

Texas Joins the United States

Section 2



MAIN IDEAS

1. The Convention of 1845 created a new state constitution for Texas.
2. The state constitution set up a new government and established protections for citizens and the government.

Key Terms and People

James Pinckney Henderson first governor of the state of Texas

Thomas J. Rusk president of the Convention of 1845

biennial every two years

corporations companies that sell shares of ownership to investors to raise money

Section Summary

THE CONVENTION OF 1845

On February 19, 1846, President Anson Jones formally turned the Texas government over to **James Pinckney Henderson**, the state's first governor. When the Convention of 1845 had begun, delegates chose **Thomas J. Rusk** as convention president. The only Tejano delegate, José Antonio Navarro, was also the only native Texan at the convention. The delegates used the constitutions of the United States, the Republic of Texas, and the state of Louisiana as models.

Which constitutions were used as models for Texas?

THE CONSTITUTION OF 1845

The constitution divided the Texas government into three branches. The governor headed the executive branch and served a two-year term. The legislative branch consisted of a senate and a house of representatives. The state legislature met in **biennial** sessions, once every two years. The judicial branch consisted of the Supreme Court and the district courts. Not everyone could vote. Only white and Tejano men 21 years of age or older were allowed to cast ballots. The new state constitution continued to protect slavery. It also protected

What three branches was the Texas government divided into by the constitution?

Section 2, *continued*

homesteads, or families' homes and lands up to 200 acres each, from creditors. It also banned banks because most Texans distrusted them.

Corporations, or companies that sell shares of ownership to investors to raise money, needed the legislature's permission to operate in Texas.

THE FIRST STATE ELECTION

The first state election was held on December 15, 1845. **James Pinckney Henderson** won the governor's race. State officials took office on February 19, 1846. The daily operations of government were transferred from the Republic to the state. The state legislature chose Sam Houston and **Thomas J. Rusk** to represent Texas in the U.S. Senate

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

Critical Thinking: Summarizing Draw a diagram to represent the three branches of the Texas constitution established in 1845.

Section 2, *continued*

James Pinckney Henderson	biennial
Thomas J. Rusk	corporations

DIRECTIONS On the line provided before each statement, write **T** if a statement is true and **F** if a statement is false. If the statement is false, write a corrected statement on the line after the false statement.

_____ 1. James Pinckney Henderson was the last President of the Texas Republic.

_____ 2. Thomas J. Rusk was chosen to represent Texas in the U.S. Senate.

_____ 3. The executive branch met on a biennial basis.

_____ 4. Corporations were banned by the Texas Constitution of 1845.

DIRECTIONS Write two adjectives or descriptive phrases that describe the term given.

5. The Convention of 1845 _____

6. The judicial branch _____