

The Texas Revolution

(1835–1836)



This mosaic honors the Texans' stand and victory at Gonzales.



During the Texas Revolution, some Mexican officers wore elaborate uniforms like this one.



October 2 Texas settlers attack Mexican soldiers at Gonzales, forcing them to leave.

December 9 Texas troops push Mexican troops out of San Antonio, capturing the city.

February 23 The Siege of the Alamo begins.

March 2 The Texas Declaration of Independence is adopted.

**August
1835**

**October
1835**

**December
1835**

**February
1836**

U.S. and WORLD



September 9 In response to widespread demands for change, the British Parliament reforms local government in England.

October 27 Santa Anna, the president of Mexico, decides to personally lead the campaign to put down the Texas rebellion.

January 30 Richard Lawrence tries to assassinate U.S. president Andrew Jackson. Jackson is unharmed.

March 30 Stephen F. Austin arrives in Washington to request aid for the Texas Revolution.



U.S. president Andrew Jackson was a friend of Sam Houston.

Build on What You Know

Different ideas about government, individual rights, and other matters had led to increasing conflict between settlers in Texas and the leaders of Mexico. During the early 1830s tensions grew, and fighting broke out. By late 1835, the first shots of the Texas Revolution had been fired.



After the Battle of San Jacinto, Santa Anna was captured and forced to surrender. Sam Houston injured his ankle during the battle.



Texas adopted its first official flag in 1836.

April 21 Texans win the Battle of San Jacinto, ending the Texas Revolution.

December 10 The first official Texas flag is adopted by the Texas Congress.

April 1836

June 1836

August 1836

October 1836

December 1836

June 15 Arkansas is admitted as the 25th state of the United States.

August 10 Revolts erupt in several regions of Spain, forcing ruler Maria Cristina to restore the Constitution of 1812.

October 29 A revolt in Strasbourg led by French emperor Napoléon III fails, and he is banished from the country.



These medals belonged to Napoléon III of France.

You Be the Historian



What's Your Opinion? Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Support your point of view in your journal.

- **Constitutional Heritage** A constitution is necessary for good government.
- **Citizenship** Citizens should volunteer to serve their government during conflicts.
- **Geography** During a war, the geography of an area does not affect the outcome of a battle.

If you were there . . .

Would you support the Texas Revolution?



The War Begins

Read to Discover

1. How did the Battle of Gonzales significantly change relations between Texans and the Mexican government?
2. What events led to the siege of San Antonio?
3. What happened during the siege and capture of San Antonio?

Why It Matters Today

Providing the army with supplies, funds, and soldiers was a difficult task for Texas leaders in 1835. Use ONfyi.com or other **current events** sources to learn about military funding in the United States today. Record your findings in your journal.

Define

- infantry
- cavalry

Identify

- Antonio López de Santa Anna
- Battle of Gonzales
- Martín Perfecto de Cos
- Ben Milam
- Stephen F. Austin
- Juan Seguín
- Edward Burleson
- Erastus “Deaf” Smith
- Grass Fight



The conflict at Gonzales began when Texans refused to surrender their cannon to Mexican soldiers.

The Story Continues

Nicolás Rodríguez, the Mexican commander at Fort Lipantitlán, sent word asking to borrow James McGloin’s two-pound cannon. McGloin refused. The commander then sent another request for the cannon. McGloin still said no. Enraged, Rodríguez told his men to bring him the cannon—with McGloin tied to it. But McGloin still refused to give up the weapon.

★ The Capture of Gonzales and Goliad

One month earlier, a similar conflict had erupted at Gonzales. Many people in Texas were upset with the Mexican government because **Antonio López de Santa Anna** refused to follow the Constitution of 1824. When a Mexican officer in San Antonio ordered U.S. settlers at Gonzales to hand over a brass cannon, they refused. They then buried the cannon in an orchard and sent riders to ask for reinforcements. The U.S. settlers also removed the ferry that crossed the Guadalupe River to prevent Mexican soldiers from taking the cannon.

