 6, 1830, marked a turning point in the relationship between the Texas colonists and the Mexican government. The most obvious sign of this strained relationship was the sending of Mexican soldiers into Texas. The soldiers were assigned the task of collecting the customs duties. Although military forces were already stationed at Nacogdoches, Bexar, San Antonio, and Goliad, additional troops arrived at these locations. Also, new posts were built at Fort Terán, Velasco,

and Anahuac.

The Texans resented the presence of the Mexican troops. They not only disliked the show of military power but also were upset about having to pay new taxes. These feelings of unrest, as well as other changes that were taking place within the Mexican government, set the stage for the next conflicts between the Mexican government and Texans.

Santa Anna's Rise to Power

President Anastasio Bustamante (boos•tah•MAHN• tay) had ignored the Constitution of 1824 by creating a strong national government rather than letting the states exercise local control. Many

President
 Bustamante
 did not receive
 much support
 from Texans
 because he was
 not a states'
 rights advocate.
 Why weren't Texans
 more enthusiastic about
 Bustamante's government
 structure?

Mexican citizens, like the Anglo and Tejano settlers in Texas, were upset that the Constitution of 1824 was being ignored. This conflict created an unstable environment within the Mexican government. One leader who took advantage of this situation was Antonio López de Santa Anna. Santa Anna was born in Mexico in 1794. He became a cadet in a Spanish regiment in 1810 and served on the mission to defeat the Gutiérrez-Magee expedition.

With a keen sense of politics, Santa Anna shifted his allegiance from Spain at just the right time. During the Mexican war for independence and the rapid changes that resulted, he was able to remain in favor with each new government. By 1832 he was ready to assume power himself. Posing as an opponent of the centralists, Santa Anna launched a revolution in 1832 against President Bustamante. Many Mexican soldiers stationed in Texas returned to Mexico City to fight in this revolution.

At the same time, disturbances were occurring in Texas. Santa Anna sent Colonel José Antonio Mexía to Texas to investigate. Stephen F. Austin met with Mexía and convinced him that the Texans supported Santa Anna's effort to preserve the states' rights constitution. Texans would soon find out that Santa Anna was a centralist. He wanted all power centralized in himself, not in a states' rights constitution.

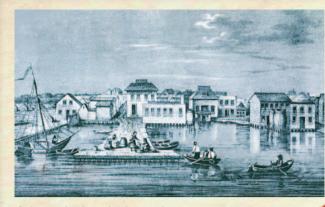
Conflict at Galveston

The actions of George Fisher, a Mexican official stationed in Texas, created problems among the Texas colonists. Fisher was born in Hungary and named Djordje Ribar by his Serbian parents. He took the name George Fisher when he arrived in the United States. Fisher settled in Mississippi around 1819. In 1827 he tried to obtain an empresario contract in Texas but failed. In 1829 he became a Mexican citizen and received permission to settle five hundred families in the area once granted to Haden Edwards.

Fisher was appointed by the Mexican government to collect customs duties and to stop smuggling, or the illegal transportation of goods in and out of the country without paying customs taxes. Fisher ordered that all ships must report to the customs house at the mouth of the Brazos River. Smugglers ignored the order. They continued to bring unreported goods into Texas, and honest shippers resented the government's interference in their business. Protests led to Fisher's removal for a time. When reappointed, Fisher required all ships to receive clearance papers from the customs house at Anahuac (AH•nah•wak) on Galveston Bay, no matter which port they were using. This meant that some ships had to travel past their port into shallow, treacherous waters. Other shippers had to journey 200 miles overland to secure the proper papers. Although most ship captains ignored the order, they were upset by what they saw as its unfairness. Initially, Texans believed that Santa Anna supported states' rights, and they supported his revolutionary efforts. • What kind of government did Santa Anna actually support?

allegiance loyalty

centralist a supporter of strong national government and weak state power



Galveston in the early nineteenth century

GALVESTON Galveston has long been a major port in Texas. Cabeza de Vaca was said to have shipwrecked there in 1528. Mexico designated Galveston as a port in 1825 and opened a customs house in 1830. Today, Galveston continues to function as a center of commerce and a transfer and docking location for sea vessels. It is the home of the University of Texas Medical Branch and the famous Rosenberg Library. • What conflict resulted from the establishment of a customs house in Galveston in 1832?

