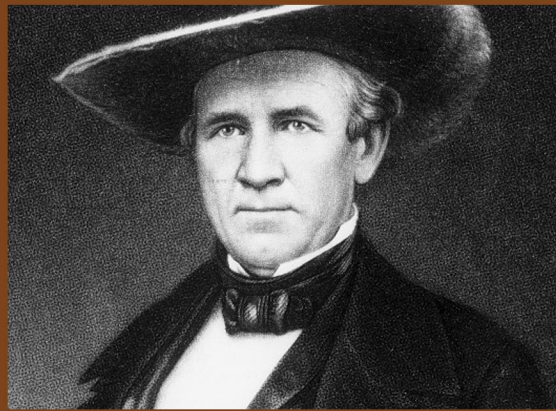




**The ALAMO™**  
THE CRADLE OF TEXAS LIBERTY



A TEACHER'S GUIDE TO  
**SAM HOUSTON**

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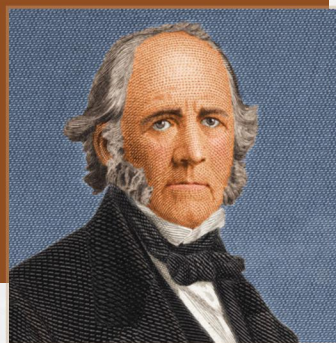
**Dear Educator,**

Here at the Alamo, we know that your time is precious, and we appreciate the work you do in educating our future leaders, innovators, and thinkers. Therefore, we have created this TEKS aligned lesson plan to be utilized in your classroom, so that you can spend more time doing what you love – teaching our youth. Please feel free to use this guide as you see fit, and let us know if you have any questions or suggestions by emailing us at:  
**education@thealamo.org.**

**Sincerely,**  
**The Alamo Education Department**

## WHY HOUSTON?

This larger than life character needs little introduction. During his long life he served as a U.S. representative, a U.S. senator, governor of two states, and the president of the Republic of Texas. He helped Texas to gain her independence and set her on a path towards statehood. Learn about his influence on our state that spread over three decades.



## TEKS Alignment

### Grade 4 Social Studies

- (3) A, B, C, D, E
- (4) A
- (7) A
- (8) A
- (16) A
- (17) D
- (18) B
- (21) C, D

### Grade 7 Social Studies

- (1) A, B, C
- (3) B, C, D
- (4) A, B, C
- (5) A
- (8) A
- (17) A, C
- (18) A
- (21) D, E



# BIOGRAPHY

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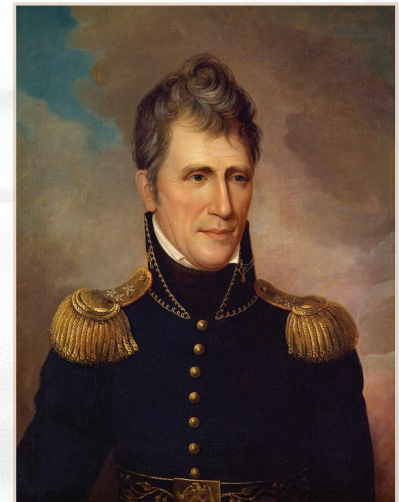
Samuel Houston was born on March 2, 1793 as the fifth son of Samuel and Elizabeth Houston. By the time he was a teenager, his father had passed away, and his mother had moved their family from the Houston estate in Virginia to East Tennessee. When Houston's brothers tried to make him work in the family store, he ran away to live with the nearby Cherokee tribe. He thrived in the environment and was adopted by the leader who had taken the name **John Jolly**. The connections Houston made there served him well throughout his life, and he was always sensitive to the problems faced by Native Americans.

After a brief stint as a teacher in his late teens, Houston chose to join the military at the age of twenty during the War of 1812. This decision was a turning point in young Houston's life as it provided him the opportunity to catch the eye of influential future president, **General Andrew Jackson**. Houston's brave actions at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend left him with injuries that would never completely heal, but becoming Jackson's protégé set him on a path to greatness.

