Reshaping America in the Early 1800s
Lesson 6.2 Texas and the Mexican-American War

Key Terms
Stephen F. Austin
Antonio López de Santa Anna
autonomy
Lone Star Republic
Alamo
Sam Houston
James K. Polk
Zachary Taylor
Winfield Scott

Texas Fights for Independence:
1. Analyze Interactions Among Individuals Name three groups or organizations that influenced the early settlement of Texas. Tell why each was influential.
2. Draw Inferences Why didn’t the people who settled Texas remain loyal to the Mexican government?
3. Draw Conclusions Why did General Santa Anna’s victory at the Alamo eventually lead to his defeat?
4. Cite Evidence Which of General Santa Anna’s positions and actions were particularly unpopular with Texans?

The Expansion Debate:
5. Identify Cause and Effect What did Sam Houston do to earn his position as the first president of Texas?
6. Explain Arguments Summarize the arguments for and against the annexation of Texas by the United States. Who supported and opposed this action?
7. Assess an Argument Do you think James K. Polk made the right decision to fight for land in Texas instead of near Oregon? Explain your position using evidence from the text.

The Mexican-American War:
8. Draw Conclusions Why did James K. Polk provoke a war with Mexico?
9. Cite Evidence What advantages did the United States have in the Mexican-American War? Cite evidence from the text.
10. Analyze Interactions Among Individuals, Events, and Ideas In what ways does the Mexican-American War connect with the much later Civil War?