

Texas Turning Points

Trace how key dates changed Texas government, borders, and economy.

7.1.B “explain the significance of the following dates: 1519, mapping of the Texas coast and first mainland Spanish settlement; 1718, founding of San Antonio; 1821, independence from Spain; 1836, Texas independence; 1845, annexation; 1861...”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle each date. Underline the words that explain why the event at that date mattered to Texas or to Spain's presence in North America.

Dates That Changed Texas

- ① In 1519, Spanish explorer Alonso Álvarez de Pineda sailed along and mapped the Texas coast. His map gave Spain useful knowledge for claiming and traveling near this shore. That same year, Spain established Veracruz, an early mainland settlement and Mexico's first Spanish municipality, showing that Spanish colonization was moving beyond Caribbean islands. In 1718, Spain founded San Antonio by creating a mission and a presidio, or military fort. This settlement helped Spain defend its northern border and spread its influence in Texas.
- ② In 1821, Mexico won independence from Spain. Texas, then part of Mexico, was no longer ruled by Spain. This change placed Texas under Mexican laws and leaders. In 1836, during the Texas Revolution, Texas declared independence from Mexico. The new Republic of Texas governed itself for nearly ten years. In 1845, the United States annexed Texas, making it a state. Annexation changed Texas from an independent republic into part of the United States and increased tensions over slavery.
- ③ In 1861, the Civil War began, and Texas left the United States to join the Confederate States. The war's outcome ended slavery and required Texas to rebuild its government before returning to the Union. In 1876, Texans adopted the state constitution that remains in effect today. It set up the structure and limits of state government. In 1901, oil was discovered at Spindletop near Beaumont. The huge gusher launched an oil boom, bringing jobs, businesses, and major economic change to Texas.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Why was 1519 significant to Spain's presence in North America?

2 Explain how Texas's political connection changed in 1821 and then in 1836.

3 What changed for Texas in 1845, and what did Texas do in 1861?

4 How did the events of 1876 and 1901 affect different parts of Texas life?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose two dates from the passage. Write four or five sentences that explain how each event changed Texas, including whether it changed government, political control, or economic life.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle each date. Underline the words that explain why the event at that date mattered to Texas or to Spain's presence in North America. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why was 1519 significant to Spain's presence in North America?	Pineda's map gave Spain knowledge of the Texas coast for claiming and traveling there, and Veracruz showed that Spanish colonization was moving beyond Caribbean islands.
2	Explain how Texas's political connection changed in 1821 and then in 1836.	In 1821, Texas stopped being ruled by Spain and became part of independent Mexico. In 1836, Texas declared independence from Mexico and became the Republic of Texas.
3	What changed for Texas in 1845, and what did Texas do in 1861?	In 1845, Texas changed from an independent republic into a United States state. In 1861, Texas left the United States and joined the Confederate States.
4	How did the events of 1876 and 1901 affect different parts of Texas life?	The 1876 constitution set up the structure and limits of state government. The 1901 Spindletop discovery changed the economy through an oil boom that brought jobs and businesses.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In 1836, Texas declared independence from Mexico and became the Republic of Texas. This changed who governed Texas. In 1901, the Spindletop discovery began an oil boom near Beaumont. This changed Texas's economy by bringing jobs, businesses, and major economic change.

Accept accurate explanations that connect each chosen date to a change described in the passage. Students may choose any two dates, as long as they identify both dates and explain each event's significance.