

Two Governments, Texas

Compare who held power in Texas under Spain and early Mexico.

4.12.B "compare characteristics of the Spanish colonial government and the early Mexican governments in Texas."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details about Spanish colonial government, circle details about early Mexican government, and put a star by details that describe both. These marks will help you compare the two governments.

Who Governed Texas?

- ① Under Spanish rule, Texas was part of a colony ruled for the king of Spain. The king chose officials, including the governor, who carried out laws sent from Spain. The Catholic Church was closely connected to the government. At presidios and missions, soldiers and priests helped Spanish officials control and settle the region of Texas.
- ② After Mexico gained independence from Spain in 1821, its leaders formed a new government. The Constitution of 1824 made Mexico a federal republic. Texas became part of the state of Coahuila y Tejas. A state legislature met in Saltillo and made many laws. Texans elected representatives to local town councils and to the state legislature, though voting was limited to some adult men.
- ③ Both governments used governors, laws, and local town councils to manage Texas. In each period, local leaders handled nearby needs, but higher officials had more power. The main difference was where authority began. Spanish officials answered to a monarch in Spain. Early Mexican government used a constitution and elected representatives in a federal republic, while Texas belonged to the state of Coahuila y Tejas.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How was the top source of authority different under Spanish rule and early Mexican rule?

2 Name one characteristic that Spanish and early Mexican governments both used in Texas.

3 Compare how officials or representatives were chosen in the two periods.

4 What was Texas's political position under Spanish rule and under early Mexican government?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Complete the comparison table. Use a different government feature in each row, and show how Spanish colonial government and early Mexican government were alike or different.

GOVERNMENT FEATURE	SPANISH COLONIAL GOVERNMENT	EARLY MEXICAN GOVERNMENT

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline details about Spanish colonial government, circle details about early Mexican government, and put a star by details that describe both. These marks will help you compare the two governments. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How was the top source of authority different under Spanish rule and early Mexican rule?	Spanish officials answered to the king of Spain. Early Mexican government used a constitution and elected representatives in a federal republic.
2	Name one characteristic that Spanish and early Mexican governments both used in Texas.	Both used governors, laws, or local town councils to manage Texas.
3	Compare how officials or representatives were chosen in the two periods.	Under Spain, the king chose officials, including the governor. Under early Mexico, Texans elected representatives to town councils and the state legislature.
4	What was Texas's political position under Spanish rule and under early Mexican government?	Under Spain, Texas was part of a colony ruled for the king of Spain. Under Mexico, Texas was part of the state of Coahuila y Tejas.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

GOVERNMENT FEATURE	SPANISH COLONIAL GOVERNMENT	EARLY MEXICAN GOVERNMENT
Source of authority	King of Spain	Constitution and elected representatives
Texas's political position	A colony ruled for Spain	Part of Coahuila y Tejas
Choosing leaders	The king chose officials, including the governor	Texans elected representatives to councils and the state legislature

Accept equivalent comparisons supported by the passage. For the table, each row should name a distinct feature and accurately describe both governments.