



# SOCIAL STUDIES

## FOCUS 2018-19

### The Declaration of Independence, Preamble & Bill of Rights of the U.S. Constitution



based on the annual UIL topic for grades 5 & 6



# UIL Social Studies Focus Topic

2018-2019

for

5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grades

## The Declaration of Independence, Preamble and Bill of Rights of the U.S. Constitution

Written by

Linda Tarrant and Nancy Barnard

Edited by

Beth Mader

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~ President Hexco Inc., Linda Tarrant

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[www.hexco.com](http://www.hexco.com)

P.O. Box 199 • Hunt, Texas 78024

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## TEXAS

### I. Concepts in Government

#### A. History of Texas Government

1. Texas is a Republic. The citizens elect representatives to create the laws.
2. Texas has had eight constitutions.
  - a. 1824 - as the Republic of Mexico
  - b. 1827 - as the Mexican state of Coahuila y Tejas
  - c. 1836 - Republic of Texas
  - d. 1845 - Texas joined the Union
  - e. 1861 - Texas secession
  - f. 1866 - first post-Civil War Constitution
  - g. 1869 - reflects stricter reconstruction policies
  - h. 1876 - current Constitution

#### B. Current Texas Constitution

1. The current Constitution has 17 articles.
2. Amendment instructions are provided in Article 17.
3. It is patterned after the U.S. national government.
4. The powers of the government are divided into three branches like the government of the U.S.
  - a. The executive branch carries out the decisions of the legislative branch, headed by the Governor.
  - b. The legislative branch creates legislation/laws, headed by the House of Representatives and the Senate.
  - c. The judicial branch ensures that laws are legal, according to the state Constitution, and that they punish lawbreakers.
  - d. Civil law is the law of private rights.
5. Criminal law relates to the law of crimes.
6. Plaintiff and defendant are called the accuser and the accused.

### II. Historical and Current Texas leaders

#### A. Texas Republic Leaders of 1836-1845

1. Sam Houston was the first president.
2. Mirabeau B. Lamar served as second president.
3. Sam Houston was reelected to serve as the third president, defeating David Burnet.
4. Anson Jones was the last president and was supported by Sam Houston.

#### B. State of Texas Leaders in 1845

1. James Pinckney Henderson was the first governor.
2. John Hemphill was the first chief justice of the Texas Supreme Court.
3. Sam Houston and Thomas Jefferson Rusk were the first U.S. Senators and appointed by lawmakers, not elected by the people.

4. David Kaufman and Timothy Pillsbury were the first members of the U.S. House of Representatives and elected by the voters.

C. Important Mexican American Leaders in Texas

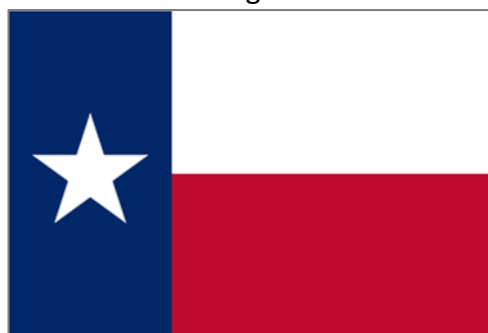
1. Santos Benavides (1823-1891) was a merchant, rancher, mayor of Laredo, and chief justice of Webb County. He was the highest-ranking Tejano soldier in the Confederate Army, reaching the rank of colonel.
2. José Antonio Navarro (1795-1871) fought for Texas independence and was one of three Mexican Texans to sign the Texas Declaration of Independence. He assisted in writing the Texas State Constitution and was the only native Texan at the constitutional convention. He also served in the Texas Senate. He was self-educated, but came to know the laws of both Mexico and Spain. He had a vision for the future of Texas, like Stephen F. Austin had, and the two became the Founding Fathers of Texas.
3. Juan Seguín (1806-1890) assisted his father in bringing Austin's colonists to Texas. He used his ability to read and write to keep Texans informed prior to the Revolution. He led soldiers in the Revolution and was mayor of San Antonio in 1941.
4. Lorenzo de Zavala (1788-1836) was born in Mexico but supported democracy and had a land grant in Texas. He eventually fought for Texas independence and was one of the three Mexicans to sign the Texas Declaration of Independence. He was the first vice president of the Texas Republic and assisted in writing the Texas Constitution.



**Colonel Santos Benavides**  
NPS Trading Card  
Wiki Commons (7393935966)

D. Current Leaders in Texas

1. Governor Greg Abbott
2. Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick
3. Texas Secretary of State Rolando B. Pablos
4. Speaker of the House Joe Straus
5. Attorney General Ken Paxton serves as the top lawyer
6. Comptroller of Public Accounts Glenn Hegar serves as the top tax collector



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