

How and Why Did the United States Expand Westward?
The 1830s and 1840s *Common Assignment 1*

Common Assessment Constructed Response Rubric

Why did Texans declare independence from Mexico in 1836? Use evidence from the texts to support your answer and explain your reasoning.

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|----------------------|--|
| Score Point 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">You complete all components of the question and communicate ideas clearly.Evidence (specific information or quotations from the document) is accurately explained to support a claim. |
| Score Point 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">You provide a partially correct answer to the question and/or address only a portion of the question.Evidence (specific information or quotations from documents) is included to support a claim but not explained. |
| Score Point 0 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Evidence is absent, inaccurate, or not relevant to the argument or prompt. |

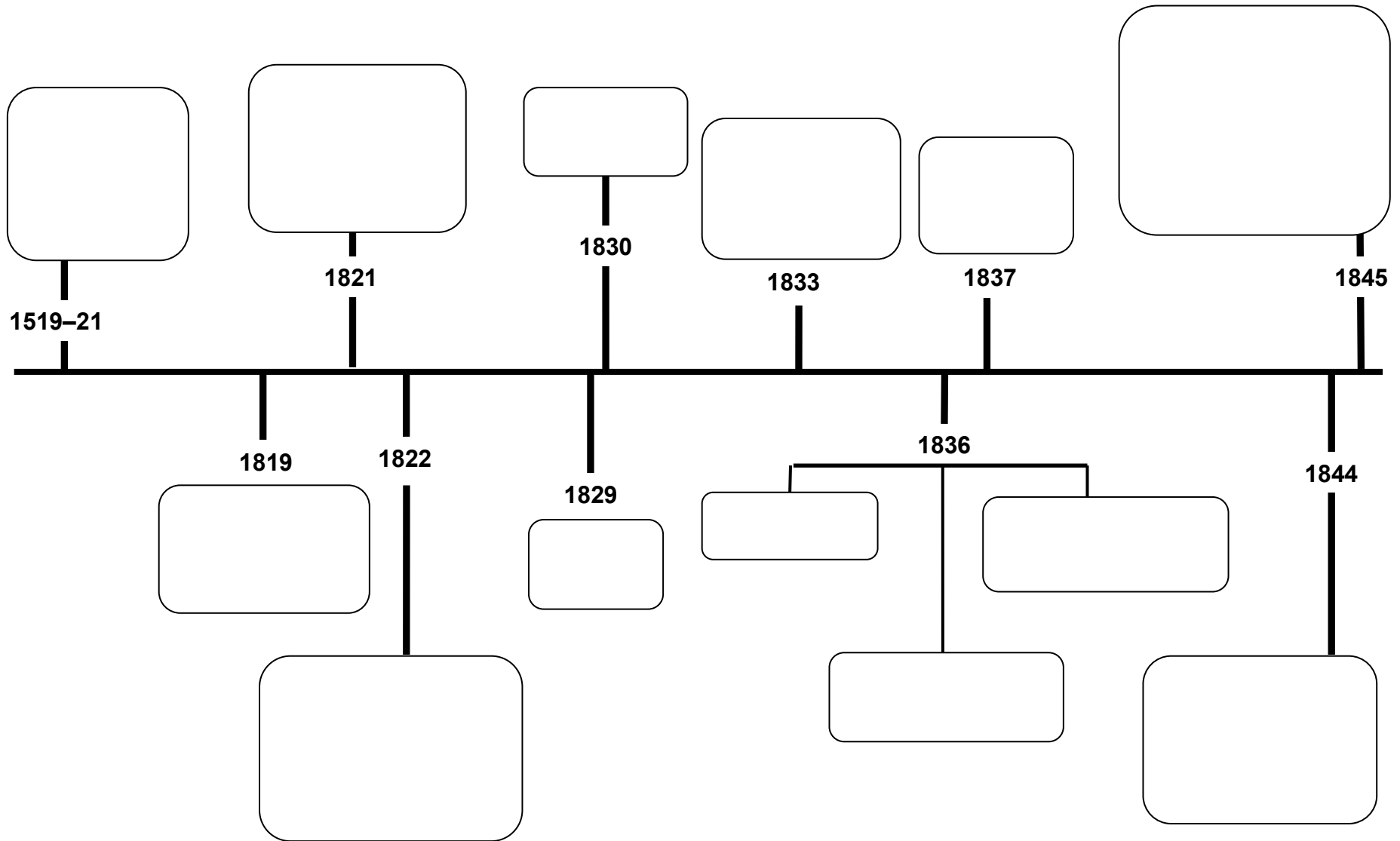
Common Assessment Constructed Response Rubric

Texas declared and won its independence and applied for statehood. Using evidence from the texts and logical reasoning, why did Mexico and some Americans object to Texas annexation?

