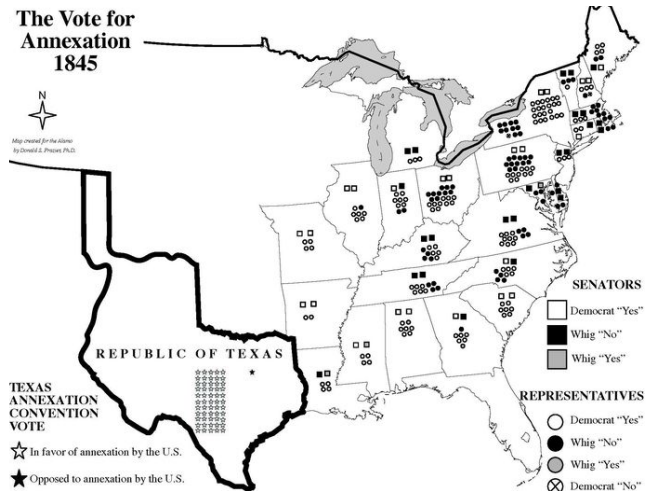


Prompt 6.9 - The Texas Annexation

Warm-up: Should all **immigration** (people moving to a country) be allowed?

Directions: Summarize each paragraph.

Did you know that Texas was its own country for ten years? The tale of Texas begins with Spain. Originally, Spain was against American immigration. However, since it was unable to convince its own citizens to move to Texas, it began inviting Americans to create profitable Spanish cities. Americans were drawn to Texas for its cheap and profitable land, well suited for growing cotton.



American businessman, Stephen Austin, was the first American settler who dreamed of starting a colony in Texas. In 1821, Spain granted Austin's request. However, when Austin arrived, Spain no longer owned Texas. Mexico had just declared its independence from Spain so Texas was now part of Mexico. Regardless, Mexican officials still let Austin start his colony—under certain conditions. The settlers had to promise to become Mexican citizens, obey Mexican laws, learn Spanish, and to join the Catholic Church. Austin agreed and began his colony.

The success of Austin's colony started a rush of Americans into Mexican Texas. By 1830, there were more than 5 times as many American "Texans" than Mexican "Tejanos". Tensions between the two groups began to rise. Many Texans were upset that they had to learn Spanish, convert to Catholicism, and follow Mexican laws. When Mexico had outlawed slavery, Americans refused to free their slaves and continued with slavery on their cotton plantations. The Tejanos had complaints as well. They were upset that Americans were now flooding into Texas illegally. Worse, most American immigrants showed little respect for Mexican culture and had no intention of becoming Mexican citizens.



Sadly, Mexico's freedom didn't last. Santa Anna, a Mexican General, took over Mexico's Republic and named himself **dictator** (King) for life. Santa Anna feared that The United State's desire for Manifest Destiny would include taking Texas. So, he closed the borders to Texas and sent soldiers to force the Texans to follow Mexican law.

Discussion: If you were Santa Anna, what would you have done about American immigration?

Texans and some Tejanos became outraged. Some even began calling for a revolution. Austin tried a more peaceful approach. He traveled to Santa Anna and asked him to **withdraw** (remove) his soldiers. When this failed, Austin wrote a letter calling for rebellion. Surprisingly, Santa Anna found the letter and threw Austin in jail. For some Texans, imprisoning Austin was too much.



Determined to stop a rebellion, Santa Anna marched his army to Texas. Near the city of San Antonio, Rebels had taken over an old **mission** (church) known as "The Alamo." Santa Anna demanded that they surrender but Texans, led by William Travis and Davy Crockett, answered with cannonfire. Santa Anna then raised a black flag, meaning "no mercy." He ordered his soldiers to surround the Alamo and, for 12 days, they pounded the Alamo with cannonballs. Santa Anna then gave the order to storm the fort. Desperately, Texans tried to stop the attackers with a hailstorm of rifle fire. However, Texans were outnumbered by at least ten to one. For 90 minutes the battle raged. In the end, the Alamo was defeated. After, Santa Anna ordered all the survivors to be shot on the spot. He described the battle as "but a small affair." But his decision to kill every man filled all Texans with rage; the revolution had begun.



Sam Houston, a Texan General, understood Texans' rage. He decided to lure Santa Anna's army deep into the Texan desert, hoping to make it harder for Santa Anna to supply his large army. The strategy worked brilliantly. Santa Anna's tired soldiers finally caught up with Houston near the San Jacinto River. Expecting the Texans to attack at **dawn** (morning), Santa Anna kept his troops awake all night. When no attack came, his weary soldiers relaxed and Santa Anna took a nap. Suddenly, Houston staged a surprise attack. Yelling "Remember the Alamo!" Texans overran the camp and captured Santa Anna. In exchange for his freedom, Santa Anna gave Texas independence. For ten years, Texas became its own country called "Lone Star Republic."