After completing his time in the military, Houston changed careers once again to become a lawyer. With Jackson's help, he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives and continued his meteoric rise with his election as **Governor of Tennessee** in 1827 at the age of 34.



Cherokee Chief John Jolly



General Andrew Jackson,  
War of 1812



Earliest known  
likeness of Sam Houston, 1826



Unfortunately for Houston, a broken marriage led to his resignation as governor and political ruin. After spending time out of the public eye with his Cherokee friends in Indian Territory, Houston travelled to Washington D.C. and successfully rebuilt his personal reputation and political career. He decided it was time for a fresh start, and journeyed to the Mexican state of Texas in 1833.

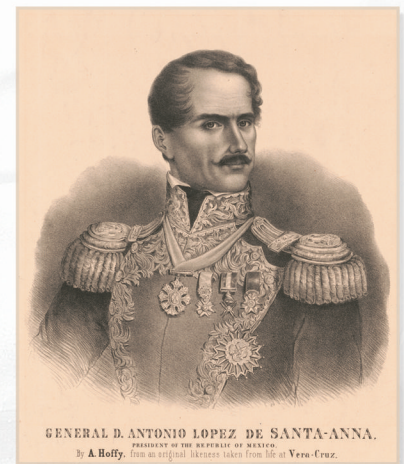
The Mexican political situation had by then turned many colonists against the Mexican government's policies. A shift in Mexican power had the entire country in an uproar – including Houston's new home of Texas. Houston was not idle during his time in Texas. He made new friends and connections, and by November of 1835, he had attained the position of **Major General of the Texas army**, and he was charged with the task of raising an army of regulars.

After four long and difficult months in which a disastrous expedition was sent to Matamoros without his orders, and James Bowie ignored his recommendation to destroy the Alamo and retreat, Houston made history once again on his forty-second birthday when he signed the Texas Declaration of Independence. The Texians were fully committed to their cause, and their determination would soon be tested when the fall of the Alamo opened the gateway into Texas for **General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna**, President of Mexico, and his army.

The fall of the Alamo caused a panic in the citizenry of Texas, and most of the residents began to flee in what would later be known as the Runaway Scrape. Another blow to the Texian army was the massacre of over 300 men at Goliad (Presidio La Bahía) under **Colonel James Fannin**. Although Houston had ordered Fannin to retreat, he delayed his departure, allowing the Mexican army to capture both he and his men with disastrous consequences.



