

Texas Joins the United States

Section 1



MAIN IDEAS

1. Support for annexation in the United States was divided over the issue of slavery.
2. Texas became a state in 1845.

Key Terms and People

manifest destiny belief that the United States was meant to expand all the way across North America to the Pacific, including Texas

Jane McManus Cazneau journalist who helped sway opinion in the North in favor of annexation

political parties groups who help elect officials and influence government policies

joint resolution formal expression of intent

Convention of 1845 convention called by President Anson Jones to consider annexation

Texas Admission Act the act by which Texas became the 28th state in 1845

Section Summary

THE TREATY TO ANNEX TEXAS

Texans and people in the United States continued to debate annexation. Americans were divided on the issue largely along regional lines. The North had developed an economy based on commerce and manufacturing. The South relied on agriculture and slave labor. Many northerners opposed slavery and did not want Texas to be admitted to the Union as a slave state. Doing so would tip the balance of power in Congress toward the South. Most southerners wanted Texas to join the Union. U.S. President John Tyler, a southerner, favored annexation. In 1844, Tyler sent an annexation treaty to the U.S. Senate for approval. The Senate rejected it.

At the time many U.S. settlers were moving westward. Many Americans believed that their country was meant to expand across North America. This belief became known as **manifest destiny**.

Why did many northerners not want Texas to be admitted to the Union?

Section 1, *continued*

Newspaper columnist **Jane McManus Cazneau** helped turn northern opinion in favor of annexation.

THE ANNEXATION RESOLUTION

The annexation treaty and manifest destiny became important issues in the U.S. presidential election of 1844. The **political parties** differed on these issues. Political parties are groups who help elect officials and influence government policies. The Democratic Party nominated, or chose, as its candidate James K. Polk. Polk favored annexation. His opponent was Whig Party candidate Henry Clay, who at first opposed annexation. Polk won the election. President Tyler considered Polk's victory a sign of the public's approval of annexation. Tyler therefore requested that both houses of Congress pass a **joint resolution**, or formal expression of intent, for annexation. In February 1845 the U.S. Congress passed the joint resolution to annex Texas.

Who were the two main political parties in the 1844 election?

TEXAS ENTERS THE UNITED STATES

To be admitted as a state, Texas had to approve annexation and then write a new constitution. The new state could keep its public lands, but some would have to be sold to pay the public debt. Texas president Anson Jones called for a convention to consider annexation. The delegates to the **Convention of 1845** quickly approved annexation. They then worked on a new constitution. On October 13, Texas voters approved annexation and the new constitution. On December 29, 1845, President Polk signed the **Texas Admission Act**, making Texas the 28th state.

What did Texas have to do to be admitted as a new state?

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

Critical Thinking: Sequencing Make a time line of events leading up to the **Texas Admission Act** of 1845.

