Lesson 1: The Rise of the Lone Star State

Vocabulary

annexation  when one country becomes part of another country
resolution  a decision
legislature  a group of people who make laws

The Last Days of the Republic

Sam Houston supported annexation. He wanted Texas to become part of the United States. The United States had a good postal system to deliver mail. The U.S. Army could protect its people. These services cost money. Houston thought that Texas did not have enough money to pay for these services. Many Texans agreed with him. But others wanted Texas to become a powerful country like the United States. Some U.S. citizens did not want Texas to become part of their country. Texas allowed slavery. Some Americans did not want another slave state in the United States. Many Americans also did not want to pay back Texas’s war debt.

Texas Joins the United States

On February 28, 1845, the U.S. Congress passed a resolution, or decision. It allowed Texas to become a state. Texas would keep its public lands. Its forts would be given to the U.S. government. On July 4, Texas leaders voted on the resolution to join the United States. The resolution passed with only one “no” vote. In October, Texas voters agreed to the resolution. On December 29, 1845, Texas became the twenty-eighth state of the United States.

The Constitution of 1845

The Constitution of 1845 became the state constitution of Texas. The writers based the new constitution on the ones that had been written for the Republic of Texas and the state of Louisiana. The Constitution of 1845 said that a state legislature would meet every two years. A legislature is a group of people who make new laws. The constitution also said that a new governor would be elected every two years. The only people who could vote or hold office in Texas were Anglo and Tejano men over the age of 21.

The Call of the Land

Texas leaders gave away land to get people to move to the state. After 1845 many people came to Texas from the United States, Mexico, and Europe. Travel from Europe was hard. Many people died on the long journey. Immigrants came from many parts of Europe, such as Germany and Poland. They also came from what are now the Czech and Slovak Republics. Immigrants brought different customs, traditions, languages, and ideas with them to Texas.

The New Texans

Most people who moved to Texas had to buy land and grow their own food. More and more people came to Texas. Towns grew and many stores and businesses opened. Texans worked together.
Lesson 1: Review

1. **Cause and Effect** Fill in the missing sentence to show the effect.

   **Cause**
   
   The new state gives away some of its public land.

   **Effect**

2. List two events that happened between February 28, 1845, and December 29, 1845.

   __________________________________________

   __________________________________________

3. Name three countries from which immigrants came to the new state.

   __________________________________________

   __________________________________________

   __________________________________________

4. Name two laws created by the Constitution of 1845.

   __________________________________________

   __________________________________________

5. **Critical Thinking: Analyze** You read that Texas had little money before it became a state. How do you think the new immigrants helped Texas get more money?

   __________________________________________

   __________________________________________

   __________________________________________