

## Section

# 1

## The Texans

### Main Ideas

1. Immigration caused the population of the Republic of Texas to swell.
2. Most African Americans in the Republic were slaves, but even free African Americans faced challenges.
3. Tejanos and American Indians in the Republic experienced widespread discrimination.

### Why It Matters Today

During the Republic, some Texans petitioned the Republic's government to change laws to which they were opposed. Use current events sources to learn how Americans influence the government today.



**TEKS:** 4A, 8B, 11A, 17C, 19B, 21B, 21E, 22D

### myNotebook

Use the annotation tools in your eBook to take notes on the people who lived in the Republic of Texas.

### Key Terms and People

- Greenbury Logan
- Ashworth Act
- Córdova Rebellion
- José Antonio Navarro

## The Story Continues

One summer day in Austin, seven-year-old W. C. Walsh and a group of boys disobeyed their mothers. Instead of playing in the backyard, they sneaked off to Shoal Creek to swim. The children were having a wonderful time when they heard someone cry out. Scared, they raced home. Walsh's mother scolded him for leaving the yard. Austin during the 1830s was no place for a child to run around without supervision.



### A Growing Population

Life in the new Republic presented many challenges. Texans who had fled during the Runaway Scrape returned to find much of their property destroyed. Entire towns, including Harrisburg, Refugio, and San Felipe, had been burned. To help people rebuild, the Constitution of 1836 gave land to many of the people who had lived in Texas before the Revolution.

In 1836 the population of Texas was approximately 52,700, including some 22,700 American Indians, African Americans, and Tejanos. Hoping to encourage immigration, the Republic of Texas set up a land grant policy modeled after the *empresario* system. Agents received land grants in return for bringing immigrants and establishing settlements in the Republic. The government's land policy sparked an increase in immigration to Texas, and the population grew by leaps and bounds. From 1836 to 1847, the population of Texas increased by nearly 100,000.

By far the largest group of new immigrants to the Republic came from the United States in search of land and economic opportunities. Although immigrants came from almost every state, most were from the South. Immigrants from the Lower South settled in East Texas and along the coast. People from the Upper South settled farther inland in East Texas and along the Red River in the northeast.

**Reading Check Summarizing** Why did many immigrants from the U.S. South come to Texas, and where did they settle?

## ★ African Americans

Immigrants from the American South often brought African American slaves with them to Texas. Many slaveholders were drawn to the Republic because the Constitution of 1836 ensured that slavery was legal. With the increase in U.S. immigration, the number of slaves in Texas rose from some 5,000 in 1836 to at least 30,000 by 1845.

Life for slaves was hard. Many worked long hours in cotton fields or did other farm chores. Others lived in towns as personal servants or day laborers. Slaveholders had broad control over the lives of slaves, who had no legal right to private property, to marriage, or to have a family. Almost every slave lived under threat of physical punishment.

Free African Americans also faced discrimination after the Texas Revolution. The Constitution of 1836 required free African Americans to get permission from Congress to stay in the Republic. In 1840 Congress

### Interpreting Visuals

**Immigration to Texas.** Many immigrants traveled to Texas in wagons like the ones shown below. **What transportation problems did people traveling to Texas face?**





## BIOGRAPHY

### Greenbury Logan

(1799–date unknown)  
Greenbury Logan was born into slavery in Kentucky in 1799 but was later freed. In 1831 he settled in one of Stephen F. Austin's colonies. He was wounded while fighting in the Texas Revolution. In 1837 Logan sent a petition to Congress, asking to remain in Texas. Some of the most respected men in the Republic signed his petition.

**How does Logan's story demonstrate the challenges free African Americans faced in the Republic?**

outlawed the immigration of free African Americans to Texas. Free African Americans already in the Republic would have to leave within two years or be sold into slavery. Even veterans of the Texas Revolution like **Greenbury Logan** risked being forced to leave. Logan had fought in the battles at Concepción and San Antonio.

The law outraged many Texans. They demanded exceptions for their friends and neighbors. In November 1840, three petitions were presented to Congress on behalf of the Ashworth family. In response, Congress passed the **Ashworth Act**, which allowed the Ashworths and all free African Americans who were in Texas at the time of the Texas Declaration of Independence to stay.

However, the free African Americans who remained in the Republic had to endure the prejudice of their neighbors. William Goyens, who had helped negotiate with the Cherokees during the war, was one example. A wealthy business owner, Goyens had to deal with repeated attempts by other townspeople to take his property. Although Goyens had the resources to challenge his persecutors in court, other free African Americans did not. Many chose to leave rather than deal with such issues. By 1850 fewer than 400 free African Americans lived in Texas.

**Reading Check Drawing Inferences and Conclusions** Why do you think petitions were made for African American veterans of the Revolution?



