

Texas Independence Document Based Question

Read each document below and answer the questions that follow.
Afterward, you will write an essay on the topic in the box, using your prior knowledge and what you learned from the documents.

Question:

Based on the information read and prior knowledge, write a response either supporting or denying the following statement:

American settlers went into the settlement agreement with Mexico knowing they would become part of the United States.

Document 1

"A few years back Texas was a wilderness, the home of the uncivilized and wandering Comanche and other tribes of Indians, who waged a constant warfare against the Spanish settlements..."

"In order to restrain these savages and bring them into subjection, the government opened Texas for settlement. Foreign emigrants were invited and called to that country. American enterprise accepted the invitation and promptly responded to the call..."

"The colonization laws of 1823', 24', and '25, inviting emigrants generally to that country, especially guaranteed protection for person and property, and the right of citizenship."

Address of the honorable S.F. Austin at Louisville, Kentucky, March 7, 1836.

1. Why were Americans invited to live in Texas?
2. What was promised to the Americans who were to move into Texas?

Document 2

"But not possessing at that time sufficient population to become a state by herself, she was with her own consent, united provisionally with Coahuila, a neighboring province or society, to form the state of COAHUILA AND TEXAS, until Texas possessed the necessary elements to form a separate state of herself."

"This law, and the principles on which the Mexican federal compact was formed, gave to Texas a specific political existence, and vested in her inhabitants the special and well declined rights of self-government as a state of the Mexican confederation, so soon as she possessed the

necessary elements. Texas consented to the provisional union with Coahuila on the faith of this guarantee."

Address of the honorable S.F. Austin at Louisville, Kentucky, March 7, 1836.

3. Why did Texans agree to the Mexican Federal Compact?
4. Does Texas want to be considered part of Coahuila?

Document 3

"The country possessed the necessary elements to form a state separate from Coahuila. A respectful and humble petition was accordingly drawn up by this convention, addressed to the general congress of Mexico, praying for the admission of Texas into the Mexican confederation as a state."

"I finally urged the just and constitutional claims of Texas to become a state in the most pressing manner, as I believed it to be my duty to do; representing also the necessity and good policy of this measure, [unreadable] to the almost total want of local government of any kind, the absolute want of a judiciary, the evident impossibility of being governed any longer by Coahuila and the consequent anarchy and discontent that existed in Texas."

Address of the honorable S.F. Austin at Louisville, Kentucky, March 7, 1836.

5. Why was Texas unhappy?
6. Why would being considered part of Coahuila a bad thing?

Document 4

"The Mexicans in San Antonio who were in sympathy with the war of Independence organized a company under Colonel Juan Seguin. There were twenty four in the company including my father and they joined the command of General Sam Houston."

Memoirs of Jose Maria Rodriquez

7. Were all Mexican citizens against Texas being an independent country?

"General Houston asked Santa Ana, 'why did you put to the sword every man in the Alamo,' to which Santa Ana replied that according to the rules of war when a superior force demanded unconditional surrender of inferior forces, if not obeyed, they forfeited their lives. General Houston told him that such was a barbarous custom and should not be practiced in these days."

"My father said that while Santa Ana was in the camp with Houston, some of the men of his army attempted to create a mutiny and demanded that Santa Ana be executed because of the massacre of Fannin's men and the Alamo."

Memoirs of Jose Maria Rodriquez

8. Was Santa Ana killing men just to prove power or was there reasoning behind his fighting style?
9. Did all the Mexican troops agree with their leaders tactics?

Document 5

"After the Texas secession was declared and established, Houston refused, to accept it by taking an oath and he was removed from office..."

"You southern People stand to day as traitors to your country and your flag and you will regret the day that you made such a move because the United States is a powerful nation and they will get reinforcement from Europe. You will not be recognized as a nation by the world, and have no standing whatever, and it will not be long before you will be paying five dollars a pound for your coffee..."

"You will put up a good fight and they have to surrender. You have no more right to secede than a country has from a state, you are revolutionists, and as I stand here today, although I am ready to risk my life for Texas, I hate to see the Texans lose their lives and property."

10. Is Houston for or against Texas succeeding from Mexico?
11. Does it sound as though Houston wants to be part of the United States?

Document 6

"We were surrounded by some gross, proud, and victorious men. Anyone who knows the character of the North Americans can judge what our situation must have been."

Jose Sanchez Resident of Texas

12. How does Jose Sanchez feel about the Americans?

Document 7

"I lost my Pocket Book some where on the road and arrived hear with out one Dollar but I has had no difficulty on that Score our expense is one hundred Dollar per month and we live like hogs. I has sum hope that this seat of Government will be removed this session."

K.H. Douglass in letter to Manerva

" I think it my duty to say to you that the general says to me that all negrow in the Provances of Mexico are free and that slavery will not be permitted and that you have no author to grant land nor to in vite settlers to the province."

George Nixon to Austin November 14th, 1823.

"My wish is for this country to populate fast and I think that nothing would facilitate that more than the admission of Slavery in this state."
Randall Jones to Austin June 4th, 1824

"Resolved that said committee draft a meml to the state legislature praying them to admit Emigrants to this province to bring their slaves with them, that is should there be no prohibitory clause in the National Constitution forbidding it, and also to pass such laws as may be deemed just and necessary to secure to the actual settlers in this colony the safe government guaranted to them in the colonization law."
Instructions to Deputy in State Congress June 5th, 1824

13. Was slavery a major factor in Texas life?

14. Does it seem that Texans are receptive to slavery?

Document 8

Please refer to the map of Texas



15. Based on Texas settlement in the map does it look as though Texans were trying to be part of the United States?