However, Texans were worried about Santa Anna's return. They asked to become part of the United States for protection, however, US senators were divided. Southerners wanted to add another slave state while northerners wanted to keep Texan slavery out. Others feared that annexation would anger Mexico. Henry Clay, warned, "Annexation and war with Mexico are identical." James K Polk, a believer in Manifest Destiny, didn't care. He was eager to acquire Texas and secretly eager for a war with Mexico. When Polk was elected President, Congress annexed Texas, making it the 28th state in the union.

Discussion: Was James K Polk **justified** (right) in **annexing** (taking) Texas? Explain.

Cooldown - Was **annexation** (taking Texas) **inevitable** (going to happen anyway) or was it Polk?



6.9 The Texas Annexation

Warm-up: Should there be any limits to immigration? If so, what kind?

Reading

As we read, highlight the answers to the questions.

[illegible]

Why did Americans go to Texas?



fineart
america

What deal did Austin make with Mexico?



What deal did Austin make with Mexico?



What deal did Austin make with Mexico?



What deal did Austin make with Mexico?



What deal did Austin make with Mexico?



How many more American Texans were there than Mexican Tejanos?



**How many more American Texans were
there than Mexican Tejanos?**

5:1



Why did many Texans and Tejanos not get along?



**How would you solve
Mexico's problem of
American illegal
immigration?**

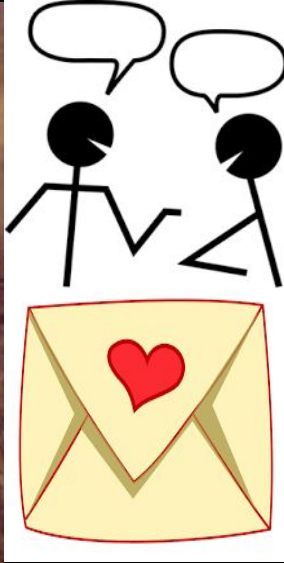
**What did Santa Anna decide to do?
Why?**



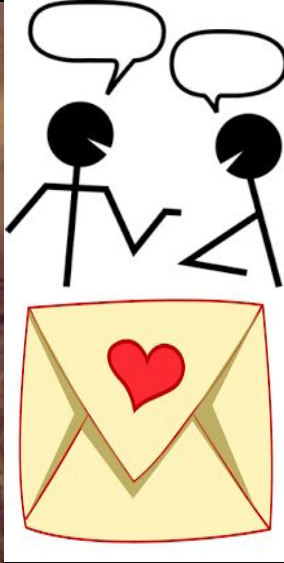
How did Austin respond to Santa Anna?



How did Austin respond to Santa Anna?



How did Austin respond to Santa Anna?



How did Texans respond to Santa Anna?



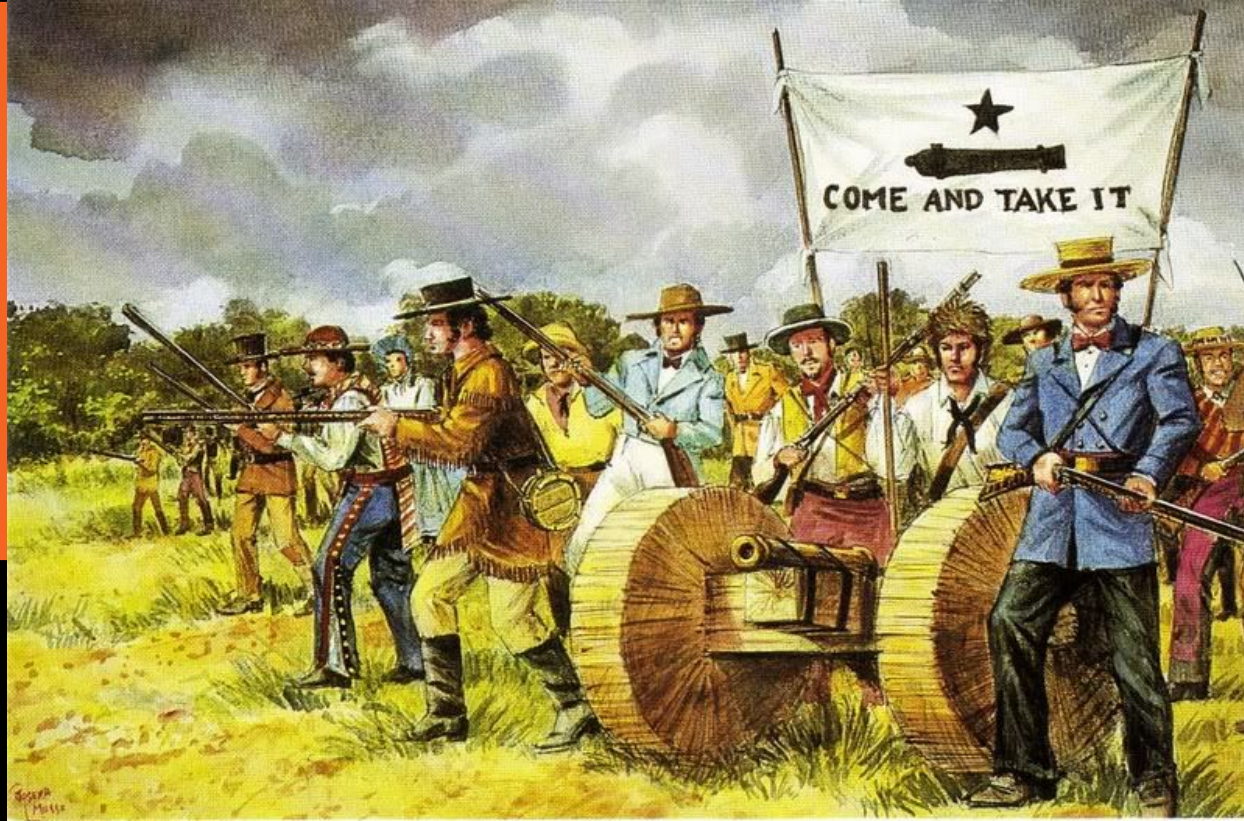
How did Texans respond to Santa Anna?