Galveston today

Bradburn Increases Tensions

THEN & NOW

Another Mexican official, Colonel John Davis Bradburn, offended the Texans even more. An Anglo American adventurer, Bradburn supported the centralists in Mexico. Until 1830, Mexican officials had overlooked many violations of Mexican laws in order to encourage settlement. Bradburn was now directed to enforce the laws. His efforts

angered settlers. First, Bradburn arrested Francisco Madero, a special land commissioner. Madero had been sent by the state government of Coahuila y Tejas to issue land titles to settlers already living in Texas. According to Bradburn, Madero's actions violated the Decree of April 6, 1830. However, the law prohibited granting land titles to new settlers coming from the United States, not settlers who were already living in the area. Bradburn also dismantled Liberty, a new settlement that Madero had authorized.

To make matters worse, Bradburn forced settlers to provide free materials and labor for the construction of a new fort at Anahuac and used colonists' slaves to help with his public works programs. The growing tensions meant that even a small incident could turn into a major confrontation.

The Disturbance at Anahuac

The next incident occurred in May 1832. William T. Logan came to Anahuac from the United States seeking two of his slaves who had run away. Bradburn sheltered the slaves and refused to release them without seeing proof of ownership. Logan hired attorney William Barret Travis to represent him while he returned to Louisiana to obtain the documents.



A land grant from the Galveston Bay & Texas Land Company, whose operations became illegal under the 1830 law • What would you do if you owned a business that a new law made illegal?

Travis, then only 22 years old, tried to trick Bradburn into releasing the slaves. In June 1832, Travis passed a note to a guard stating that Logan had returned with armed men. The guard infomed Bradburn, who alerted his soldiers and then looked foolish when no armed troops

appeared. Travis was most likely hoping only to embarrass Bradburn, but Bradburn reacted by ordering Travis's arrest. Travis's law partner, Patrick Jack, was jailed when he protested Travis's arrest.

Many Texans demanded the release of Travis and Jack. Jack's brother organized a group of 150 settlers, who traveled to Anahuac in protest. Bradburn agreed to release the prisoners if the settlers would retreat. Most of the colonists withdrew, but Bradburn did not follow through on his promise. The colonists decided to camp between Anahuac and Liberty at Turtle Bayou. Bradburn took the opportunity to reinforce his troops.

Turtle Bayou Resolutions

The settlers who gathered at Turtle Bayou sent Brazoria colonist John Austin back to Brazoria to bring a cannon. While the settlers waited for his return, they drafted a statement known as the Turtle Bayou Resolutions. In the resolutions, the colonists pledged their continued loyalty to Mexico. They stated their support for Santa Anna, who appeared to be on the same side as the Texans because he claimed to favor the Constitution of 1824.

Before Austin returned with the cannon, Colonel José de las Piedras, who commanded the Mexican troops in Nacogdoches, learned of the trouble at Anahuac and decided to investigate. When he arrived in Anahuac he ordered that Travis and Jack be released. He also dismissed Bradburn from his command. Although the incident ended quietly, the peace did not last long.

The Battle of Velasco

Meanwhile, Austin had to fight his way back to Anahuac. After Austin loaded the cannon onto a ship at Brazoria, he and his men sailed down the Brazos toward the Gulf of Mexico. When they reached Velasco, Colonel Domingo de Ugartechea (oo•gahr•tay•CHAY•ah), the Mexican commander at Velasco, refused to let them pass. Fighting broke out between the two groups. For the first time, Texans and Mexican soldiers shot at one another.

The Battle of Velasco resulted in casualties on both sides. Ten Texans and five Mexicans were killed. By the end of the battle, the Mexican forces had run out of ammunition and were forced to surrender. The Mexican soldiers were ordered to return to Mexico, and the Texans continued on to Anahuac. When they arrived, they discovered that the conflict had already been resolved.





William Travis arrived at San Felipe after the passage of the Law of April 6, 1830, which made his entry illegal. He established a law office in Anahuac and initially traveled the country performing legal work. He eventually became a loyal revolutionary supporter and made heroic contributions to

Texas's independence movement. He is best remembered for his leadership during the Battle of the Alamo. • What role did Travis play in Texas's movement toward revolution?

resolution a formal statement of a decision, opinion, or course of action by an official group



San Antonio and Mexico City are nearly 1,000 miles apart. In 1832 the trip between the two places would have taken a month or more. Every time there was a problem in Texas, it took days for news to reach Saltillo, the capital of Coahuila y Tejas, and weeks to get to Mexico City. The response took just as long. • How might events have been different if travel between Texas and Mexico had been faster?

