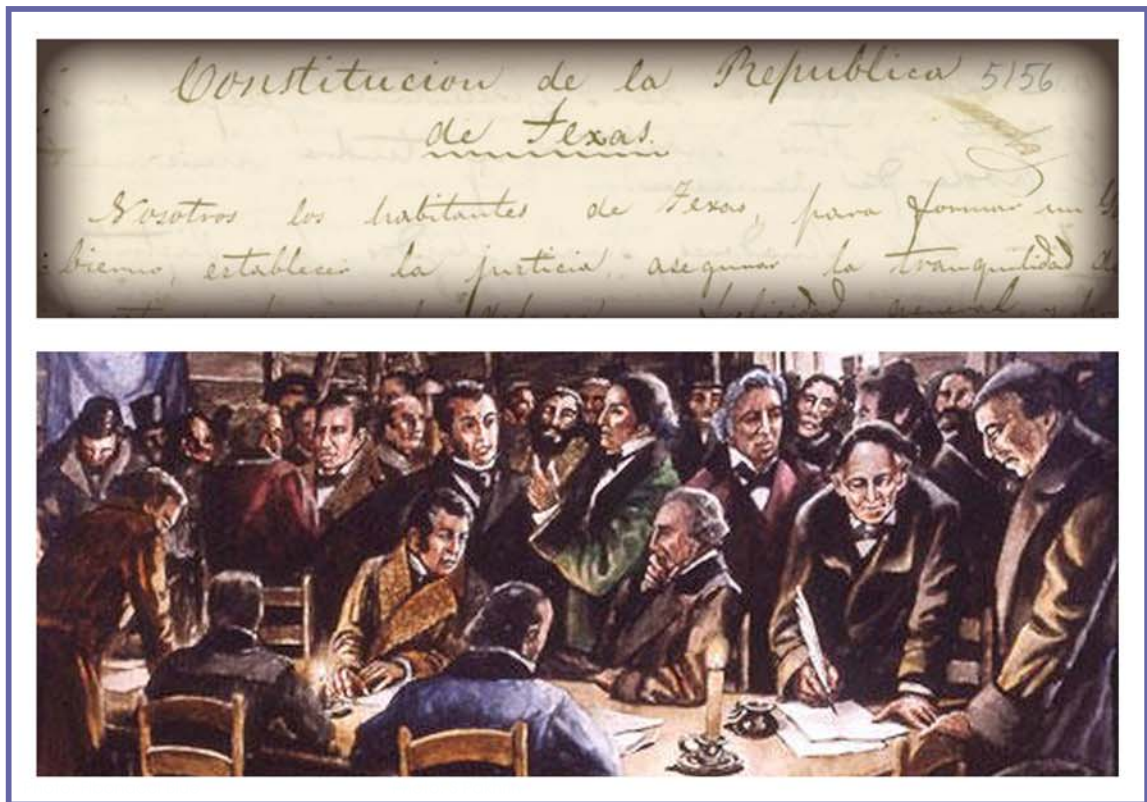




SOCIAL STUDIES

FOCUS 2018-19

**Texas Constitution of 1836
& Bill of Rights of the Texas Constitution of 1876**



based on the annual UIL topic for grades 7 & 8



UIL Social Studies Focus Topic

2018-2019

for

7th & 8th Grades

Texas Constitution of 1836

and

Bill of Rights of the Texas Constitution of 1876

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~ President Hexco Inc., Linda Tarrant

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E. Bill of Rights of the Constitution of the State of Texas of 1876