What happened at the Alamo?



What did the Alamo cause?



How did Houston defeat Santa Anna?



How did Houston defeat Santa Anna?



How did Houston defeat Santa Anna?



What happened to Texas?



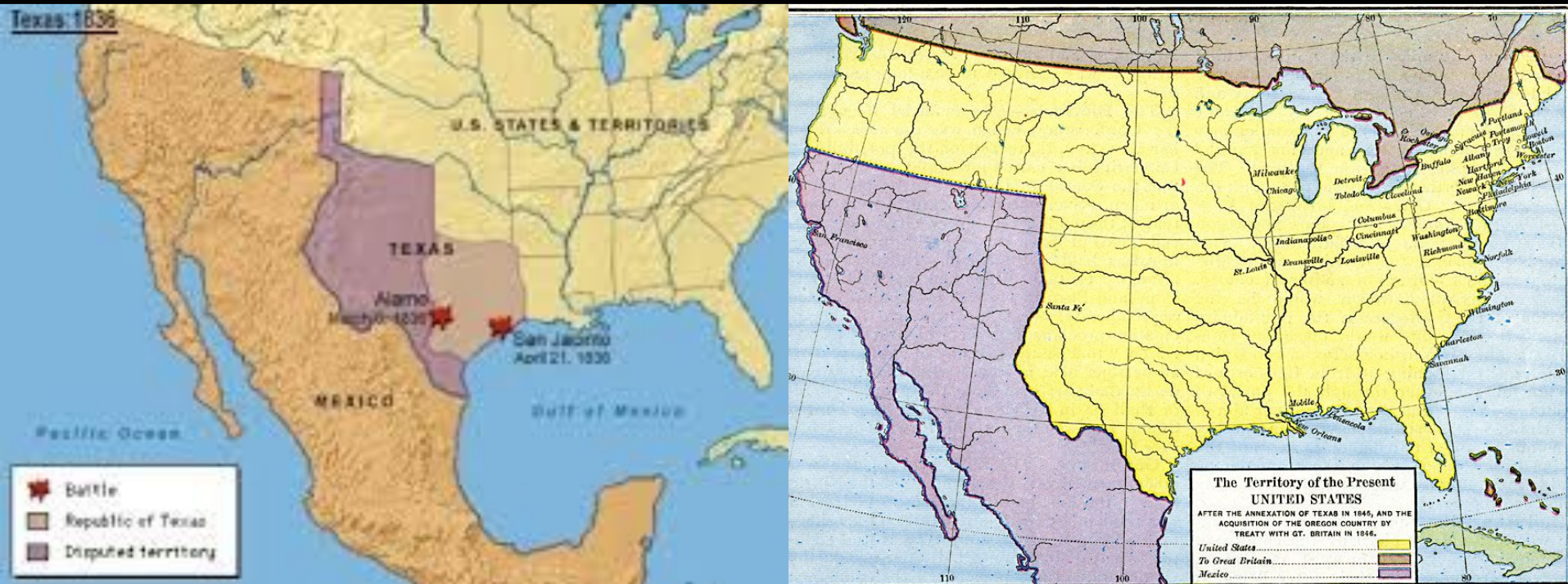
What did Texans want after independence? Why?



What did Texans want after independence? Why?



Why did some Senators fear annexing Texas?



Group Work

Compare your highlights and answer the questions on in the right column

Cooldown

Was Texas **justified** (okay) in **rebelling** against Mexico?

DBQ

Was The United States **justified** in **annexing** Texas?
