

## 6.2

# Texas & The Mexican-American War



## **As a Young Historian, I will be able to...**

- Describe how Texas was settled and how it won independence from Mexico.
- Explain the debate around the annexation of Texas.
- Identify the causes and outcome of the Mexican-American War.

# **Texas Fights for Independence**

**The region of Texas was part of Mexico, & offered large fertile land for farming & grazing**

**The Tejanos (Mexico population) was small in the area, only about 4,000**

**Mexico agrees to allow Americans to settle area, but had to become Mexican citizens, become Catholic, & follow Mexican constitution**

**These “empresarios” would also have to refrain from slavery in the region**

# Relations with Government

**Stephen F. Austin** led emigrants to Texas to found Austin. 1835 30,000 Americans in region

Anglo-Texans go against Mexico's orders to become Catholic & smuggle in slaves in region

**Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna-** Mexican dictator who favored a ruthless authoritarian government

People in Texas argued for **autonomy-** independent control over their own affairs

# Lone Star!

Texans begin to sized garrisons, declare independence, adopt a constitution for their **Lone Star Republic**

A small rebellion fights back against Mexico at **The Alamo**, Mexico crushes the defenders & they are slaughtered

Jim Bowie, Davy Crockett, & others killed as well as prisoners at Goliad

Those killed became martyrs & Texans began to chant the slogan “Remember the Alamo!”

# Conflicts

**Sam Houston leads Santa Anna into a trap, killing 630 soldiers & capturing 730 including Santa Anna**

**Houston only loses 32 men in the [Battle of San Jacinto](#)**

**Santa Anna signs a treaty for Texas Independence including parts of New Mexico**

**Government of Mexico disagrees with treaty & conflict in regions stretches for a decade**

# Expansion?

**Sam Houston becomes first president, but reaches out to President Jackson to annex it as a state**

**He begins to pretend to be interested in joining Britain to alarm Congress**

**James K. Polk** runs for president & promises to annex Texas & force Britain to give up Oregon country

**Britain & Polk sign treaty to split Oregon Country at the 49<sup>th</sup> parallel of latitude**

# **Mexican-American War**

**Texas is annexed in December 1845 & tensions flare between Texas & Mexico**

**Polk endorses claim to the area of land to the Rio Grande & Mexico refuses to recognize the claim**

**General Zachary Taylor occupies border & Polk drafts declaration of war**

**May 1846, Mexican patrol clashes with American soldiers & war is declared**

# **Mexican-American War**

**U.S. split on war, south was in favor but the North thought it was provoked & U.S. might invade Mexico**

**The biggest concern from the North was the possible addition of more slave states**

**U.S. fights a one-sided war against Mexico, winning every battle**

**War ends in 1847 after a year & a half with a thorough American victory**