1. The Bill of Rights of the Texas Constitution of 1876 was Article I of that document. It ensures the primary rights of liberty and free government for the State of Texas. It replaced the prior Constitution of Texas of 1845, which was adopted when Texas joined the United States as a state. The 1845 Constitution had replaced the Constitution of 1836 for the Republic of Texas.
2. The recognition as a free and independent state subject only to the Constitution of the U.S. was insured.
3. All the power of the government was based on the benefit of the people, through the people, and for the people, and gave the people the right to alter, reform or abolish their government.
4. All free men had equal rights.
5. Holding office was not based on any religious tests, but the requirement to acknowledge existence of a Supreme Being was insured
6. No person could be disqualified in a trial based on his or her religious beliefs.
7. The right to worship God according to personal dictates was insured.
8. No money or property from the treasury could be used to benefit any religious entity.
9. Freedom of speech and the press was insured.
10. The security of persons, houses, and possessions, and freedom from unreasonable seizures or searches without probable cause, was insured.
11. The right to a speedy and public trial by an impartial jury, to know the accusations, the right to withhold evidence against oneself, to be heard in trial, the right to have councils, right to confront accusers and witnesses against oneself, and the right to face charges only through indictment by a grand jury for criminal charges was all insured.
12. Right to reasonable bail by sufficient sureties, unless for capital offenses when the proof was evident, was insured.
13. Right to produce an accused person in a court was insured.
14. Right of reasonable bail, fines, and punishment by open courts with due courses of law was insured.
15. One cannot be tried for the same crime twice.
16. Citizens were guaranteed the right of trial by jury.
17. No law impairing the obligation of contracts would be made.
18. Property would not be taken, damaged, destroyed, or applied for public use without adequate compensation and consent of affected people, except for use of State.
19. No imprisonment for inability to pay a debt was allowed.

3. Sam Houston was reelected, after defeating David Barnett, and served from 1841-1844.
 - a. He addressed the huge debts left by Lamar by cutting government jobs and the military.
 - b. His peace treaties with Indians proved to be less costly than Lamar's war policies.
 - c. The War with Mexico began in 1842. Gen. Somervell's forces expelled the Mexicans and told Sam Houston the invasion of Mexico would likely fail. Houston ordered the troops home, but some disobeyed and attacked Mier, which resulted in the Black Bean Episode.