Major General Sam Houston



Antonio López de Santa Anna

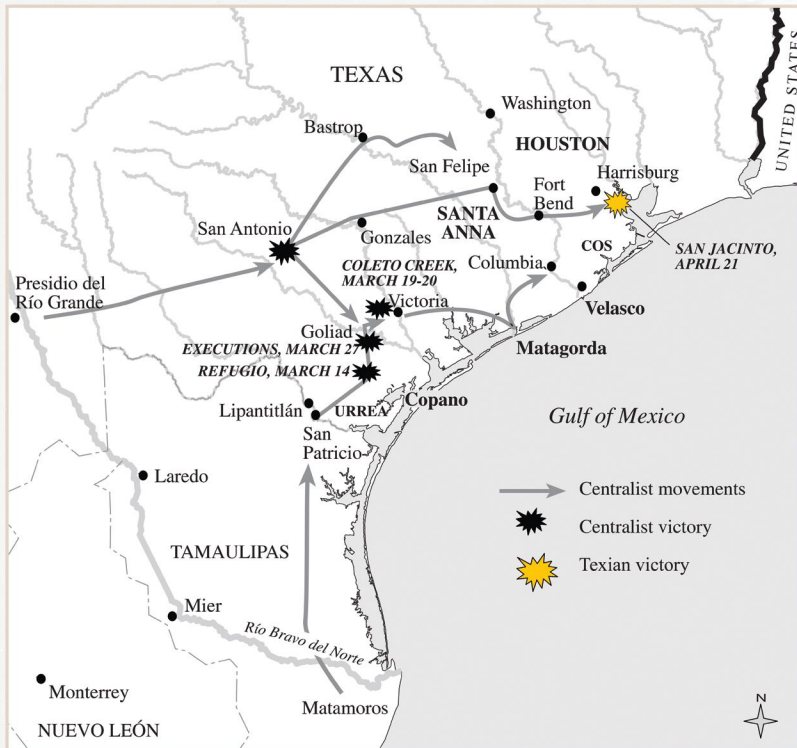


Colonel James Fannin

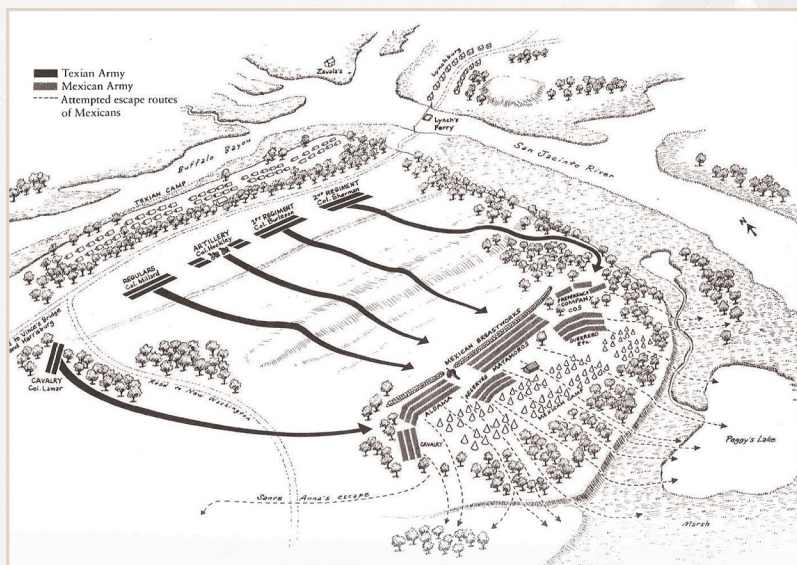


Houston realized his small force was no match for the much larger Mexican Army. As a result, he withdrew east. Santa Anna, ready to finish what he saw as pirates invading his country, raced to catch the new Texas government and Houston's army. At this point, Santa Anna made a costly error that tipped the scales of the

**Texas Revolution.** In an effort to catch up with Houston, the Mexican general hastily advanced ahead of his main army with a smaller force of only 1,300 soldiers - Houston, by comparison, had 900 men.



**Texas Revolution: military movements prior to the Battle of San Jacinto, March 6 – April 21, 1836**



**Battle of San Jacinto, by Gary Zabol, Texian Iliad by Stephen Hardin**

On April 21, 1836, the Texian and Mexican armies finally clashed at the **Battle of San San Jacinto.** Catching Santa Anna's forces resting, the Texians won the battle in 18 minutes shouting "Remember the Alamo! Remember Goliad!"

The next day, the Texians captured Santa Anna. They forced him to sign the Treaties of Velasco, giving Texas its hard-fought independence. General Houston then traveled to New Orleans to undergo surgery on a shattered ankle and bullet wound he sustained during the battle. Soon after, he recovered and returned to Texas to take up his role as elected first president of the new republic.



### Córdova Rebellion

In 1838, prominent Nacogdoches citizen Vicente Córdova joined with others unhappy with the direction of the Texas Republic – including the Cherokee, whose treaty with Sam Houston had been invalidated by the Texas Senate. Córdova's rebellion was discovered before its plans could be fully realized and brought to a swift end.