As reinforcements arrived, the settlers’ force grew to at least 140 men. On October 1 they decided to attack the Mexican force of

approximately 100 soldiers. The rebels dug up the cannon and mounted it on a wagon. They also made a flag with the challenge *COME AND TAKE IT*. Early on October 2, the settlers attacked. The fighting in the **Battle of Gonzales** was brief, leaving at least one Mexican soldier dead. No Texas settlers were killed, and the Mexican soldiers withdrew to San Antonio. After the Battle of Gonzales, many Texans realized that there was no turning back. A war had begun.

General **Martín Perfecto de Cos**, headquartered in San Antonio, ordered about 300 more Mexican soldiers to Texas to help put down the rebellion. In response, a group of settlers living near the coastal towns of Matagorda and Victoria formed a volunteer army. They decided to attack the Mexican garrison at Goliad, where Cos had left fewer than 30 soldiers. George Collinsworth commanded the Texan force of about 50 settlers. He was assisted by veteran **Ben Milam**. On October 10, 1835, the U.S. settlers attacked, and a brief fight occurred. The garrison, outnumbered and surrounded, surrendered.

After the victory at Goliad, more volunteers joined the rebel army. The rebels then set their sights on San Antonio, where Cos and a Mexican army were waiting. By capturing Goliad, the Texas rebels had cut off the Mexican army's supply route. Another force of some 300 Texas settlers had already gathered at Gonzales for an attack.

Reading Check Sequencing List in order the events that led to the Battle of Gonzales, the first battle of the Texas Revolution.

TEXAS!!

Emigrants who are desirous of assisting Texas at this important crisis of her affairs may have a free passage and equipments, by applying at the **NEW-YORK and PHILADELPHIA HOTEL**.

On the Old Levee, near the Blue Stores.

Now is the time to ensure a fortune by Land: To all who remain in Texas during the War will be allowed 1200 Acres.
To all who remain Six Months, 640 Acres.
To all who remain Three Months, 320 Acres.
And as Colonists, 4000 Acres for a family and 1470 Acres for a Single Man.
New Orleans, April 23d, 1836.

Pamphlets like this one were distributed to encourage U.S. settlers to come to Texas and support the Texas war effort.



Early Conflicts of the Texas Revolution, 1835

Interpreting Maps Early conflicts erupted at Gonzales and Goliad. Texas soldiers then marched to San Antonio and laid siege to the city.

TAKS Skills

- 1. Locate** Where did the first conflicts of the Texas Revolution occur? **★TEKS**
- 2. Analyzing Information** What conflict led to General Cos's retreat from Texas? **★TEKS**

★ The March on San Antonio

In mid-October the volunteers in Gonzales began to organize their planned attack on San Antonio. They elected army officers, choosing **Stephen F. Austin** as their general. The difficult march to San Antonio began on October 12. Gunsmith Noah Smithwick described efforts to move a cannon.

Analyzing Primary Sources
Identifying Points of View
Which phrase of Smithwick's reveals his opinion of the Texas army's condition?

Texas Voices

“We prodded [poked] up the oxen with our lances [spears] . . . until they broke into a trot. . . . But rapid locomotion [movement] was not congenial [friendly] to them. . . . Finally . . . the old cannon was abandoned in disgrace at Sandy Creek before we got halfway to San Antonio.”

—Noah Smithwick, *The Evolution of a State, or Recollections of Old Texas Days*

Austin set up camp on the outskirts of the city in late October. Austin's army was aided by Tejanos from San Antonio, many of whom had suffered after the arrival of General Cos. Leading Tejano citizens such as Erasmo Seguín had been forced to sweep the city streets. Tejano women had to bake tortillas for the Mexican troops. Mexican forces also took supplies and destroyed some citizens' homes.

