

Texas Joins Union

Trace the causes and events that led to Texas annexation.

7.4.B “analyze the causes of and events leading to Texas annexation such as security and public debt; and”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline phrases that explain why Texans or U.S. leaders supported or hesitated about annexation. Then number the events that led toward annexation in time order.

Why Annexation Happened

- ① When Texas won independence from Mexico in 1836, it became the Republic of Texas. Mexico did not accept Texas independence and warned that it still claimed the territory. Texans worried about a Mexican attack, especially after raids and military threats along the border. Leaders believed joining the United States could bring the protection of the U.S. Army and greater safety. This security concern was one major cause that pushed many Texans to support annexation, or becoming part of the United States.
- ② The young republic also carried a heavy public debt. Texas had borrowed money to fight for independence and to run its new government. By the 1840s, its debt totaled about \$10 million, a large sum for the republic. Some Texans thought annexation would connect Texas to a stronger national economy and make it easier to deal with financial problems. Yet debt also made United States leaders cautious. They debated whether taking Texas would add financial burdens. In 1837, President Martin Van Buren refused Texas's first annexation request.
- ③ Annexation returned to national debate in 1844, when President John Tyler supported it. Some U.S. opponents feared that adding Texas could lead to war with Mexico. Others argued that Texas needed security. In early 1845, the U.S. Congress passed a joint resolution offering annexation. The offer said Texas could enter as a state and keep its public lands, which could help it manage its debt. Texas accepted the offer later that year. On December 29, 1845, Texas became the twenty-eighth state.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What security problem made many Texans favor annexation? Give one detail from the passage.

2 How did Texas's public debt affect the annexation debate in the United States?

3 What happened in 1837, and how did that event affect Texas annexation?

4 How did the 1845 joint resolution address Texas's financial concern?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly three sentences explaining how security and public debt shaped Texas annexation. Include one event from 1837, 1844, or 1845, and explain how that event moved annexation forward or delayed it.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline phrases that explain why Texans or U.S. leaders supported or hesitated about annexation. Then number the events that led toward annexation in time order. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What security problem made many Texans favor annexation? Give one detail from the passage.	Mexico still claimed Texas, and Texans feared Mexican attacks, raids, and military threats along the border.
2	How did Texas's public debt affect the annexation debate in the United States?	Some U.S. leaders worried that annexing Texas would add financial burdens, so debt made them cautious.
3	What happened in 1837, and how did that event affect Texas annexation?	President Martin Van Buren refused Texas's first annexation request, delaying annexation.
4	How did the 1845 joint resolution address Texas's financial concern?	It offered Texas statehood while allowing Texas to keep its public lands, which could help Texas manage its debt.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Fear of Mexican attacks made many Texans think statehood would provide needed military protection. Public debt made some U.S. leaders hesitate because they did not want new financial burdens. Congress's 1845 joint resolution moved annexation forward by offering Texas statehood while allowing it to keep public lands that could help manage debt.

Accept equivalent explanations that connect security fears and public debt to support for or hesitation about annexation. For the open response, check for exactly three sentences, both causes, a correct dated event, and a clear explanation of its effect.