

New Nation Challenges

Read closely to sort successes, problems, and organizations in the Republic of Texas.

4.3.D "describe the successes, problems, and organizations of the Republic of Texas such as the establishment of a constitution, economic struggles, relations with American Indians, and the Texas Rangers; and"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline statements that describe a success, circle statements that describe a problem, and number each organization or government system you find. These marks will help you explain how the Republic of Texas worked and what challenges it faced.

Building the Republic of Texas

- ① In 1836, Texas won independence from Mexico and became the Republic of Texas. Delegates wrote a constitution that explained how the new government would work. Texans elected a president and a Congress. The constitution was a success because it gave the republic rules and leaders. Yet building a new nation was hard while many people were still moving to Texas.
- ② The republic had serious money problems. Its government owed debts from the war, but it did not collect enough taxes to pay them. Texas printed its own paper money, called redbacks, but many people did not trust it. The value fell, so buying supplies cost more. Leaders tried to borrow money and sell public land, but the economic struggle continued.
- ③ Relations with American Indian groups were often tense. Some Texas leaders made treaties with groups such as the Cherokee, but settlers and soldiers also fought over land. The Texas Rangers, mounted volunteers who guarded settlements and carried messages, became an important organization. Rangers sometimes fought American Indians and Mexican forces. Their work could protect settlers, but conflict made life dangerous.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did the constitution help the new Republic of Texas?

2 Describe two economic problems the Republic of Texas faced.

3 What does the passage show about relations between Texas and American Indian groups?

4 What was one job of the Texas Rangers, and why could their work be dangerous?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Imagine you are a young citizen writing a three-sentence note to a Republic of Texas leader. Name one success, one problem, and one organization or government system, then explain how that organization or system could help with the problem.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline statements that describe a success, circle statements that describe a problem, and number each organization or government system you find. These marks will help you explain how the Republic of Texas worked and what challenges it faced. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the constitution help the new Republic of Texas?	It gave the republic rules and leaders, and it explained how the new government would work.
2	Describe two economic problems the Republic of Texas faced.	The government owed war debts and did not collect enough taxes. Also, people did not trust redbacks, so their value fell and supplies cost more.
3	What does the passage show about relations between Texas and American Indian groups?	Relations were often tense. Some leaders made treaties, including with the Cherokee, but settlers and soldiers also fought over land.
4	What was one job of the Texas Rangers, and why could their work be dangerous?	Rangers guarded settlements or carried messages. Their work could be dangerous because they sometimes fought American Indians and Mexican forces.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our constitution gives Texas rules and leaders. The republic has debts and paper money that people do not trust. Congress could make plans to collect taxes and pay the debts.

Accept accurate three-sentence responses that name a passage-based success, problem, and organization or government system. The explanation should reasonably connect the named organization or system to helping address the problem.