Already opposed to Santa Anna's government, many Tejanos were further outraged by the actions of Cos and his troops. More than 100 Tejanos—including **Juan Seguín** and Plácido Benavides—joined the Texas army in San Antonio and other towns. The Texas army, however, was ill trained and ill equipped. Although it had grown to some 600 soldiers, most were **infantry**, or foot soldiers. They would have a hard time fighting the Mexican **cavalry**—a group of soldiers on horseback. So part of Austin's military strategy, or plan, was to increase his cavalry. Juan Seguín and other Tejanos in San Antonio who supported the rebellion volunteered for the cavalry.

Interpreting the Visual Record

Siege of San Antonio. After victories at Gonzales and Goliad, Ben Milam and other Texans were eager to push Mexican forces out of San Antonio. How does the artist show the Texans' enthusiasm? ★ TExS



Daughters of the Republic of Texas Library

Austin wanted to establish a good defensive position outside of San Antonio. To find a choice location, he sent out a search party of 90 men led by James “Jim” Bowie, James Fannin, and Andrew Briscoe. On October 28 the search party was attacked by 400 Mexican soldiers at the Mission Concepción. Bowie and the party had camped in a good defensive position and dug in behind a riverbank. The Mexican soldiers’ shots missed the rebels. With more-accurate rifles, the Texas soldiers held back the Mexican forces. In the fight at Concepción, the Texas troops won a quick and clear victory. Like the capture of Goliad, this victory boosted the confidence of the Texas army. Some troops wanted to attack General Cos in San Antonio immediately. With advice from other officers, Austin decided to wait for reinforcements. The Texas army leaders were worried about the number of soldiers and artillery in San Antonio.

★ Reading Check Summarizing How did geographic factors such as landforms affect Texans preparing to lay siege to San Antonio?

★ The Grass Fight

After the fight at Concepción, Stephen F. Austin moved his headquarters to the Old Mill just north of San Antonio. In this position, the Texas army could lay siege to San Antonio. A siege is a military action where an enemy is surrounded and routes for supplies and reinforcements are cut off. Because the Mexican troops had taken the supplies of local Tejanos, the siege seemed to have little effect. Many of the Texas troops became impatient, and some began to desert. Others fell ill as the weather grew colder. After a couple of weeks, Austin grew discouraged. On November 18 Austin received word of his appointment as a commissioner to the United States. The soldiers elected Colonel **Edward Burleson**, an experienced soldier, to take command of the Texas army. Burleson considered withdrawing from the area immediately and ending the siege.

Then on November 26 **Erastus “Deaf” Smith**, one of Burleson’s scouts, rode into camp. He reported that more than 100 Mexican soldiers with pack animals were headed to San Antonio. A rumor quickly spread through the camp that they were carrying silver to pay the Mexican troops. About 40 Texas cavalry under Bowie and 100 infantry troops ambushed the Mexicans. The rebels captured the soldiers’ horses and mules along with their cargo. The Texas troops eagerly opened the bags that supposedly held silver, only to find grass for feeding horses. This incident became known as the **Grass Fight**. Although the Texas troops were disappointed, some rebels realized that the siege was working because the Mexican forces needed feed for their starving animals.

★ Reading Check Identifying Cause and Effect Why did the Grass Fight take place, and what was the result?

Biography



Juan Seguín (1806–1890)

Juan Seguín supported Texans’ right to influence local laws. During the revolution, he volunteered for military service. He commanded a unit at the Battle of San Jacinto and accepted Mexico’s surrender of San Antonio on June 4, 1836. From 1837 to 1840, Seguín served as a Texas senator, and from 1840 to 1842, he was mayor of San Antonio. After conflicts with U.S. settlers and financial troubles, Seguín resigned as mayor and fled to Mexico with his family in 1842. Although he fought against the United States in the Mexican War, he returned to Texas at the end of the war, settling in Wilson County. He retired in Nuevo Laredo in the 1860s and died there in 1890. His body was moved to Seguin, Texas, on July 4, 1976. **How did Seguín contribute to Texas history?** ★ TKS

Daily Life

The Home Front

The revolution disrupted the daily lives of many Texans. This was true for Tejanos during the siege and capture of San Antonio. Both the Mexican and Texas armies took food, livestock, and other supplies from townspeople. During the battle, Texas troops broke down the doors of homes, tore holes in the walls and ceilings, and used the residents' furniture for cover. Many homes were left in ruins. **What types of hardships did some Texans suffer during the revolution?**

What types of hardships did some Texans suffer during the revolution?



