

Texas at War

Trace causes, battles, and changes during Civil War Texas.

7.5 "History. The student understands how events and issues shaped the history of Texas during the Civil War and Reconstruction. The student is expected to: explain the central role the expansion of slavery played in the involvement of Texas in..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that explains why Texas joined the Confederacy. Circle the names of the three battles, then number one political effect, one economic effect, and one social effect in the last paragraph.

Texas, War, and Reconstruction

- ① Before the Civil War, Texas depended heavily on enslaved labor, especially on cotton plantations in the east. Many white Texans wanted slavery to expand into western territories because new slave states could protect their political power in Congress. After Abraham Lincoln was elected in 1860, they feared that the federal government would limit slavery's growth. Texas seceded from the United States in 1861 and joined the Confederacy. Although Texans had other concerns, the fight over slavery's expansion was the central reason Texas entered the war.
- ② Texas's coastline became important because Union forces tried to control ports and block Confederate trade. On January 1, 1863, Confederate troops and sailors retook Galveston from Union forces in the Battle of Galveston. On September 8, 1863, a small Confederate force at Sabine Pass captured two Union gunboats and turned back a larger invasion effort. The Battle of Palmito Ranch, fought May 12-13, 1865, ended in a Confederate victory near Brownsville. It was one of the war's last land battles, even after Confederate surrender elsewhere.
- ③ War and Reconstruction changed Texas politics, economy, and society. The Thirteenth Amendment ended slavery, forcing plantation owners to seek paid or sharecropping labor. War shortages and the Union blockade disrupted cotton sales and supplies, while cattle drives became more important. During Reconstruction, federal officials required Texas to write a new state constitution and protect civil rights before readmission to the Union in 1870. Freedpeople built families, churches, and schools, but many faced violence and discrimination as white resistance grew.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Why did the expansion of slavery play a central role in Texas joining the Confederacy?

2 How did the Battles of Galveston and Sabine Pass both limit Union control in Texas?

3 Why is the Battle of Palmito Ranch historically notable?

4 State one political, one economic, and one social effect of the Civil War and Reconstruction in Texas.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write four sentences for a museum label called *Texas Changes, 1861-1870*. Explain why Texas joined the Confederacy, describe one Civil War event, and explain political, economic, and social changes that followed.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that explains why Texas joined the Confederacy. Circle the names of the three battles, then number one political effect, one economic effect, and one social effect in the last paragraph. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why did the expansion of slavery play a central role in Texas joining the Confederacy?	Many white Texans wanted slavery to expand into western territories to protect their political power. They feared the federal government would limit slavery's growth.
2	How did the Battles of Galveston and Sabine Pass both limit Union control in Texas?	At Galveston, Confederate forces retook the port from Union forces. At Sabine Pass, Confederate forces captured two Union gunboats and turned back an invasion effort.
3	Why is the Battle of Palmito Ranch historically notable?	It was one of the Civil War's last land battles and ended in a Confederate victory near Brownsville, even after Confederate surrender elsewhere.
4	State one political, one economic, and one social effect of the Civil War and Reconstruction in Texas.	Political: Texas had to write a new constitution and protect civil rights before returning to the Union. Economic: the blockade disrupted cotton sales and supplies. Social: freedpeople built churches and schools but faced violence and discrimination.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Texas joined the Confederacy largely because many leaders wanted slavery to expand and feared federal limits. At Sabine Pass, a small Confederate force stopped a larger Union invasion attempt. Reconstruction changed politics when Texas had to protect civil rights to return to the Union. Cotton trade suffered during the war, and freedpeople created churches and schools while facing discrimination.

Accept equivalent descriptions that accurately connect Texas secession to protecting and expanding slavery. For the open response, look for all required parts and accurate use of at least one event and the three types of effects.