

# 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?