Margaret Lea



President Sam Houston

Though it was a prestigious role, the presidency was riddled with problems. The new country was already in debt. Furthermore, Mexico did not acknowledge the treaty signed by Santa Anna. Texas officials reached out to the United States and Europe as the new nation desperately needed diplomatic recognition. Creating treaties with the Native tribes of Texas was also a priority for Houston although he had varying levels of success. Incidents such as the **Córdova Rebellion** made it difficult for Houston to convince the other members of the government to trust their native neighbors as it was proven that Mexican officials were attempting to turn the Native Americans against the Republic.

The situation had improved at the end of his term – including gaining recognition from the United States. Never a man for idleness, he laid down one mantle and picked up two more. First, he was elected in absentia to the Texas Congress, and second, he married **Margaret Lea**, a soft-spoken young lady from Alabama. Yet, by December of 1841, Houston was the **President of the Republic of Texas** once again. (Although Texas presidents could not serve consecutive terms, nothing prevented Houston from running in the third presidential race.) He replaced Mirabeau B. Lamar, a political rival who had reversed many of Houston's policies. Although Lamar had promoted education, he provoked wars with both the Cherokee and Comanche. Moreover, Lamar reignited hostilities with Mexico during the doomed Santa Fe Expedition. All of these endeavors left the treasury empty, and no ground had been gained in annexation as Lamar hoped to keep Texas as a republic.

In Houston's second term, he faced further tensions with Mexico including the results of the disastrous and unsanctioned Mier Expedition. Furthermore, during Lamar's presidency, the controversial Council House Fight and the death of the Cherokee Chief Bowles, a friend of Houston's, had undone the tenuous peace Housto



brokered during his first presidency. Yet, by the end of his second term, the United States was offering Texas a generous offer of annexation. When Texas became the 28th state of the Union on December 29, 1845, unsurprisingly, Houston became one of the first United States senators from the newly admitted state – a position held until 1859. Though the Mexican War took place during his tenure, Senator Houston spent most of his time in Washington trying to hold together the fracturing United States he and his Republic of Texas had just joined.

Holding to the teachings of his mentor Andrew Jackson, Houston was a firm believer in keeping the United States together. This led to his staunch support of the **Compromise of 1850** – a decision which earned Houston many more enemies. Brought about due to the significant amount of land gained at the conclusion of the Mexican War, the compromise determined which sections of the new American west could have slaves. It also caused Texas to give up its claim to the eastern half of New Mexico and defined the state's modern border.

As the United States edged towards the Civil War, Houston returned to his adopted home and ran for governor. Even with his unpopular pro-Union stance, he was elected as the **Governor of Texas** in 1859 – making Houston the first and only person to be elected governor of two different states. Determined to keep Texas in the Union, Houston donned a jaguar vest to show that “a leopard cannot change his spots” in illustration of his position.



