

# Houston: A Nation's Capital Video Questions

## The Town of Houston

The Allen brothers, Augustus (also known as AC) and John along with Augustus wife, Charlotte, were the original founders of Houston in late 1836.

1. AC and John had very different personalities. Describe their personal qualities.

Augustus (AC) \_\_\_\_\_

John \_\_\_\_\_

2. What were their reasons for choosing the site they did for Houston?
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
  - d.
3. Who were some of the people to whom they gave free land?
  - a.
  - b.
4. Which founder died in 1837?
5. Which founder left Texas and moved to Mexico?
6. Which founder stayed in Houston and became a prominent citizen, buying and selling land and raising cattle?

## The Capital

1. What did the Allen brothers do to encourage the legislature to choose Houston as the capital?
2. What happened to the hotel building after the capital moved to Austin?
3. Why was Texas called “the Bachelor Republic”?
4. Why didn't citizens build nice, fancy homes in Houston?
5. Describe Sam Houston's home in Houston.

6. When did the legislature build a home for the president in Houston?
7. What Texas president lived there?
8. What was the most popular type of business in Houston?

## **The Port of Houston**

1. What kinds of cargo came into the port at Houston?
2. What feature of the bayou's bank made it difficult to unload cargo?
3. Who unloaded most of the cargo?
4. What was the most comfortable way to travel across Texas?
5. What road condition made the trip more expensive?
6. How fast could someone go when they traveled across Texas?
7. What was the main road west from Houston?
8. Name some of the people buried in Founder's Cemetery.
9. What were some of the diseases people died of in Houston's early days?

## **Kessler's Round Tent Saloon**

1. Why did a large number of men come to Houston in the summer of 1836?
2. What kinds of problems did they cause?
3. What did the respectable people of Houston call them?
4. What was their favorite weapon for fighting?
5. How do we know about murders and other events in early Houston?

## **Floyd's Hotel**

1. What were some of the problems faced by people living in Houston?

## **The Mansion House**

1. What was the name of the woman who ran owned the Mansion House in Houston?
2. The Masonic Order is a men's organization that uses symbolic ritual in their meetings and work for the good of the community. Who were some of the members of the Masonic Order in Houston?
3. What was the purpose of the Texas Philosophical Society?
4. How long after Houston was founded was the first church built?
5. What denomination built the first church?
6. Where did other religious groups meet?

## **Dueling Ground**

1. What happened during Thomas Ward's duel?
2. What class of people was most likely to fight in duels?
3. Who stopped the practice of dueling in Houston?
4. What job did he have?
5. What political job did he get in 1837?
6. What did he want to do while holding that job?
7. What symbol for Houston did he create?
8. What did Moore do to make the people who lived just outside of Houston pay city taxes?

## The President's House

1. Name a famous person who was entertained by Sam Houston at his "White House."
2. What were the advantages the town of Houston had as the capital of Texas?
  - a.
  - b.
3. Why didn't Houston remain in the office of President of Texas in 1839?
4. Who became president at that time?
5. Why did he want to move the capital?
6. To what place did he move the capital?
7. What effect did moving the capital have on where people lived in Texas?
8. Describe Austin.
  - a. Size
  - b. Buildings
  - c. Number of residents
9. What two groups was Houston worried might attack the Austin capital?
  - a.
  - b.
10. Name two things Houston and Lamar had in common.
  - a.
  - b.

11. Complete the following chart:

	Houston	Lamar
Personality		
Opinion about annexation		
Native American policy		
Desire to continue war with Mexico		
Desire to keep and expand the Texas Navy		

## The Archives War

1. What did Houston want to do about the capital when he returned to office?
2. What got left behind when he moved the government?
3. What kinds of records were in the archives?
4. Where did Houston move the capital?
5. What events gave Houston the excuse to move they archives out of Austin?
6. Who did he send to get the archives?
7. What form of transportation were they using to retrieve the archives?
8. In what building were the archives located?
9. When did they plan to take the archives?
10. Where were they going to take them?

11. Who prevented them from removing the archives?

12. How?

13. How far did they get before they were stopped?

14. Where did the people of Austin put the archives after they got them back?