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**2nd grade** | Unit 7

# HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY

# SETTLING THE FRONTIER

## HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY 207

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# SETTLING THE FRONTIER



The people of the United States continued to go west in search of land, adventure, and **fortune**. As they settled new places, the borders of the country changed. New land was gained by war, treaties, or purchase. In this unit, you will learn more about the pioneers who settled the United States. You will also learn how the present-day U.S. borders were formed.

## Objectives

**Read these objectives.** They will tell what you will be able to do when you have finished this workbook.

1. Describe how Texas became part of the United States.
2. Describe the Oregon Trail and how pioneers used it to travel to the western territories.
3. Understand how the gold rushes helped bring settlers to the West.
4. List some of the last territories to become a part of the United States.
5. Name several groups of people who helped settle new territories.

## New Words

These words will appear in **boldface** (darker print) the first time they are used.

**background** (băk' ground). Someone's past or where they come from.

**boarding house** (bôrd' ing hous). A place where guests can get food and a place to sleep; a hotel and restaurant.

**damp** (damp). Slightly wet or moist.

**drive** (drīv). To move or push from one place to another.

**emigrant** (ěm' ĭ grənt). A person who leaves one land and moves to another.

**encourage** (ĕn kûr' ij). To give someone help to do something.

**era** (ĕr' ə). A period of time in history.

**fertile** (fûr' tl). Rich soil; good farmland.

**fortune** (fôr' chən). Riches or success.

**illegal** (ilē' gəl). Against the law.

**improve** (im prōv'). To make better.

**laundromat** (lôn' drə măt). A place that washes and dries clothes.

**lodging** (lŏj' ing). A place to sleep.

**loyal** (loi' əl). Faithful or true to someone or something.

**pelt** (pĕlt). The skin and fur of an animal.

**rebel** (rĭ bĕl'). To rise up and fight back.

**revolution** (rĕv ə lōō' shən). A war against a government.

**seize** (sēz). To take or capture something.

**skirmish** (skûr' mĭsh). A small fight or battle.

**sod** (sŏd). A block of grass and roots held together by the soil beneath it.

**transcontinental** (trăns kŏn tə nĕn' tl). Going across a whole continent. (North America is a continent.)

**wealthy** (wĕl' thē). Rich with money, goods, or crops.

**Pronunciation Key:** hat, āge, cāre, fār; let, ēqual, tĕrm; it, ĭce; hot, ōpen, ôrder; oil; out; cup, pŭt, rŭle; child; long; thin; /ʦH/ for then; /zh/ for measure; /u/ or /ə/ represents /a/ in about, /e/ in taken, /i/ in pencil, /o/ in lemon, and /u/ in circus.

# 1. THE TEXAS FRONTIER

You learned that Spain gave Florida to the United States. In return, the United States gave up any claims in Texas. In the early 1800s, Spain controlled Texas and Mexico. The Mexicans fought a war with Spain and won their independence. In 1821, Mexico took control of Texas. This land was part of the western frontier.



## Words to Study

**fertile** (fûr' tl). Rich soil; good farmland.

**illegal** (ĩ lē' gəl). Against the law.

**loyal** (loí' əl). Faithful or true to someone or something.

**rebel** (řĩ bēl'). To rise up and fight back.

**revolution** (řěv ə lōō' shən). A war against a government.

**seize** (sēz). To take or capture something.

**skirmish** (skûr' mĩsh). A small fight or battle.

**wealthy** (wěł' thē). Rich with money, goods, or crops.

**Ask your teacher to say these words with you.**



Teacher Check

\_\_\_\_\_

Initial

\_\_\_\_\_

Date



## American Settlers in Texas

Texas offered rich farmland and rolling hills of thick, lush grass. American pioneers wanted to build ranches on this land. Their cattle, horses, and sheep could graze on wide, green pastures. They could grow crops in the **fertile** soil. American settlers began crossing the border into Texas.



At first, the Mexican government welcomed these settlers. They allowed a group of 300 Americans to build a colony in Texas. But these settlers had to become citizens of Mexico. The Mexican government believed the settlers would help Texas become a **wealthy** territory. Their ranches would offer meat, wool, cotton, and other goods for the Mexican people. The Mexicans could trade their goods with the settlers. Both groups could help each other.

Soon, thousands of Americans began settling in the Texas territory. Many settlers stayed **loyal** to the United States. The Mexican government tried to slow the number of settlers. They were worried that the Americans would try to take control of Texas.



**Circle the correct answer to finish the sentence.**

- 1.1** The Mexicans fought a war to win their independence from \_\_\_\_ .  
 a. France                      b. Great Britain              c. Spain
- 1.2** The Mexican government allowed a group of Americans to build a \_\_\_\_ in Texas.  
 a. ranch                      b. colony                      c. fort
- 1.3** Many American settlers in Texas were \_\_\_\_ to the United States.  
 a. loyal                      b. enemies                      c. spies



## The Texas Revolution

In the 1830s, the Mexican government passed laws as a way to control settlers. They collected taxes and made it against the law for more settlers to come into the territory. Mexico also made slavery **illegal**. Many white settlers used slaves to work their cotton fields. American settlers began to **rebel** against the Mexican government. Small armies of Texans fought several **skirmishes** with Mexican soldiers.