EVENT	TLE BAYOU AND THE CONVENTIONS OF 1832 AND 1833 RESOLUTIONS	ACTIONS	
Turtle Bayou	 Disagreement with violations of the Constitution of 1824 Interest in Santa Anna's resistance Support of Santa Anna's efforts Invitation to all Texans to support the previously stated resolutions 	No actions taken	
Convention of 1832	 Split Coahuila y Tejas and grant Texas statehood Extend tax exemption Modify the Law of April 6, 1830, to permit more immigration Appoint a land commissioner to issue land titles in East Texas Donate government lands for the maintenance of primary schools Request the Nacogdoches governing council to prevent Anglo American invasion of Native American lands 	Established a plan to create militias Created committees of vigilance, safety, and correspondence	
	 Split Coahuila y Tejas and grant Texas statehood Extend tax exemption Modify the Law of April 6, 1830, to permit more immigration Obtain adequate judicial reform and improvements in the mail service Obtain adequate defense from Native American raids Stop African slave traffic in Texas 	Created a state constitution	
	Many resolutions were drafted a 1832 and 1833. Notice the progre	▲ Many resolutions were drafted at Turtle Bayou and the Conventions of 1832 and 1833. Notice the progression of Texas sentiment. ● How are the actions at each gathering different? How are they similar?	

The Conventions of 1832 and 1833

Texans were pleased with their early victories but still unhappy with some of the decisions of the Mexican government. About 56 delegates met in San Felipe in October 1832 to draft a set of resolutions. They elected Stephen F. Austin as the president of the convention. Their resolutions pledged support to the true Mexican government under the

Constitution of 1824. They asked, however, for the repeal of the Law of April 6, 1830. The colonists also asked that the government allow immigration from the United States and exempt Texans from customs duties. In addition, the delegates requested better protection from the Native Americans and the creation of public schools. Most importantly, they petitioned for the state of Coahuila y Tejas to be divided so that each territory could have its own government. After the meetings, Stephen F. Austin went to San Antonio to gain the support of the Tejano community there.

Officials in San Antonio refused to send the Texans' requests to officials in Mexico City. The right to petition the government was not guaranteed under the Mexican system. While Austin was away, the delegates called another meeting on April 1, 1833. This time, they elected William Wharton to lead the meeting. The delegates at the Convention

delegate a person who represents others

Sam! Houston



The seat of government in Mexico City was quite impressive in the 1830s, with its large Spanish colonial buildings. It must have differed sharply from the largest towns in Texas at the time. How do you think Texans such as Stephen F. Austin might have felt about these differences?

of 1833 drafted the same proposals as they had in the earlier convention, except this time they drafted a constitution for the new Mexican state of Texas. The steps taken by the members were similar to those taken by the Americans when developing new states of the United States. To Mexicans, even some who sympathized with the Texans, these actions looked like defiance of the government.

Austin in Mexico

After the Convention of 1833, Stephen F. Austin traveled to Mexico City to deliver the Texans' resolutions to officials. The trip from San Felipe to Mexico City took nearly three months. When he reached Mexico City in July 1833, the capital was in turmoil after a successful revolution led by Santa Anna. Many changes were being attempted by Valentín Gómez Farías (vah•len•TEEN GO•mes fah•REE•ahs), whom Santa Anna had allowed to run the government while he was away. Also, a cholera epidemic had swept through the city, killing thousands of people.

Austin presented the resolutions to Gómez Farías. However, Gómez Farías was slow to address the Texans' problems, and Austin grew impatient. In October 1833 Austin wrote a letter to the Texans suggesting that they establish a new state government that would make Texas separate from Coahuila but still a part of the Mexican union.

The next month Austin met with Santa Anna, who agreed to most of the Texans' requests. Santa Anna repealed the law prohibiting immigration to Texas. He agreed to improve the mail service and the court system and promised fairer taxes on goods coming from the United States. However, Santa Anna rejected separate statehood for Texas.



The panic of the cholera epidemic of 1833 mirrored the chaos of the Mexican government after Santa Anna's rise to power. On August 6, 1833, the epidemic made its way into Mexico City, ultimately killing an estimated 10,000 people in that city alone. A Mexico City newspaper of the time estimated that about 800,000 people across Mexico would die from cholera. • How might the epidemic have affected Stephen F. Austin's trip to Mexico?



Title page of diary kept by Stephen F. Austin while jailed in Mexico City

Austin's Arrest

After meeting with Santa Anna, Austin left Mexico City on December 10, 1833, to return to his home. However, he was arrested when he reached Saltillo. Gómez Farías had intercepted Austin's letter to the Texans and felt that it challenged the authority of the Mexican government. As a result, he had Austin arrested.

