

Texas Government Choices

Compare leadership and decision-making in early Texas.

4.12 "Government. The student understands how people organized governments in different ways during the early development of Texas. The student is expected to: compare how various American Indian groups such as the Caddo and the Comanche..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB As you read, underline details about Caddo and Comanche government, circle details about Spanish colonial government, and put a box around details about early Mexican government. Use your marks to compare who had power and how decisions were made.

Four Ways of Governing

- ① Before Europeans claimed Texas, American Indian groups governed in different ways. Caddo people lived in settled villages. A chief, often from a leading family, worked with council members to guide the community. Comanche people lived in smaller, mobile bands. Band leaders earned influence through skill and trust. Important choices were discussed by the group, rather than directed by one inherited chief.
- ② Under Spanish colonial rule, the king of Spain held the highest power. He appointed officials, including the governor of Texas, to carry out Spanish laws. Local communities had town councils, but colonial officials answered to the king. Spanish leaders also supported Catholic missions. The government aimed to control land, trade, settlement, and defense in the colony, and maintain order.
- ③ Mexico won independence from Spain in 1821. In early Mexican Texas, the 1824 constitution created a federal system. Texas was joined with Coahuila in the state of Coahuila y Tejas. A state governor and legislature made many state decisions, while a national government handled larger issues. Local ayuntamientos, or town councils, managed town matters. Unlike Spain, Mexico was not ruled by a king.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How was a Caddo chief different from a Comanche band leader?

2 How did decision making differ between the Caddo and the Comanche?

3 Compare the highest authority in Spanish colonial Texas with the leaders in early Mexican Texas.

4 Give one way Spanish colonial government and early Mexican government were alike and one way they were different.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Complete the table to compare the four ways of governing described in the passage. Write one row for the Caddo, Comanche, Spanish colonial Texas, and early Mexican Texas.

GROUP OR GOVERNMENT	WHO HAD POWER?	HOW WERE DECISIONS GUIDED OR MADE?

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

As you read, underline details about Caddo and Comanche government, circle details about Spanish colonial government, and put a box around details about early Mexican government. Use your marks to compare who had power and how decisions were made. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How was a Caddo chief different from a Comanche band leader?	A Caddo chief was often from a leading family. A Comanche band leader earned influence through skill and trust.
2	How did decision making differ between the Caddo and the Comanche?	A Caddo chief worked with council members to guide the community. Comanche people discussed important choices as a group.
3	Compare the highest authority in Spanish colonial Texas with the leaders in early Mexican Texas.	Spain was ruled by a king, who appointed officials such as the governor. Early Mexican Texas had a state governor and legislature, along with a national government, and no king.
4	Give one way Spanish colonial government and early Mexican government were alike and one way they were different.	Both had local town councils. Spanish colonial officials answered to the king, while early Mexican Texas was part of a federal system with state and national governments.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

GROUP OR GOVERNMENT	WHO HAD POWER?	HOW WERE DECISIONS GUIDED OR MADE?
Caddo	A chief from a leading family and council members	The chief and council guided the village.
Comanche	Band leaders with earned influence	The group discussed important choices.
Spanish colonial Texas	The king and officials he appointed	Officials carried out Spanish laws and answered to the king.
Early Mexican Texas	State leaders, national leaders, and town councils	State and national governments handled different decisions, and town councils managed town matters.

Accept accurate paraphrases supported by the passage. For the table, accept equivalent descriptions that clearly distinguish inherited Caddo leadership, earned Comanche influence, Spanish royal control, and Mexico's federal system.