A settler's door lock

The Capture of San Antonio

After the Grass Fight, Colonel Bureson ordered a withdrawal from San Antonio to Goliad. On December 4, the day Bureson ordered the pull-back, a captured Mexican officer was brought to camp. He reported that General Cos's troops were weak and disorganized. The siege and lack of supplies had worn down the Mexican soldiers. After hearing the report, Colonel Ben Milam shouted to the troops, "Who will go with old Ben Milam into San Antonio?" About 300 rebels answered Milam's call. They gathered that night at the Old Mill. Ben Milam and Francis W. Johnson each took command of a group for the attack on San Antonio.

The Texas troops attacked in the early morning hours on December 5, 1835. The fighting spread from house to house, and then on to the rooftops. One Texan described the frightened citizens' reaction. "Men, women and children began to run out, in their night clothes and unarmed." On the third day, Milam was killed. Although the Texas troops had lost Milam, the battle was turning in their favor. They were forcing the Mexican troops to retreat. By December 9 the Mexican forces had been pushed out of the center of San Antonio. On December 10 the two sides agreed to the terms of Cos's surrender. Cos was allowed to lead his troops out of Texas. The Texas army had forced nearly every Mexican soldier out of Texas.

The victory in San Antonio led many Texans to believe that the conflict was over. The rebels thought that they could form a separate state within Mexico and operate under the laws of the Constitution of 1824. Santa Anna had different plans for Texas, however.

Reading Check Finding the Main Idea What was the outcome of the siege of San Antonio?



Section 1 Review



Questions 2, 3, 4a, 4b, 5

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Homework
Practice
Online

keyword: ST3 HP11

1 Define and explain:

- infantry
- cavalry

2 Identify and explain:

- Antonio López de Santa Anna
- Battle of Gonzales
- Martin Perfecto de Cos
- Ben Milam
- Stephen F. Austin
- Juan Seguin
- Edward Bureson
- Erastus "Deaf" Smith
- Grass Fight

3 Summarizing

Copy the web diagram below. Use it to show how early victories gave confidence to the Texas troops during the Texas Revolution.



4 Finding the Main Idea

- Describe the effects of the Battle of Gonzales on Texas-Mexico relations.
- How did the victory at Goliad inspire Texas troops to head toward San Antonio?

5 Writing and Critical Thinking

Drawing Inferences and Conclusions

Imagine that you are a reporter covering the siege of San Antonio. Write a report that describes the events.

Consider the following:

- decisions that army officials made
- effects of geographic factors such as landforms on the battle



The Consultation of 1835

Read to Discover

1. What issues were debated at the Consultation?
2. What kind of government did the Consultation establish, and why did problems with it arise?

Why It Matters Today

Texans held the Consultation to discuss the formation of a government. Use CNNfyi.com or other **current events** sources to learn about new governments being formed today. Record your findings in your journal.

Define

- provisional

Identify

- Branch T. Archer
- Declaration of November 7, 1835
- Henry Smith
- Sam Houston
- William Goyens

The Story Continues

Several Texas settlers had braved long distances and a hard journey to reach San Felipe de Austin. They had an important mission. As delegates to the Consultation, they would debate the future of Texas. Because only a few delegates had trickled into town by October 15, the meeting was delayed. The 30 or so delegates in San Felipe became restless waiting for others to arrive. Frustrated, some threatened to leave.



Delegates at the Consultation used quill pens.