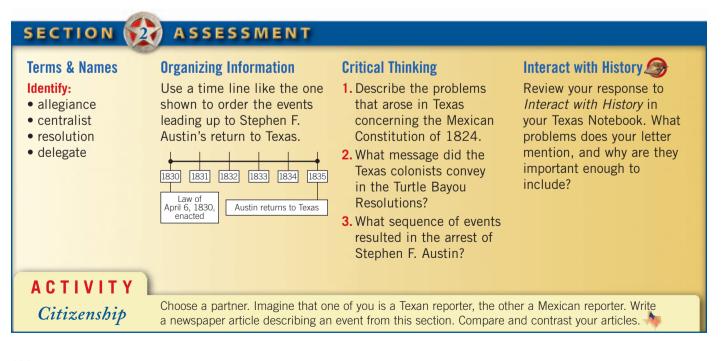
Austin was accused of treason, but he was never formally charged or tried in court. He was imprisoned in Mexico City for a year, spending the first few months in solitary confinement. He remained hopeful that the situation between Mexico and Texas would improve. Austin wrote many letters to friends and family while he was in prison expressing his hope for Texas:

TEXAS VOICES

Much good will result to Texas from my sufferings. The state governments have been stimulated to apply proper remedies in many things and some of those who would have ruined the country . . . are now satisfied and rejoicing and are in favor of peace and quietness. . . .

Stephen F. Austin, letter to his brother-in-law

Two lawyers, Spencer Jack and Peter Grayson, traveled to Mexico City in October 1834 to request Austin's release. Austin was released from prison on December 25, 1834, but remained under house arrest in Mexico City for several more months. He was finally allowed to return to Texas in the summer of 1835. Though calm prevailed in Texas while Austin was under arrest, tension remained. Just before Austin's release, events during the summer of 1835 fanned the flames of resistance.





The Conflict Escalates

TERMS & NAMES

Martín Perfecto de Cos, William B. Travis, war party, peace party, **faction**, the Army of the People, Battle of Gonzales, the Consultation, **siege**, **provisional government**, Battle of San Antonio

OBJECTIVES

- 1. Explain the controversy that arose over the Constitution of 1824.
- 2. Describe Santa Anna's role in the development of the Texas Revolution.
- **3.** Identify the significance of the Battle of Gonzales.

Why It Matters Now

Clashes between the colonists and the Mexican soldiers led to the beginning of the Texas Revolution.

MAIN IDEA

When Santa Anna gained control of the Mexican government, he sent Mexican troops into Texas once again. His actions convinced many Texans that independence was the solution.

A REAL-LIFE STORY

José María González, a colonel of the Mexican army, believed that the Texans' complaints were justified. He realized that Santa Anna was slowly turning into a dictator and that his type of leadership went against the articles of the Mexican constitution. In 1835 he unexpectedly urged patriotic Mexicans to support the Texans' cause.

The . . . declaration made by the people of Texas . . . offered assistance and support to all members of the confederation who might wish to take arms against the despotism [dictatorship] of the Centralists. This generous offer has allowed me to raise a considerable army which defends the constitution from the abuses which it has suffered and preserves it in spite of treason and perjury . . . for the most glorious contest is that of liberty against tyranny.

José María González, letter to fellow Mexican citizens

As you will read in this section, Santa Anna's violations of the Constitution of 1824 were becoming too numerous for Texas settlers, who readied themselves for a larger uprising—a revolution.

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Constitution of the United Mexican States, 1824

Mexican Troops Return to Texas

Although Texans had supported Santa Anna at first, they quickly found out that he did not share their views on government. Once in power, Santa Anna dismissed the Mexican congress and had a new constitution written that placed power in his hands. His actions produced unrest in a number of Mexican states. In 1835 Santa Anna sent his brother-in-law, General Martín Perfecto de Cos, to command troops in



Robert M. "Three-Legged Willie" Williamson contracted a disease at age 15 that left him handicapped. His right leg was drawn back, and he wore a wooden leg. An outstanding speaker, Williamson edited a newspaper, helped declare Texas independence, fought at San Jacinto, and served as judge and senator in the Republic. • What leadership qualities did Williamson demonstrate?

faction a group of people who share a viewpoint on an issue the north, including Texas. General Cos's mission was to enforce Santa Anna's law and put down any rebellion. Cos sent Captain Antonio Tenorio to Anahuac to complete the fort begun by Bradburn, resume the collection of customs duties, and watch the actions of the Texans.