The Compromise of 1850

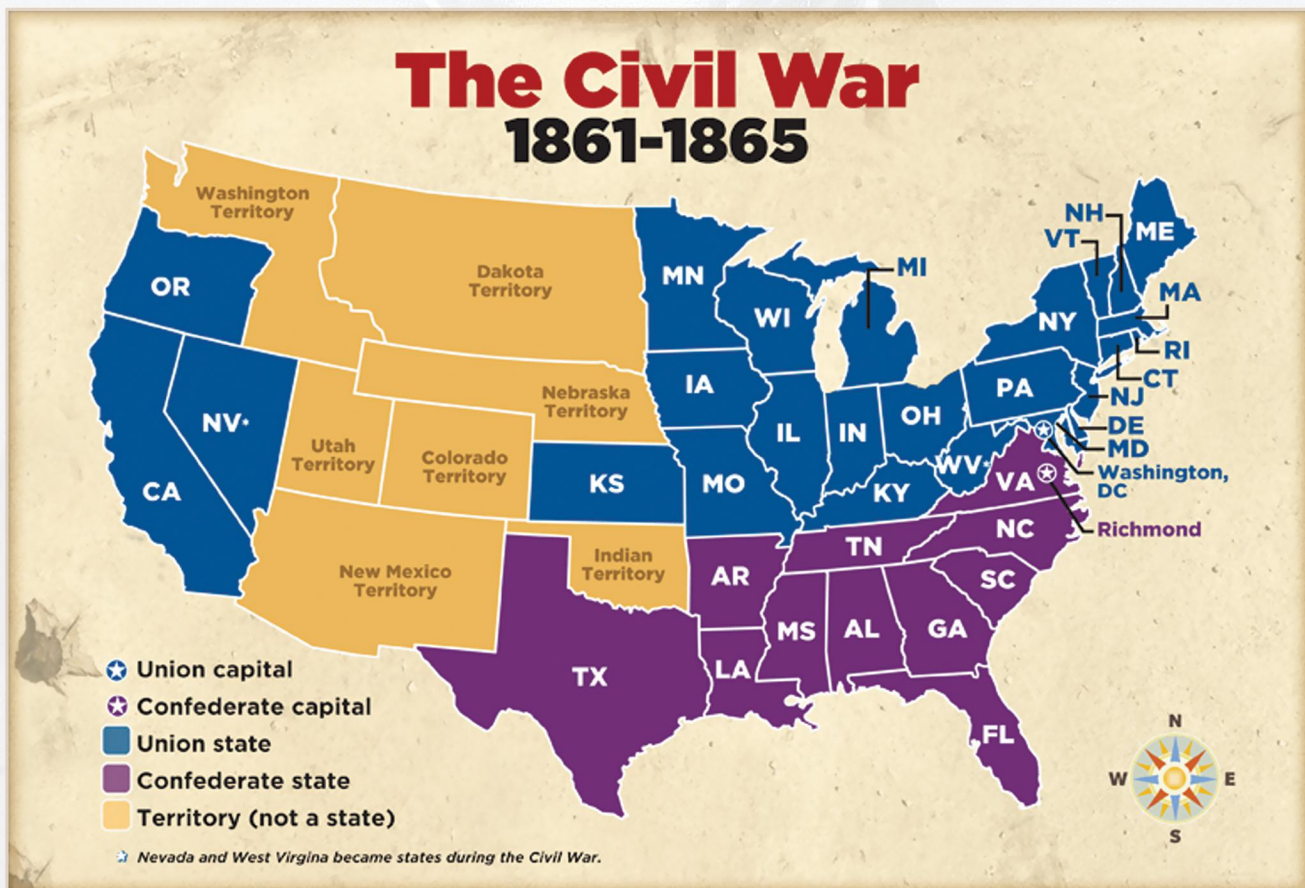


*“... a leopard cannot change his spots.”*



Unfortunately, despite his best efforts, in 1861 Texas seceded from the Union and joined the Confederate States of America. Houston was removed from office when he refused to take the loyalty oath to the new government. When Houston walked into his office on March 17, 1861, he found his Lieutenant Governor, Ed Clark sitting behind his desk. Houston placed his possessions in his lunch basket and told Clark, "Well, Governor Clark, I hope you will find it an easier chair than I have found it."

Although the United States government offered to forcibly reinstate Houston, he refused to tear Texas apart. He retired to Huntsville with his wife and eight children while the **Civil War** raged. He died of pneumonia on July 26, 1863 at the age of 70. In 1994, a 70 foot statue honoring Houston was erected in Huntsville. It serves as proof that his legacy and memory still hold sway in the hearts of modern Texans.