★ Debating Independence

Finally, on November 4, 1835, enough delegates had arrived for the first session of the Consultation to begin. The delegates elected **Branch T. Archer** president of the convention and began debating the recent events. The pro-war delegates argued that Texas should declare its independence from Mexico. The pro-peace group feared that declaring independence would cost them the support of Tejanos. Many Tejanos wanted the Constitution of 1824 restored, but they worried about their future in an independent Texas. Peace party members stated that they were loyal Mexican citizens. Their goal was to restore the Constitution of 1824.

The pro-war and pro-peace groups reached a compromise in the **Declaration of November 7, 1835**. The delegates pledged their loyalty to Mexico, explaining that they had used force only to defend themselves. However, the document warned that if Mexico did not restore the Constitution of 1824, they would create an independent government.

Declaration of the People of Texas

The Consultation adopted the following statement on November 7, 1835.

“Whereas, General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna and other Military Chieftains have, by force of arms, overthrown the Federal Institutions of Mexico, and dissolved the Social Compact which existed between Texas and the other Members of the Mexican Confederacy—Now, the good People of Texas, availing themselves of their natural rights,

SOLEMNLY DECLARE

1st. That they have taken up arms in defense of their rights and Liberties, which were

threatened by the encroachments [advances beyond proper limits] of military despots, and in defense of the Republican Principles of the Federal Constitution of Mexico of 1824. . . .

These Declarations we solemnly avow to the world, and call GOD to witness their truth and sincerity. . . .

[P. B. Dexter], Secretary B. T. Archer, President”

Analyzing Primary Sources

- 1. Finding the Main Idea** Why was the declaration issued?
- 2. Drawing Inferences and Conclusions** According to the declaration, why did Texans take up arms?

The next order of business was to create a **provisional**, or temporary, government. The Consultation elected **Henry Smith** governor and James Robinson lieutenant governor. Governor Smith was a member of the pro-war group and had been active in public life since he came to Texas in 1827. He had served as a delegate to the Convention of 1833. To help run the provisional government, the Consultation created the General Council. In addition, the delegates chose three commissioners to travel to the United States. The commissioners were Stephen F. Austin, William H. Wharton, and Branch T. Archer. Their goals were to recruit volunteers for the army and to raise money.

The delegates also addressed military matters. They selected **Sam Houston** as commander in chief of a regular army, modeled after the U.S. Army. Houston was an experienced soldier and politician. He had served as a U.S. congressman and as governor of Tennessee. But Houston faced several problems. The delegates had left the volunteer forces under their existing organization and command. At that time, Texas forces were entirely made up of volunteers, so Houston had no regular army. There was little Houston could do to organize the volunteers. The Consultation did not give him the power or the money to pay soldiers.

The General Council did authorize the creation of a Texas navy to protect the Texas coast and supply ships traveling from New Orleans and other eastern ports. However, the first navy ships were not purchased until January. Once in action, the navy not only protected Texas settlements but also made many attacks on Mexican ships and towns during the revolution.

 **Reading Check Finding the Main Idea** What role did the Constitution of 1824 play in the Declaration of November 7, 1835?

★ The Provisional Government

Disagreements over military strategy soon created conflict within the government. Some Texas rebels wanted to attack Matamoros, a city across the Rio Grande. This would bring the war closer to Santa Anna and might encourage other regions to revolt against him. In addition, some rebels were interested in claiming land in the region. Francis Johnson and James Grant organized the volunteer troops for this campaign. Sam Houston and Governor Smith did not support them, but the council voted to carry out the attack. Johnson and Grant left for Matamoros, hoping to gather volunteers along the way. This Matamoros expedition, however, only reached San Patricio and Agua Dulce Creek.

Meanwhile, Houston and **William Goyens** went to East Texas to negotiate a peace treaty with the Cherokee. Both men were well suited for the task. Houston had lived with the Cherokee as a teenager and adult. Goyens, an African American businessperson, had been appointed by the Mexican government to work with American Indians. Because of their efforts, the Cherokee agreed to remain neutral during the revolution.

