

TEXAS

HISTORY

Six flags have flown over Texas: Spain, France, Mexico, the Republic of Texas, the Confederacy and the United States.

The First Peoples

People have lived in Texas for more than 13,000 years. The Caddo farmed corn in the eastern woods. The Karankawa fished along the Gulf coast. The Apache hunted bison on the plains. In the 1700s, the Comanche rode south on horses and took control of the plains. The nations traded with each other and also fought.

Spain and Mexico

Spain claimed Texas and built **missions**, where priests taught their religion and farming. San Antonio began in 1718 around a mission and a fort. The Spanish brought horses, cattle and ranching. In 1821 Mexico won its freedom from Spain, and Texas became part of Mexico. Mexico wanted more settlers. Stephen F. Austin brought 300 families from the United States. Soon the newcomers outnumbered the **Tejanos**. Some brought enslaved workers to grow cotton.



The Texas Revolution

Settlers and Mexico's leaders argued over laws and taxes. Fighting began in 1835. On March 2, 1836, Texas leaders declared independence. Four days later, General Santa Anna's army stormed the Alamo after a 13-day siege and killed all of its defenders, about 200 men. On April 21, Sam Houston's army surprised Santa Anna at San Jacinto and won in 18 minutes.

A Republic, Then a State

For almost ten years Texas was a **republic**. It became the 28th state on December 29, 1845. A war between the United States and Mexico followed, and it set the border at the Rio Grande. By 1860, more than 182,000 enslaved people worked in Texas, mostly on cotton farms. Texas joined the Confederacy in the Civil War, and the Confederacy lost. On June 19, 1865, Union soldiers at Galveston announced the end of slavery in Texas.



War on the Plains

Settlers moved west onto Comanche and Kiowa land. Raiders from both nations attacked ranches, killed settlers and took horses and captives. Texas Rangers and U.S. soldiers attacked Comanche camps, and hunters killed most of the bison. In 1874, soldiers surprised a large camp in Palo Duro Canyon and captured more than 1,000 horses. In 1875, Quanah Parker led the last Comanche band to a **reservation** in what is now Oklahoma. Three tribes have their governments in Texas today.

Building Texas

After the Civil War, cowboys drove longhorns north to market. Railroads crossed the state in the 1870s and 1880s, and towns grew along the tracks. Ranchers fenced the open range with barbed wire. Oil found at Spindletop in 1901 started a new industry. Later came computer chips and NASA's space center. Today only California has more people.

TEXAS THROUGH TIME



PEOPLE TO KNOW

Sam Houston	Won at San Jacinto. Led the Republic.
Stephen F. Austin	Brought 300 settler families to Texas.
Juan Seguin	Tejano officer who fought at San Jacinto.
Quanah Parker	Comanche leader, and later a rancher.
Bessie Coleman	Texan, first Black woman licensed to fly.

WORDS TO KNOW

mission	a church settlement run by priests
Tejano	a Texan of Spanish or Mexican family
republic	a country that elects its leaders
reservation	land set aside for a Native nation