Civil War map showing Union and Confederate states





# SAM HOUSTON TIMELINE

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- 1793 – Sam Houston is born in **Timber Ridge, Virginia**.
- 1807 – Elizabeth Houston moves her family to **Tennessee**.
- 1809 – Houston leaves home to live with the Cherokee.
- 1812 – Houston opens a school.
- 1813 – Houston joins the army.
- 1814 – Houston is wounded at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend (in what will be **Alabama**).
- 1816 – Houston is appointed Indian sub-agent in **Tennessee**.
- 1818 – Houston becomes a lawyer.
- 1823 – Houston is elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in **Washington, D.C.**
- 1825 – Houston is re-elected.
- 1827 – Houston is elected Governor of **Tennessee**.
- 1829 – Houston marries and separates from Eliza Allen. He then resigns as governor and moves to **Indian Territory (Oklahoma)** to live with the Cherokee.
- 1832 – Houston enters **Texas** for the first time.
- 1835 – Houston is named Major General of the Texas Army
- 1836 – Houston signs the Texas Declaration of Independence, defeats Santa Anna at San Jacinto and is elected president of the Republic of Texas.
- 1840 – Houston marries Margaret Lea.
- 1841 – Houston is elected President of the Republic of Texas for a second time.
- 1846 – Houston is elected as a U.S. Senator in **Washington, D.C.** – an office he held for 13 years.
- 1859 – Houston is elected as Governor of **Texas**.
- 1861 – Houston is removed as governor.
- 1863 – Sam Houston dies in Huntsville, TX



# HOUSTON'S LOCATIONS

Use this map showing United States expansion to follow Sam Houston's travels. The stars indicate important locations in his life. Use the **words in red** on your timeline to determine the order of his travels, and use the other maps and reading as aids to mark his journey in order with a pen or marker.



Houston's movements kept him on the edge of the American frontier for most all of his life.

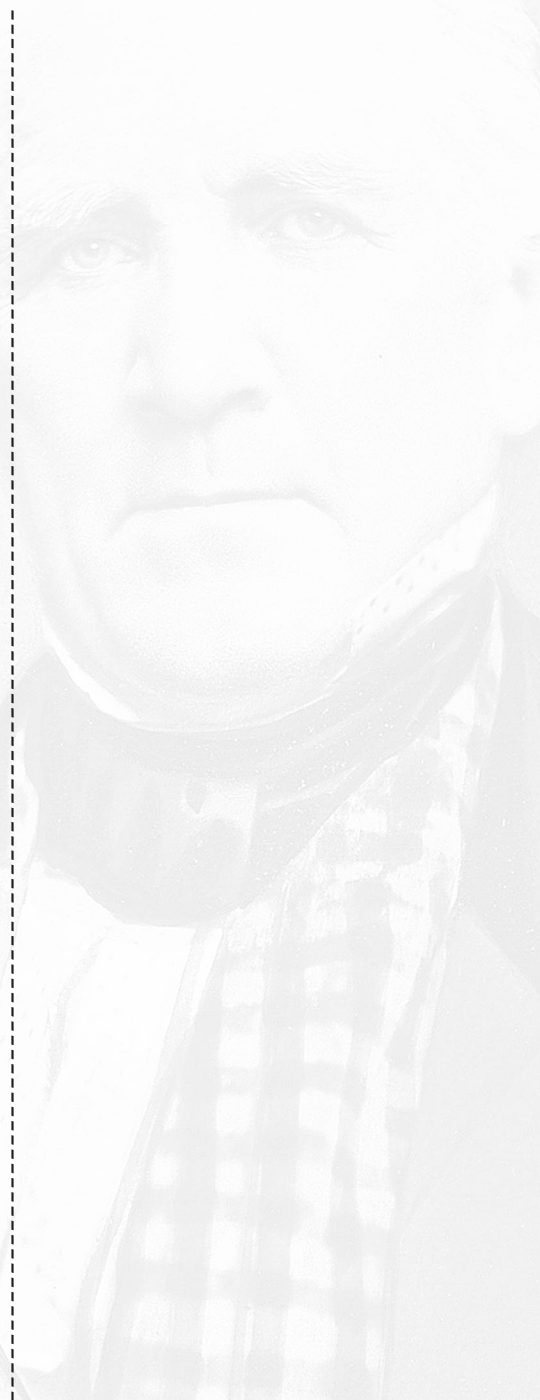


# SAM HOUSTON

**KNOW**

**WANT TO KNOW**

**LEARNED**



# *The* PRESIDENT OF TEXAS

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The year is 1836, and you have just been elected as the president of the new Republic of Texas. You face many problems as the leader of a new nation including:

- Financial Strain**
- Creating a Usable System of Laws**
- Lack of International Recognition**
- Threat of Attack from Mexico**
- Fragile Relationship with Native Americans**

How can you increase the money in the treasury?

