Name:

Date:

School:

Facilitator:

11.01 Texas Annexation

Read the summary of the Mexican-American War linked on the Task page. After reading, create a timeline of important events in the war using the table below. The first line of the table is filled in for you as an example.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Year | Event | People Involved | Significance |
| **1836** | **US extended diplomatic recognition to Texas**  | **President Martin van Buren** | **The US did not annex Texas at this time, as Mexico had threatened war, but the US recognized Texas’s independence from Mexico.** |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

**Read the two quotes below, then answer the questions.**

Read and compare the two primary source quotations from the debate concerning annexation of Texas.

**William Ellery Channing, pastor of the Federal Street Church in Boston, opposing annexation of Texas to Senator Henry Clay, 1887:**

“Having unfolded the argument against the annexation of Texas from the criminality of the revolt, I proceed to a second very solemn consideration, namely, that by this act our country will enter on a career of encroachment, war, and crime, and will merit and incur the punishment and woe of aggravated wrongdoing. The seizure of Texas will not stand alone. It will darken our future history. It will be linked by an iron necessity to long continued deeds of rapine and blood. Ages may not see the catastrophe of the tragedy, the first scene of which we are so ready to enact. It is strange that nations should be so much more rash than individuals; and this, in the face of experience which has been teaching from the beginning of society, that, of all precipitate and criminal deeds, those perpetrated by nations are the most fruitful of misery.”

**Representative Joshua Giddings, Ohio speaking in opposition to the annexation of Texas, May 21, 1844:**

“But let us admit Texas, and we shall place the balance of power in the hands of the Texans themselves. They, with the Southern states, will control the policy and the destiny of this nation; our tariff will then be held at the will of the Texan advocates of free trade. Are our friends of the North prepared to deliver over this great national policy to the people of Texas?”

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Question | William Ellery Channing | Joshua Giddings |
| 1. To what is the writer opposed? |  |  |
| 2. Assess the writer’s reason for his opposition. |  |  |
| 3. Compare the two quotations and determine which argument is strongest and which is weakest and explain your answers.  |  |  |