Mexico feared a **revolution** was going to take place. Mexican General Santa Anna sent soldiers to **seize** a cannon from the town of Gonzales. The townspeople put out a flag that said, "Come and Take It." These words meant the people would not give up the cannon without a fight. The soldiers left Gonzales empty-handed.



Fighting broke out between the Mexican army and the Texans. In 1835, Texas settlers formed their own government and chose Sam Houston as leader of the Texan army. In December, the Texan army captured San Antonio from the Mexicans.



**Draw a line to match the word with its meaning.**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>1.4</b>      illegal      ▶</p> <p><b>1.5</b>      seize      ▶</p> <p><b>1.6</b>      revolution      ▶</p> <p><b>1.7</b>      rebel      ▶</p> | <p><b>a.</b>    war against a government</p> <p><b>b.</b>    to rise up and fight back</p> <p><b>c.</b>    to take or capture something</p> <p><b>d.</b>    against the law</p> |
|--|---|



**Circle Yes if the sentence is correct or No if it is wrong.**

- 1.8** The Mexican government made slavery illegal.  
 Yes                      No
- 1.9** Mexican soldiers captured a cannon from the town of Gonzales.  
 Yes                      No
- 1.10** Texas settlers formed their own government and army.  
 Yes                      No

## The Alamo

General Santa Anna led an army of several thousand soldiers to San Antonio. He planned to end the revolution. The Mexican army attacked the city on February 23, 1836. The settlers were not prepared to fight a war with the Mexican army. They retreated into a fort known as the Alamo. For 13 days, the small group of about 200 settlers defended the Alamo. On March 6, Mexican soldiers charged the fort. All the defenders died in the battle. Only a number of women and children survived.



| The Alamo

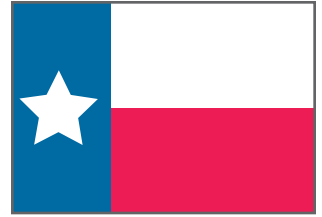
## Independent Texas

Sam Houston and the Texan army fought back. Their battle cry was “Remember the Alamo!”

On April 21, 1836, Texas soldiers defeated the Mexican army in a surprise attack and captured

Santa Anna. The Mexican army surrendered on May 14. Texas became an independent nation called the Republic of Texas.

The Texas government was weak and struggled to keep peace. The Mexican army continued to attack Texas settlements, even though they had lost the war. This constant fighting cost the Republic of Texas too much money. In 1845, Texas became the twenty-eighth state to join the Union.



| The Battle of San Jacinto in the Texas Revolution



**Circle the correct answer to finish the sentence.**

- 1.11** San Antonio settlers defended a fort known as \_\_\_\_ .  
 a. Gonzales      b. the Alamo      c. Santa Anna
- 1.12** The battle cry of the Texan army was “Remember \_\_\_\_ !”  
 a. San Antonio      b. Gonzales      c. the Alamo
- 1.13** The general of the Mexican army was \_\_\_\_ .  
 a. Santa Anna      b. Sam Houston      c. San Antonio



**Circle Yes if the sentence is correct or No if it is wrong.**

- 1.14** The Mexican army lost the battle at the Alamo.  
 Yes                      No
- 1.15** The independent Texas was called the Republic of Texas.  
 Yes                      No
- 1.16** Texas became a state in 1845.  
 Yes                      No



**Before you take the Self Test, study what you have read and done.** The Self Test will check what you remember.



## SELF TEST 1

Each answer = 1 point

Draw a line to match the word with its meaning.

- |             |           |           |                               |
|-------------|-----------|-----------|-------------------------------|
| <b>1.01</b> | illegal ▶ | <b>a.</b> | to rise up and fight back     |
| <b>1.02</b> | loyal ▶   | <b>b.</b> | rich soil                     |
| <b>1.03</b> | rebel ▶   | <b>c.</b> | against the law               |
| <b>1.04</b> | seize ▶   | <b>d.</b> | to take or capture something  |
| <b>1.05</b> | fertile ▶ | <b>e.</b> | faithful or true to something |

Circle the correct answer to finish the sentence.

- 1.06** Mexican soldiers tried to seize a cannon from the town of \_\_\_\_ .  
 a. San Antonio      b. Gonzales      c. the Alamo
- 1.07** The Mexicans fought a war to win independence from \_\_\_\_ .  
 a. Spain      b. Great Britain      c. France
- 1.08** The leader of the Texan army was \_\_\_\_ .  
 a. Santa Anna      b. San Antonio      c. Sam Houston
- 1.09** About 200 settlers died defending \_\_\_\_ .  
 a. the Alamo      b. Gonzales      c. Santa Anna
- 1.010** The general of the Mexican army was \_\_\_\_ .  
 a. Santa Anna      b. San Antonio      c. Sam Houston

**Circle Yes if the sentence is correct or No if it is wrong.**

**1.011** The Mexican government made slavery illegal in Texas.

Yes

No

**1.012** The battle cry of the Texan army was "Come and take it!"

Yes

No

**1.013** The Mexican army lost the battle at the Alamo.

Yes

No

**1.014** Independent Texas was called the Republic of Texas.

Yes

No

**1.015** Texas joined the United States in 1845.

Yes

No



Teacher Check

\_\_\_\_\_  
Initial    Date



**My Score**





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