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What will your constitution contain? For example: how will you divide your government, what are the rights of your citizens, and how can people obtain land?

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Will you ask another country to annex Texas or remain a republic? Why?

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What are the best ways to protect your borders?

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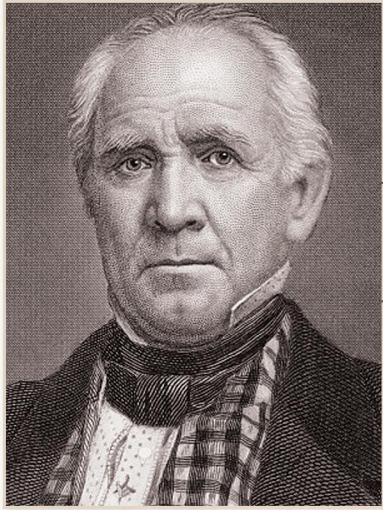
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How can the relationship with Native Americans be improved?

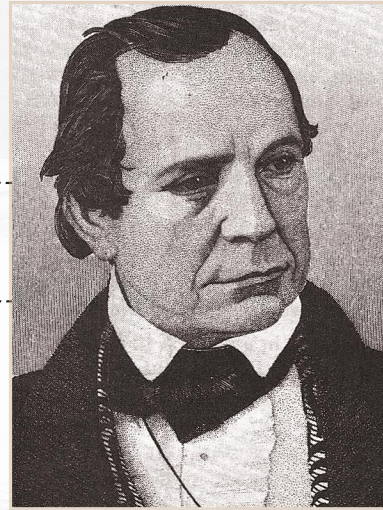
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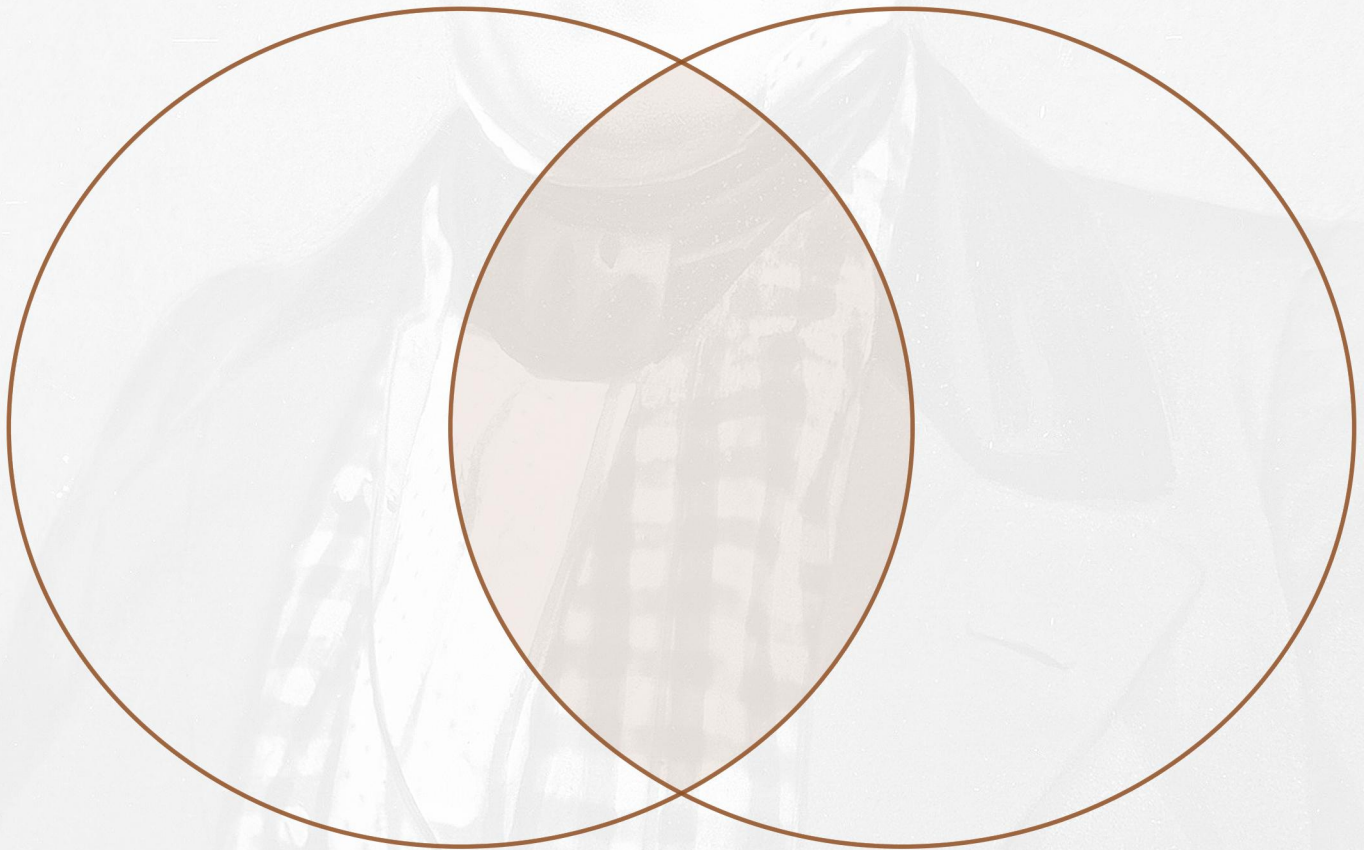
VS



