

LESSON 29

TEXAS ALMANAC TEACHERS GUIDE

State Government

- *Texas' Chief Governmental Officials*
- *State Government*
- *Texas Legislature*
- *Texas State Judiciary*
- *Texas State Agencies*
- *Texas State Boards and Commissions*
- *State Government Income and Expenditures*

INSTRUCTIONAL SUGGESTIONS

- 1. CHIEF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS:** Students will use “Texas’ Chief Government Officials” in the State Government section of the Texas Almanac to complete the **Texas Chief Government Officials Student Activity Sheet**.
 - a. Write the year in which each of these events occurred in the appropriate column.
 - b. Write “1” in the appropriate column for the first event that occurred and continue until all events are sequenced.

SOCIAL STUDIES TEKS

4 - 17, 18, 21, 22, 23

7 - 7, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23

8 - 17, 19, 21, 22, 29, 30

STAAR

4, 7 - Writing - 1, 2, 3

4, 7, 8 - Reading - 1, 2, 3

8 - Social Studies - 3

*The State Capitol at Austin.
Photo by Elizabeth Cruce Alvarez.*

LESSON 29 – State Government

2. PERSUASIVE LETTER: Using the “State Government,” “State Senate,” and “House of Representatives” sections as reference for the officials, students will **write a persuasive letter** to a member of the state executive or legislative branch on one of these topics relating to secondary schools:

- a. Requiring more physical education in the curriculum
- b. Eliminating the fine arts program
- c. Altering the dress code
- d. Requiring community service
- e. Increasing requirements for graduation
- f. Mandating healthful food options in school cafeterias

3. REDESIGN OFFICIAL’S HOME PAGE:

Students will view <http://www.senate.state.tx.us> and www.house.state.tx.us. They will then form seven groups. Each group will **design a new home page** for one of the officials.

4. VISIT FROM LOCAL JUDGE: Using the “Texas State Judiciary” section, teachers should invite **a member of the local judiciary** to speak to their classes about the duties and responsibilities of the judge’s position.

5. STATE AGENCY ADVERTISEMENT: In small groups or with a partner and using the “Texas State Agencies” section, students will **create a visual advertisement** for a state agency.

6. BOARD OR COMMISSION LETTER: Using the “Texas State Boards and Commissions” section, students will select a board or commission that piques their interest. They will **write a letter of inquiry** to that board or commission asking for this information:

- **Purpose of the board or commission**
- **Appointment process**
- **Qualifications for appointees**
- **Benefits of appointees**
- **Recent activities of the board or commission**

7. REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES: Students will use the five-year “State Revenues by Source and Expenditures by Function” table to compute the problems on the **Revenues and Expenditures Student Activity Sheet**, comparing the **earliest to the latest year** in the table:

CHECK IT OUT! Teachers should view the website of the Texas State Senate at: <http://www.senate.state.tx.us>. Click on **Senate Kids**.



*The interior of the dome of the State Capitol.
Photo by Robert Plocheck.*

Texas' Chief Government Officials

YEAR

ORDER

| | | |
|-------|-------|--|
| _____ | _____ | Ann Richards took office as Treasurer of Texas. |
| _____ | _____ | This was the last year that Victor Blanco served as governor under Mexican rule. |
| _____ | _____ | Sam Rayburn was the 32nd Texas Speaker of the Texas House. |
| _____ | _____ | Miriam A. Ferguson took office as governor of Texas for a second term. |
| _____ | _____ | Domingo Terán de los Rios was the Spanish Royal Governor of Texas. |
| _____ | _____ | Kay Bailey Hutchison took office as a United States Senator from Texas. |
| _____ | _____ | William P. Hobby, Jr., took office as the Lieutenant Governor of Texas. |
| _____ | _____ | Anson Jones left office as the last President of the Republic of Texas. |
| _____ | _____ | Laura Welch Bush became the first lady of Texas. |
| _____ | _____ | Hardin R. Runnels left office as the governor of Texas. |
| _____ | _____ | Greg Abbott took office as the Texas Attorney General. |
| _____ | _____ | Annie Webb Blanton became the Superintendent of Public Instruction. |
| _____ | _____ | Lyndon B. Johnson began serving as a United States Senator. |
| _____ | _____ | Sharon Keller became the presiding judge of the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals. |