Trouble in Anahuac began again. Two Texans were arrested for not showing respect to Tenorio. Meetings were held and Texans learned that their state government had been overthrown and the governor imprisoned. Concerned that their rights were being violated, a group of Texans met in Harrisburg. They decided to expel Tenorio and his men from Anahuac. They chose William B. Travis, who had been involved in the first conflict at Anahuac, as their leader.

Travis assembled about 25 men. They traveled to Anahuac by schooner and fired a signal shot to announce their arrival. Many Texans disagreed with Travis's aggressive actions. They were concerned that another battle might begin. However, Tenorio and his soldiers surrendered quickly and agreed to leave Texas.

War and Peace Parties

The next day, Travis brought Tenorio and his men westward under guard. When Travis reached Harrisburg, he found the people celebrating America's Fourth of July holiday. Tenorio and his men were treated as honored guests by the local settlers. By contrast, the Texans who guarded the prisoners were treated with disrespect. In doing this, the Texas settlers hoped to show their loyalty to Mexico and their disgust with Travis's actions.

This event suggests that Texans, whether Anglos or Tejanos, had not yet agreed on what to do about Santa Anna and centralism. Supporters of a free Texas, such as Travis, William Wharton, Robert M. "Three-Legged Willie" Williamson, and Henry Smith, among others, had already decided that armed resistance, and perhaps complete independence, should be the goal for Texas. Those who agreed were called the "war party." Those who favored a wait-and-see policy were termed the "peace party." These two factions were not defined political parties but rather people who shared an opinion on how to deal with the government. The factions would later become even more divided.

Centralist Reaction

Despite their welcome in Harrisburg, Tenorio's men were marched to San Antonio. Cos demanded that Travis and others be arrested and turned over to him. He also called for the arrest of Lorenzo de Zavala, a Mexican opponent of Santa Anna who had fled to Texas for safety. Although many Texans disapproved of the treatment Tenorio had received, none would agree to allow Travis or the others to be arrested.

As the dispute between Cos and the Texans continued, Stephen F. Austin returned to Texas from prison. The colonists looked to him for

advice on how to handle the situation. Before his arrest, Austin had made a sincere effort to become a loyal citizen of Mexico. However, he began to view things differently while he was in prison. He began to see that the differences between the Mexican government and the Texans could not be settled peacefully. After his release, he urged Texans to take action.

TEXAS VOICES

War is our only recourse. There is no other remedy. We must defend our rights, ourselves, and our country by force of arms.

Stephen F. Austin, speech

Cos and a small army of soldiers moved to San Antonio, prepared to enforce the arrests of the Texans. On the way, Colonel Ugartechea reminded Cos that the citizens of Gonzales held a six-pound cannon. It had been provided to empresario Green DeWitt by the Mexican government for defense against Native Americans. Ugartechea sent an army patrol to seize it. His decision resulted in the first armed conflict of the Texas Revolution.

The Battle of Gonzales

When the Mexican patrol reached Gonzales, Alcalde Andrew Ponton refused to give up the cannon without written orders. The patrol withdrew across the river while awaiting the written order. The Texans used this time to bury the cannon and prepare for the soldiers' return.

Word spread in the area that the Mexican soldiers planned to return from San Antonio and take the cannon. In response, about 160 settlers

DME AND TAKE IT



After his release from prison, Stephen F. Austin began to call for war with Mexico. • How might his being in prison have helped Austin change his opinion on war?

Mexican officials demanded that the Texans at Gonzales return the tiny cannon to them. The Texans responded with the "Come and Take It" flag. • What is the importance of the fight that took place as a result?





Texans resorted to distributing posters to gather support from others. • What parts or phrases of the poster are particularly effective?

<mark>siege</mark> a lengthy military attack on a fortified place rallied in Gonzales and elected J. H. Moore as their leader. They dug up the cannon and prepared to use it when the Mexican soldiers returned. Near the cannon they flew a banner inscribed with the words *Come And Take It* to show their defiance of the order.

Lieutenant Francisco Castañeda led 100 men to Gonzales to take the cannon. They arrived on September 29 and, seeing the armed Texans, waited on the other side of the Guadalupe River. On October 2 Moore's men crossed the river and fired the tiny but loud cannon at the Mexican soldiers. Castañeda ordered his troops to retreat to San Antonio. This battle showed that the

Texans were becoming more defiant toward the Mexican government and more willing to use military force if necessary.

The Army of the People

When Texans learned about the soldiers in Gonzales, volunteers poured into the area, prepared to fight. When they arrived, the battle was already over. Ready for battle, the Texans decided to continue on to San Antonio to drive the Mexican soldiers out of Texas for good.