SAM  
HOUSTON

MIRABEAU  
LAMAR

Using the reading and your own research, compare and contrast the presidencies of Houston and Lamar in the Venn diagram below.



# RESOURCES

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Below we have detailed the resources that proved most useful in our research of Sam Houston. Please feel free to use them to find out more about this Texas hero.

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## WEBSITES

- Sam Houston Memorial Museum Images Collection:  
<http://www.walkercountytreasures.com/thumbnails.php?album=8>
- Texas State Library and Archives Commission: <https://www.tsl.texas.gov/>
- Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Online Catalog: <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/>
- Texas State Historical Association Online Handbook of Texas: <https://tshaonline.org/handbook>
- Sam Houston Memorial Museum: <http://samhoustonmemorialmuseum.com/>
- University of Texas Libraries Historical Maps of Texas:  
[http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/historical/history\\_texas.html](http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/historical/history_texas.html)
- Resources4Educators:  
<http://education.texashistory.unt.edu/lessons/primary%20source%20sets/Sam%20Houston/index.html>
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## IMAGES

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Sam Houston (cover) [Photograph found in Hulton Archive/Getty Images]. (n.d.). Retrieved June 6, 2017, from <http://www.history.com/news/history-lists/7-things-you-may-not-know-about-sam-houston>

Sam Houston Engraving. (n.d.). Retrieved June 6, 2017, from <https://www.biography.com/people/sam-houston-9344806>

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Sam Houston ca. 1859 Governor of Texas in jaguar skin vest [Photograph found in Sam Houston Memorial Museum Images Collection, Sam Houston Memorial Museum, Huntsville]. (n.d.). In Walker County Treasures. Retrieved December 14, 2016, from [http://www.walkercountytreasures.com/displayimage.php?album=8&pid=1131#top\\_display\\_media](http://www.walkercountytreasures.com/displayimage.php?album=8&pid=1131#top_display_media) (Originally photographed 1859)

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Sam Houston, (1793-1863), the American Statesman, and Commander of the Texan Army against Santa Anna is shown in this cooper engraving. [Photograph found in Bettmann/Getty Images]. (n.d.). Retrieved June 8, 2017, from <http://www.gettyimages.in/license/517435504>

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