**Should Texas be part of the United States?**

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|  | **Historical Arguments** | **Modern Day Arguments** |
| **For the union of Texas and the U.S.** | *“So far as I am concerned, or my hearty cooperation required, I am determined upon immediate annexation to the United States… Texas, with peace, could exist without the United States, but the United States cannot, without great hazard to the security of their institutions, exist without Texas... Other nations would not dread [Texas’s] rivalry, but rather count [Texas’s] friendship for commercial (business) advantage…”*  - Letter from Sam Houston to Andrew Jackson, February 16, 1844. | *“There’s a petition going around calling for Texas to secede (break away) from the United States… Costs would be well over a trillion dollars, and that’s just start-up costs. Assuming we’re allowed the ‘peaceful secession’ mentioned in the petition, we still need a national defense from the dozens of other superpowers that would love to jump at the opportunity to take over another territory that is no longer under the protection of the United States.”*  - Columnist Jack Simmons, November 20, 2012 |
| **Against the union of Texas and the U.S.** | *“I was, in the early stages of our Revolution, opposed to the Annexation of Texas to the United States. My course was undisguised, and my reasons for it, have been given to the public. I desired to see Texas become, what her internal resources required – a great agricultural community, with an open commerce (trade) with all the world. To insure this result and to maintain the intelligence and energy of its people, Slavery, as it exists in the Southern portion of the United States, was indispensible (necessary)...”*  - Mirabeau B. Lamar, November 18, 1845 | *“Texas is a unique place. When we came in the union in 1845, one of the issues was that we would be able to leave (secede) if we decided to do that. You know, my hope is that America and Washington in particular pays attention. We’ve got a great union. There is absolutely no reason to dissolve it. But if Washington continues to thumb their nose at the American people, you know, who knows what may come out of that? But Texas is a very unique place and we’re a pretty independent lot to boot.”*  - Former Texas Governor Rick Perry, April 15, 2009 |

**To be or not to be? That is the question – you decide!**

**Directions:** Using the quotes above, write a paragraph detailing your opinion on the issue. You may include evidence from the quotes as well as your own thoughts on the topic.

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