Meanwhile, Cos continued his march to San Antonio. Along the way he sent 30 soldiers to Goliad to guard the Mexican fort there. A group of about 50 Texans led by George Collingsworth attacked the fort. After a brief fight, the Mexican soldiers surrendered. This short battle was important to the Texans for two reasons. First, it convinced the Texans that the Mexican army could be defeated easily. Second, the Texans' control of Goliad cut off a major supply route for the Mexican army.

In October 1835 nearly 300 Texans at Gonzales organized themselves into the Army of the People. They elected Stephen F. Austin as their commander. Austin had been a respected leader in Texas for a decade, but he did not have any military experience. Still, Austin led the force to attack Cos in San Antonio. Along the way more volunteers joined the settlers, and the army numbered close to 600 by the time it reached San Antonio. When the Texans arrived in San Antonio, a brief fight broke out near Mission Concepción. The Mexican troops retreated farther into San Antonio, and the Texans began a month-long siege of the city. As these troops remained in San Antonio, other colonists met to discuss the changing situation in Texas.

MAJOR EVENTS OF 1835				
October	November	December		
 2 Battle of Gonzales begins 12 Army of the People heads for San Antonio 28 Battle of Concepción breaks out 	 3 The Consultation meets 7 Consultation adopts the "Declaration of the People in Texas in General Convention Assembled" 	5 Texans attack San Antonio 10 General Cos surrenders		
▲Notice how the events in 1835 signaled the arrival of the Texas Revolution. • What events led to the attack on San Antonio?				

The Consultation

With the Army of the People in San Antonio, delegates gathered at San Felipe for a meeting called the Consultation. The delegates met to decide what action the Texans should take. The meeting began on November 4, 1835. Settlers who belonged to the war party urged the delegates to declare independence from Mexico. Those who were part of the peace party wanted to remain loyal to Mexico but fight Santa Anna in support of the Constitution of 1824.

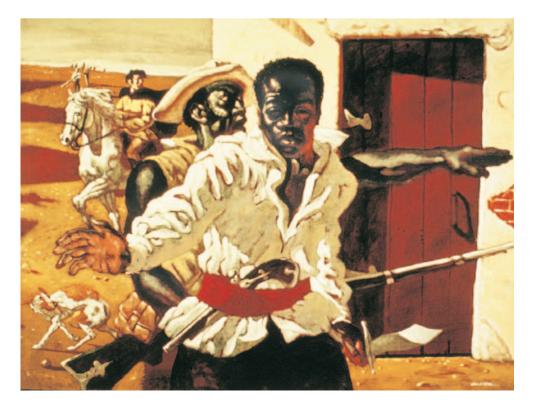
On November 6, 1835, the Consultation voted against an immediate declaration of independence by a vote of 33 to 15. The next day they adopted the "Declaration of the People in Texas in General Convention Assembled," which stated that they continued to be loyal citizens of Mexico. They declared that they had fought only to protect themselves and to stand up for the Constitution of 1824. They also encouraged other loyal Mexicans to join them in their fight for the Constitution of 1824.

Finally, the delegates set up a **provisional government** in Texas. They chose Henry Smith as governor. They decided to meet again on March 1, 1836, to make a decision about Texas's independence.

The Consultation also asked Stephen F. Austin and revolutionaries Branch T. Archer and William Wharton to set out on a mission to the United States to raise troops and money for their cause. Austin's departure elevated Edward Burleson to the command at San Antonio. The delegates appointed Sam Houston as overall commander of their military forces.

The Attack on San Antonio

Meanwhile, the siege of San Antonio dragged on, and the Texan army began to drift away. Many of the men were farmers or ranchers who had work to do at home. Since no fighting was taking place, they returned home to their work and families. To make matters worse, the



provisional government a

group of people who make laws and provide services on a temporary basis



Hendrick Arnold, a mixed race man from Austin's colony, was an expert scout, valued for his skills and bravery. Officers postponed the attack on San Antonio because one division refused to march until Arnold could be present. Arnold also served as a spy at the Battle of San Jacinto. He later operated a mill in San Antonio. • What does the postponement of the attack show about Arnold?

 Hendrick Arnold and Greenbury Logan played prominent roles at the Battle of San Antonio.
 What action did the Battle of San Antonio lead to?