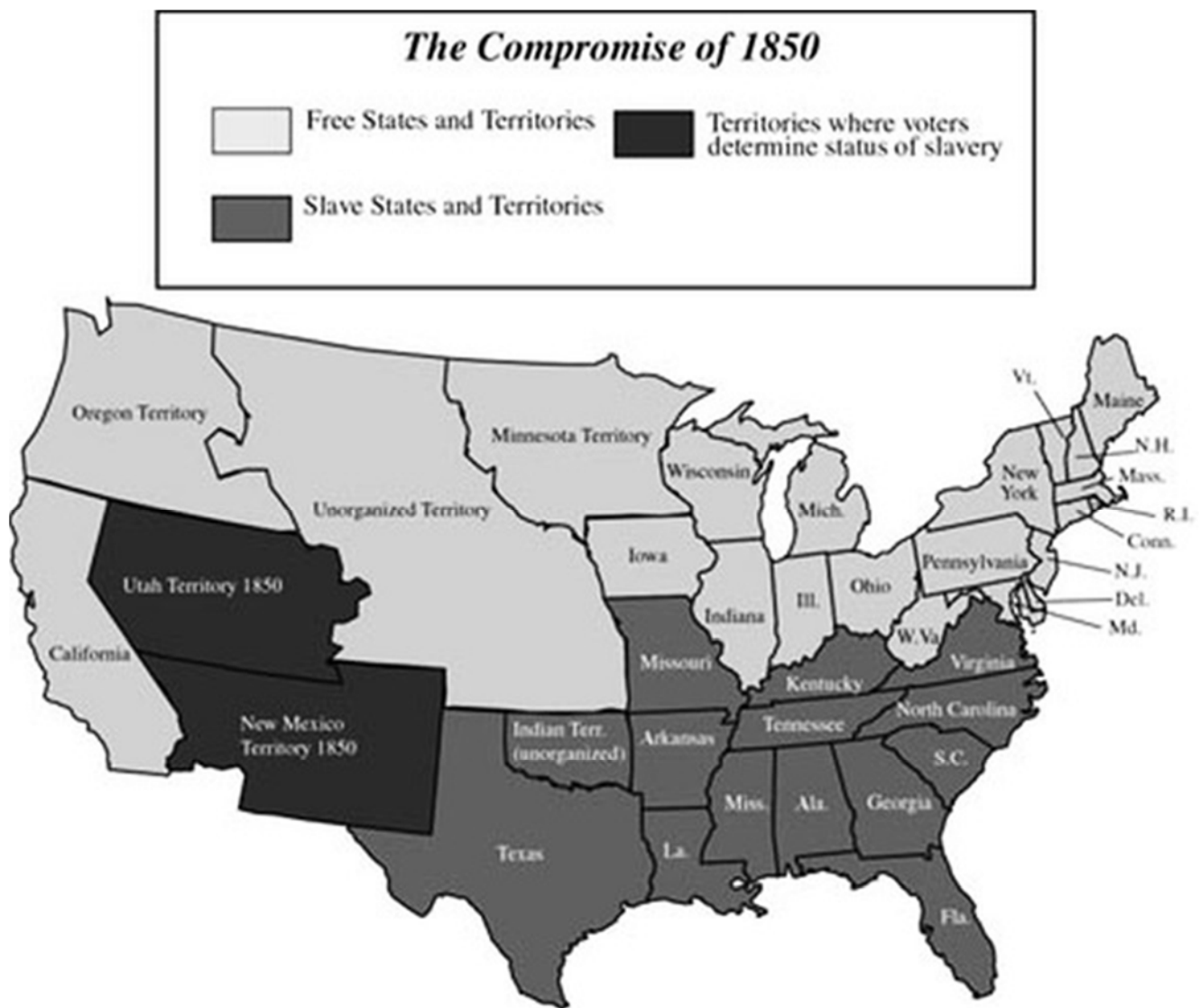
4. Anson Jones, the last President, 1844-1846, was supported by Houston. He continued Houston's policies and received an offer of annexation by the U.S. The debt and threat of war with Mexico were strong reasons to join the U.S. Frontier settlers also hoped the U.S. would protect them from the Comanche.
 - a. The U.S. voiced objections that included slavery issues and the assumption of Texas debt after the Panic of 1837.
 - b. Sly negotiations with Great Britain pitted British interests against Mexican interests and encouraged the U.S. to give Texas a better deal.



Dr. Anson Jones statue in Jones County

5. The Joint Resolution of 1845 annexed Texas as a state.
 - a. A Texas Constitution would be created before joining the Union.
 - b. Public lands would belong to Texas, but money from any sale of lands would go towards paying former debts.
 - c. There was an option to divide Texas into four states.
 - d. Slavery could continue.
- B. State of Texas Leaders in 1845
1. James Pinckney Henderson was the first governor.
 2. John Hemphill was first Chief Justice of the Texas Supreme Court.
 3. Sam Houston and Thomas Jefferson Rusk were the first U.S. Senators, appointed by lawmakers.
 4. David Kaufman & Timothy Pillsbury were the first members of the U.S. House of Representatives and elected by the voters.
 5. The U.S. claimed the southern border of Texas extended to the Rio Grande River. This caused a conflict with Mexico.

6. Mexico still claimed Texas from the Mexican War of 1846-1848. Mexico was forced to cede the land for \$15 million. It included all or parts of the southwestern states and from Wyoming west to California. This ended Texas' struggle with Mexico.
7. Issues that affected the state were frontier battles with Indians, old debt and new debt acquired from the construction of railroads, schools, and the building of the Capitol. Political parties developed, and Democrats became the dominant party.
8. From the Compromise of 1850, Texas lost the final claim to half of New Mexico and parts of Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado and Wyoming, but received \$10 million in return. It could now pay its debts.



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