



# Interactive Reading Notepad

## Lesson 2 Texas and the Mexican-American War

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### Key Terms

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

### Academic Vocabulary

**adjacent:** neighboring; nearby

**concede:** to admit defeat, often by giving up something valuable

**inevitable:** something that will definitely happen and is impossible to avoid

**provoke:** to purposely cause something to happen; to make someone angry

**reluctant:** unwilling; marked by mental hesitation or reservations

### Texas Fights for Independence: Text

- Analyze Interactions Among Individuals** Name three groups or organizations that influenced the early settlement of Texas. Tell why each was influential.
- Draw Inferences** Why didn't the people who settled Texas remain loyal to the Mexican government?
- 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: Text**

- 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: Text**

- 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?