Erastus "Deaf" Smith, who lost his hearing in childhood, came to Texas in 1821. He married Guadalupe Ruiz Durán and settled in DeWitt's colony near Gonzales. Although severely wounded in the attack on San Antonio, he continued to serve as a valued spy. In



1836 he carried William B. Travis's letter from the Alamo. The war was hard on Smith, who died in 1837. His daughter married Hendrick Arnold. Travis called Smith "the Bravest of the Brave in the cause of Texas." • Why were spies so highly valued during this time? Texans humiliated themselves at what became known as the Grass Fight. On November 26 Erastus "Deaf" Smith, one of Burleson's scouts, brought news that Mexican soldiers were bringing horses and mules to San Antonio. The Texans suspected that the mules were carrying silver,

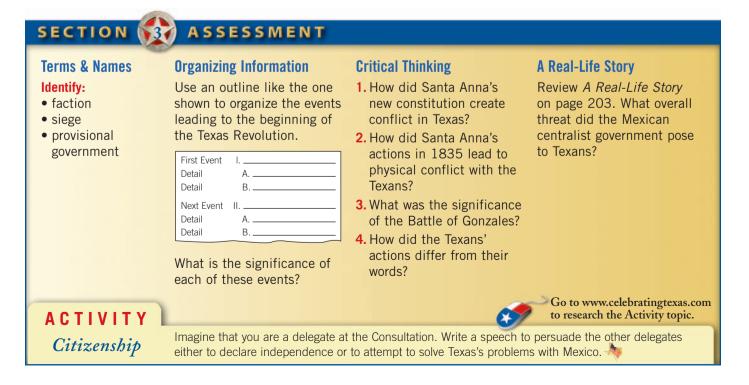
> which Cos intended to give to his soldiers as payment. However, when the Texans attacked, they discovered that the mules were carrying only grass to feed the Mexicans' hungry horses.

> Almost ready to give up, the Texans received some encouraging news. They learned that Cos's troops were in great confusion and low on supplies. Ben Milam rose at a meeting and asked, "Who will go into San Antonio with old Ben Milam?" About 300 of the 500 men were ready to fight, and on December 5 they launched their attack.

> Hendrick Arnold, a mixed-race free man, led Milam's divi-

sion into battle and was later praised for his service during the battle. Milam was among the first men to fall, and he later died of his wounds. Fighting proved to be fierce. A free African American, Greenbury Logan, fell shortly after Milam. He suffered injuries that left him disabled. As casualties and injuries increased on both sides, the battle raged on for five days.

The fighting finally stopped when Cos hoisted a white flag of surrender. The Mexican general agreed to give the Texans all the money, supplies, arms, and property held by the Mexicans in San Antonio. He also pledged to never again oppose the Constitution of 1824. In exchange, Cos was permitted to lead his surviving soldiers out of Texas. Once again, Texans thought that the crisis had ended. But Santa Anna had other ideas. He immediately began gathering an army south of the Rio Grande to deal with the Texas revolutionaries.



SKILL BUILDER

Social Studies

Reading a Time Line

LEARNING the Skill

A time line provides a brief and chronological summary of events for a specific time period. It can also show a relationship between events. Time lines may be divided into decades, years, months, or even days. Each segment on a time line represents an equal period of time.

To read a time line, use the following steps:

- Identify the time period the time line covers. What year, month, or day does it start? When does it end? What span of time does the time line show?
- Determine what time period each segment represents. What is the time span between each tick mark?
- Examine the sequence of events in chronological order. How much time elapsed between events?
- Analyze the relationships between each event. Is there a cause-andeffect relationship between them?

PRACTICING the Skill

Study the time line below. Then answer the questions that follow.

MAJOR EVENTS OF 1835						
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- 1. What time period does the time line cover?
- 2. How much time passes between each tick mark?
- **3.** When does the Battle of Gonzales take place in relation to the other events on the time line?
- **4.** What occurred at the Consultation that made the attack on San Antonio possible?
- **5.** What event do you think contributed to the organization of the Army of the People? How?

APPLYING the Skill

Create a time line for Section 1 of this chapter. In chronological order, plot Haden Edwards's arrival in Texas, the Fredonian Rebellion, Mier y Terán's visit to Texas, and the passing of the Law of April 6, 1830. Use the steps in *Learning the Skill* to help you organize your time line. Then exchange time lines with a partner. Using the questions in *Practicing the Skill* as models, take turns asking each other questions that can be answered by reading your time lines.