## Tejanos in the Republic

Several thousand Tejanos also lived in the Republic. Most lived in the southern part of Texas along the San Antonio and Guadalupe rivers. Tejanos often faced hostility, particularly from U.S. immigrants. These immigrants saw the Tejanos as Mexican, and they thought of Mexico as an enemy. Even Tejanos who had fought in the Revolution faced discrimination. Tejanos had their property stolen. Some were forced to flee Texas completely. Juan Seguín, a hero of the revolution and mayor of San Antonio from 1840 to 1842, witnessed several conflicts between Tejanos and U.S. settlers. "At every hour of the day and night, my countrymen ran to me for protection against the assaults . . . of these adventurers."

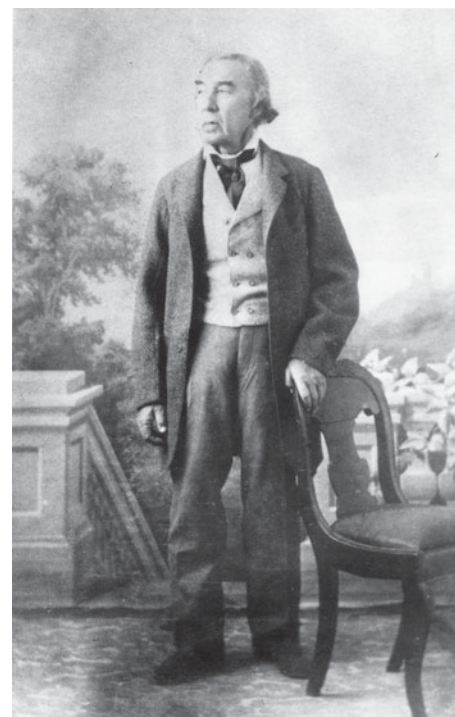
In 1838 a group of Tejanos in Nacogdoches led by Vicente Córdova reacted to this poor treatment. Córdova, a former alcalde, had contacted officials in Mexico who wanted to drive all Anglos out of Texas. With a small group of Tejano and Indian allies, he took up arms in the **Córdova Rebellion**. President Houston ordered the rebels to return to their homes, but they declared that they would fight until their rights were protected. In response, Houston sent the army to end the rebellion. Córdova fled to Mexico, but 33 Tejanos from the Nacogdoches area were arrested and tried for treason. They were eventually released. However, resentful Anglos attacked the Tejanos, driving more than 100 Tejano families from their homes.



Despite these problems, many Tejanos remained in Texas. A few held positions of power in the San Antonio area, such as **José Antonio Navarro**, a signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence. Navarro served in the Republic's Congress and worked to protect Tejano rights.

Despite the hardships they faced, Tejanos maintained their culture. They practiced their Catholic faith, ate traditional foods, and celebrated Mexican holidays. Together with groups of Mexicans in the Rio Grande valley and other areas that would eventually become part of Texas, they helped to create a unique Texas-Mexican cultural tradition.

**Reading Check Analyzing Information** Why might Tejanos have been disappointed by life in the Republic?



*José Antonio Navarro was an important figure in the Republic. He pushed for the protection of Tejano rights while serving in the Texas Congress.*

## ★ Texas Indians

It is difficult to estimate how many American Indians lived in the Texas Republic. Bands of independent Indians were constantly on the move, especially on the Plains. They crossed back and forth from Texas into other areas. Also, new groups of American Indians were arriving in Texas throughout the 1820s and 1830s. Driven from their homes farther east by Americans, groups like the Choctaws, Coushattas, and Creeks had taken up residence in parts of East Texas during this period.

Like African Americans and Tejanos, American Indians faced discrimination in the Texas Republic. Despite Sam Houston's efforts, few Texans were interested in living peacefully with the Indians. Many, including President Lamar, viewed American Indians as enemies who had to be eliminated. Even with Houston's treaties, relations between Indians and the government were strained.

**Reading Check Finding the Main Idea** Why is it difficult to know how many American Indians lived in the Texas Republic?

## ★ Section 1 Review

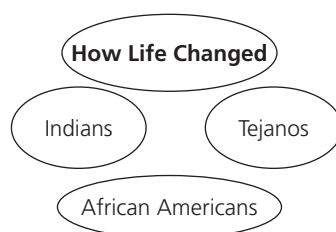
[hmhsocialstudies.com](http://hmhsocialstudies.com)  
**ONLINE QUIZ**

**1. Identify and explain** the significance of each of the following in Texas history:

- Greenbury Logan
- Ashworth Act
- Córdova Rebellion
- José Antonio Navarro

**2. Summarizing**

Copy the graphic organizer below. Use it to show how life changed for various racial and ethnic groups after the Revolution.



**3. Finding the Main Idea**

- Why did immigrants come to Texas?
- What do the experiences of William Goyens and José Antonio Navarro suggest about the lives of African Americans and Tejanos in the Texas Republic?

**4. Writing and Critical Thinking**

**myWriteSmart**

**Supporting a Point of View** Imagine that you live in the Republic of Texas. Write a letter to your congressperson asking for changes to the laws concerning free African Americans.

Consider the following:

- the effects of the Ashworth Act
- African Americans' service in the Revolution