

Statehood Crossroads

Track people, events, and issues that shaped early Texas.

7.4.C “identify individuals, events, and issues during early Texas statehood, including the U.S.- Mexican War, the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo, slavery, and the Compromise of 1850.”

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle each named individual, underline each event or agreement, and put a star beside each sentence that describes an issue or an effect on people.

Texas Faces New Conflicts

- ① Texas entered the United States in 1845, and a dispute soon grew over its southern border. Texas claimed the Rio Grande, while Mexico said the border was the Nueces River. President James K. Polk sent U.S. troops into the disputed area. Fighting began in 1846, starting the U.S.-Mexican War. Texans served in the war, while people in Texas watched armies and supplies move through their communities. The border dispute helped turn an argument between nations into a larger conflict.
- ② The war ended with the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848. Mexico recognized the Rio Grande as Texas's border and gave the United States a vast area of land in the West. The treaty changed life for many people. Mexicans living in the ceded land became U.S. residents, and the treaty promised that their property rights would be respected. Still, many faced discrimination and lost land through unfair claims or legal battles. The treaty reshaped both the border and the lives of families.
- ③ Slavery was a major issue during early statehood. Enslaved people were forced to work on cotton farms in eastern Texas and had no freedom to make choices about their own lives. As the United States gained western land, leaders argued about whether slavery could expand there. Senator Sam Houston supported the Compromise of 1850 because he wanted to preserve the Union. It admitted California as a free state and created new rules for western territories. It also strengthened the Fugitive Slave Act, which required officials and citizens to help capture escaped enslaved people. These debates increased conflict across the nation.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What action did President James K. Polk take before the U.S.-Mexican War began?

2 Give two ways the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo changed Texas or the lives of people living near its border.

3 Why was slavery an issue during early Texas statehood? Use one detail about enslaved people and one detail about western land.

4 What did the Compromise of 1850 do, and which part of it increased danger for escaped enslaved people?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly four sentences for a newspaper report dated 1850. Include one named individual, one event or agreement, and one issue from the passage, then explain one effect on people.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle each named individual, underline each event or agreement, and put a star beside each sentence that describes an issue or an effect on people. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What action did President James K. Polk take before the U.S.-Mexican War began?	He sent U.S. troops into the disputed area between the Rio Grande and the Nueces River.
2	Give two ways the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo changed Texas or the lives of people living near its border.	It recognized the Rio Grande as Texas's border. It also made Mexicans in the ceded land U.S. residents, though many later faced discrimination and land losses.
3	Why was slavery an issue during early Texas statehood? Use one detail about enslaved people and one detail about western land.	Enslaved people were forced to work and had no freedom over their own lives. Leaders argued about whether slavery could expand into western land gained by the United States.
4	What did the Compromise of 1850 do, and which part of it increased danger for escaped enslaved people?	It admitted California as a free state and made new rules for western territories. Its strengthened Fugitive Slave Act required officials and citizens to help capture escaped enslaved people.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In 1850, Texans were still discussing changes that followed the U.S.-Mexican War. President James K. Polk had sent troops into disputed land, helping start the fighting. The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo set the Rio Grande border, but many Mexicans in ceded land later faced discrimination and land losses. Slavery remained a major issue, and Senator Sam Houston supported the Compromise of 1850 to preserve the Union.

Accept equivalent descriptions that accurately connect an individual, event or agreement, and issue to early Texas statehood. For the newspaper report, require exactly four sentences and a supported effect on people.