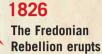
CHAPTER



ASSESSMENT

VISUAL SUMMARY

The Road to Revolution



1830 Mexico passes Law of April 6, 1830



Colonists and Mexican troops clash at Anahuac

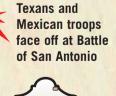
1833

Stephen F. Austin imprisoned

1835

The Battle of Gonzales fought

1835



TERMS & NAMES

Explain the significance of each of the following:

- 1. Constitution of 1824
- 2. Fredonian Rebellion
- 3. Law of April 6, 1830
- 4. Antonio López de Santa Anna
- **5.** Turtle Bayou Resolutions
- **6.** Conventions of 1832 and 1833
- 7. Martín Perfecto de Cos
- 8. William B. Travis
- 9. Battle of Gonzales
- 10. Battle of San Antonio

REVIEW QUESTIONS

Tensions Mount Between Mexico

and Texas (pages 192–197)

- 1. What two factors led to the beginning conflicts between Texas colonists and Mexican leaders?
- 2. What conclusions did Mier y Terán make about the conditions in Texas?

A Bitter Division Evolves

(pages 198–204)

- **3.** Why were the colonists upset by the presence of Mexican troops in Texas?
- **4.** What led Mexican officials to arrest Stephen F. Austin?

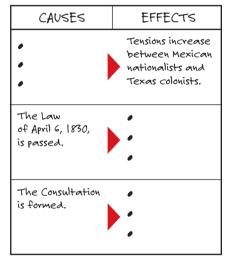
The Conflict Escalates

(pages 205–210)

- **5.** Why did the colonists in Texas change their opinion of Santa Anna?
- **6.** What decision did the delegates at the Consultation make concerning Texas's relationship with Mexico?

READING SOCIAL STUDIES *After You Read*

Review your completed cause-andeffect chart. Which events had the greatest impact on relations between Texas and Mexico?



CRITICAL THINKING *Making Inferences*

 Describe the reaction of colonists to the Fredonian Rebellion. Who did most colonists side with? Why?

Supporting a Point of View

2. What was the colonists' purpose for writing the Turtle Bayou Resolutions? What did they hope to accomplish?

Making a Hypothesis

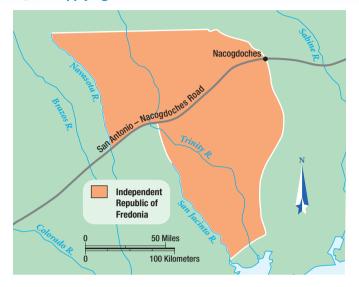
3. What impact did the Texans' victory at San Antonio have on future events? What might have changed if the Mexican troops had won this battle?

Comparing Information

4. Compare the causes of the Texas Revolution and the American Revolution.



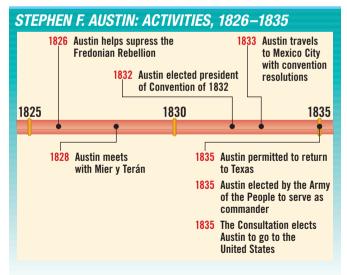
MAP & GEOGRAPHY SKILLS Applying Skills



- 1. Haden Edwards's colony briefly became the Independent Republic of Fredonia in 1826. Which physical features formed its western border?
- 2. Why would a road such as the San Antonio– Nacogdoches Road be valuable for a colony such as the one led by Haden Edwards?

SOCIAL STUDIES SKILLBUILDER

Reading a Time Line



- 1. What time period does the time line cover?
- **2.** How many years does each tick mark represent?
- **3.** How did Austin's release from prison affect the events that followed?



CHAPTER PROJECT

Class Debate As a class, divide into two groups of similar size, one supporting states' rights and one supporting centralism. Working with your group, create arguments that defend your view of government. List specific examples from the events preceding the Texas Revolution to support your point of view. Then hold a class debate on states' rights versus centralism. Which side presents the most persuasive argument?



SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & SOCIETY

Sending Messages When the colonists in Texas wrote the Turtle Bayou Resolutions or requested changes during the Conventions of 1832 and 1833, they had to deliver their resolutions in person. Stephen F. Austin traveled over 1,000 miles to present the requested changes to Mexican leaders. Colonists had to wait for long periods before receiving responses to their requests. Today, messages can be sent by e-mail, faxes, and videoconferencing, and responses can be received within minutes. In your Texas Notebook, explain how the events leading to the Texas Revolution might have been different had today's technologies been available at that time.



CITIZENSHIP ACTIVITY

War and Peace Parties Before the Texas Revolution began, some Texans adopted

different views about the status of their Mexican citizenship. Two groups that resulted from these views were the war party and the peace party. Create a chart comparing and contrasting the goals of the war party and the peace party. Include a comparison of how each group viewed their Mexican citizenship. Then design propaganda such as a flyer, poster, banner, or slogan, to model one party's views. Display completed products. As a class, review the items. Determine which party each item supports.