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| Score Point 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">You complete all components of the question and communicate ideas clearly.Evidence (specific information or quotations from the document) is accurately explained to support a claim. |
| Score Point 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">You provide a partially correct answer to the question and/or address only a portion of the question.Evidence (specific information or quotations from documents) is included to support a claim but not explained. |
| Score Point 0 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Evidence is absent, inaccurate, or not relevant to the argument or prompt. |



Texas Independence Timeline





Document E: John Quincy Adams

The treaty for the annexation of Texas to this Union was this day sent in to the Senate; and with it went the freedom of the human race.

Source: *Excerpt from John Quincy Adams, former president and Representative from Massachusetts, writing in his diary on April 22, 1844.*

Document F: Joint Resolution of Congress to Annex Texas (Modified)

Note: *This is an excerpt from a Resolution that was passed by the U.S. Congress on March 1, 1845. It approved the admission of Texas as a state to the United States. It also laid out the requirements of that admission. Below is one of those requirements.*

Joint Resolution for annexing [adding] Texas to the United States.

. . .

2. Be it further resolved, that the consent of Congress is given upon the following conditions, and with the following guarantees: . . .

New states, of convenient size, not exceeding four in number, in addition to the state of Texas, and having sufficient population, may hereafter, be formed out of the territory, which shall be entitled to admission under the provisions of the federal constitution. And such states as may be formed out of that portion of this territory lying south of thirty-six degrees thirty minutes north latitude, commonly known as the Missouri compromise line, shall be admitted into the Union with or without slavery, as the people of each state asking admission may desire. And in such state or states as shall be formed out of this territory north of said Missouri compromise line, slavery, or involuntary servitude, (except for crime,) shall be prohibited.



Texas Annexation Graphic Organizer

| | Who wrote it? 1. Name of author/document 2. Mexican or American? 3. Year document was written | What is the view of annexation represented by this document? | Provide a quote to support your answer. |
|-------------------|---|---|--|
| Document E | | | |
| Document F | | | |



Name: _____

Texas Independence and Annexation

Directions: Using the documents and completed graphic organizer (documents A, B, C, D), answer the following question using evidence from the text.

Why did Texans declare independence from Mexico in 1836? Use evidence from the texts to support your answer and explain your reasoning.

How and Why Did the United States Expand Westward?
The 1830s and 1840s *Common Assignment 1*



Directions: Use the documents and completed graphic organizer (documents D, E, F) to answer the following question using evidence from the text and logical reasoning.

Texas declared and won its independence and applied for statehood. Why would Mexico and some Americans object to Texas annexation?



Document for Further Study and Learning—Travis' Letter

Commandancy of the Alamo
Bexar, Fby. 24th, 1836

To the People of Texas & all Americans in the world

Fellow Citizens & Compatriots,

I am besieged by a thousand or more of the Mexicans under Santa Anna. I have sustained a continual bombardment & cannonade for 24 hours & have not lost a man. The enemy has demanded a surrender at discretion, otherwise the garrison are to be put to the sword if the fort is taken. I have answered the demand with a cannon shot, and our flag still waves proudly from the walls. I shall never surrender nor retreat.

Then, I call on you in the name of Liberty, of patriotism, & of everything dear to the American character, to come to our aid with all dispatch. The enemy is receiving reinforcements daily & will no doubt increase to three or four thousand in four or five days. If this call is neglected, I am determined to sustain myself as long as possible & die like a soldier who never forgets what is due to his own honor & that of his country.

Victory or Death
William Barret Travis
Lt. Col. Comdt.

P. S. The Lord is on our side. When the enemy appeared in sight we had not three bushels of corn. We have since found in deserted houses 80 or 90 bushels & got into the walls 20 or 30 head of Beeves.

Travis