Revenues and Expenditures

- A.** Was there an increase or decrease in **tax collections** from the earliest to the latest year? _____
What was the percentage of the increase or decrease? _____
- B.** Was there an increase or decrease in the **net lottery proceeds** from the earliest to the latest year? _____
What was the percentage of the increase or decrease? _____
- C.** Was there an increase or decrease in the **education expenditures** from the earliest to the latest year? _____
What was the percentage of the increase or decrease? _____
- D.** Was there an increase or decrease in the **health and human services expenditures** from the earliest to the latest year? _____
What was the percentage of the increase or decrease? _____
- E.** Was there an increase or decrease in the **public safety and corrections expenditures** from the earliest to the latest year? _____
What was the percentage of the increase or decrease? _____
- F.** Was there an increase or decrease in the **lottery winnings paid** from the earliest to the latest year? _____
What was the percentage of the increase or decrease? _____

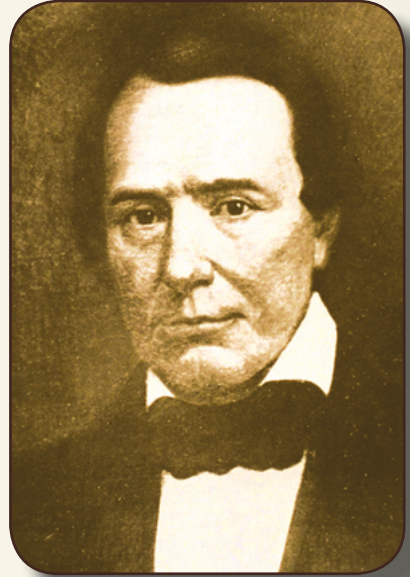
EARLY TEXAS LEADERS



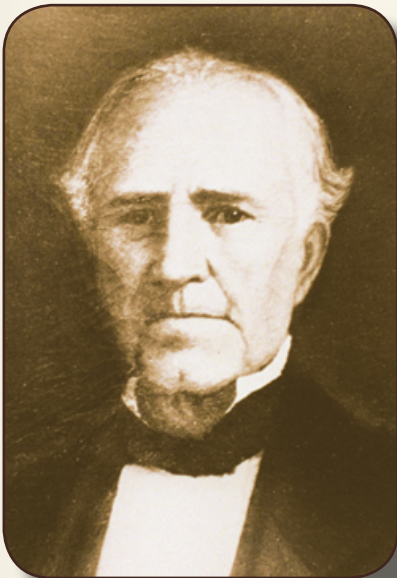
David G. Burnet: Provisional President of the Republic



Sam Houston: Second President of the Republic



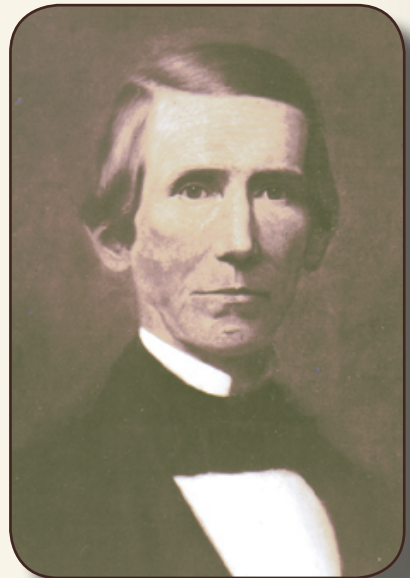
Mirabeau B. Lamar: Third President of the Republic



Sam Houston: Fourth President of the Republic



Anson Jones: Fifth and Last President of the Republic



J. Pinckney Henderson: First Governor of the State