Other efforts of the provisional government were less successful. Texas did not have clear goals or good leadership, and several conflicts emerged between members of the General Council. Disagreements also arose between Smith, who wanted immediate independence for Texas, and the council members of the pro-peace group. Despite protests from Smith, in December 1835 the General Council scheduled a new convention for March 1, 1836, to solve the government's problems.



Interpreting the Visual Record

American Indian relations. William Goyens and Sam Houston met with the Cherokee to form a peace treaty during the revolution. How do you think their experiences with American Indians helped Goyens and Houston achieve their goal? ★ TEKS

Reading Check Drawing Inferences and Conclusions What caused the problems faced by the provisional government?



Section 2 Review



Questions 2, 3, 4a, 4b, 5

go.
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.com

Homework
Practice
Online

keyword: ST3 HP11

1 Define and explain:

- provisional

2 Identify and explain:

- Branch T. Archer
- Declaration of November 7, 1835
- Henry Smith
- Sam Houston
- William Goyens

3 Identifying Cause and Effect

Copy the graphic organizer below. Use it to show why the Consultation met and what it hoped to accomplish.



4 Finding the Main Idea

- What type of government did the delegates establish?
- How did the structure of the provisional government create problems?

5 Writing and Critical Thinking

Supporting a Point of View Imagine that you are a delegate. Write a letter supporting either the pro-war group's drive for independence or the peace group's position to stay part of Mexico. Consider the following:

- arguments and actions of the pro-war group
- arguments and concerns of the peace group



The Siege of the Alamo

Read to Discover

1. What was the condition of the Texas forces when the Mexican troops arrived in Texas?
2. Why did Texans decide to defend the Alamo, and how did they prepare?
3. How did the Battle of the Alamo begin, and what occurred during its final hours?

Why It Matters Today

The battle at the Alamo became a rallying point for Texas troops. Use ONfyi.com or other **current events** sources to learn how important battles are remembered today. Record your findings in your journal.

Define

- casualties
- noncombatants

Identify

- Davy Crockett
- José de Urrea
- James Fannin
- James “Jim” Bowie
- William B. Travis
- James Bonham
- Siege of the Alamo
- Susanna Dickinson



Even before he came to Texas, Davy Crockett was well known as a brave frontiersman.

The Story Continues

On January 9, 1836, Davy Crockett sat down to write a letter to his children. He had just arrived in Texas and described with enthusiasm his warm welcome. Settlers fired a cannon and held a dinner in honor of the famous frontiersman. He then looked for a place to settle and claim a piece of land. He also noted to his family that he had joined the Texas army as a volunteer and was happy with his choice. The letter would prove to be Crockett’s last.

★ The Mexican Army Advances

More than a month after **Davy Crockett** wrote his letter to his children, Mexican forces began to approach San Antonio. Seeking revenge against rebellious Texans, Santa Anna decided that he would personally lead the attack. In February 1836 Santa Anna’s army of approximately 6,000 soldiers reached the Rio Grande. Santa Anna led some of his forces to San Antonio. General **José de Urrea**, who entered Texas farther south near Matamoros, proceeded with an army toward Goliad.

The Texas army was unprepared for an advance by the Mexican troops, and Urrea quickly overtook the Texans that were headed to Matamoros. The rest of the Texas forces were scattered in small groups.

Colonel James Neill had just more than 100 troops in San Antonio. About 400 soldiers were in Goliad under the command of Colonel **James Fannin**.

Sam Houston was alarmed that the Texas army was so ill prepared and disorganized. On January 17 he notified Governor Smith that **James “Jim” Bowie** was on his way to San Antonio to evaluate the situation there. Houston recommended that the former San Antonio de Valero Mission, also called the Alamo, be destroyed and its artillery removed. Smith disagreed, believing it was important to defend the Alamo. Its defenses had been improved several years earlier to provide protection from American Indian attacks. The mission was also strategically located along the Old San Antonio Road—one of the two major routes through Texas. San Antonio would be one of the first Texas settlements the Mexican troops reached.

On January 19 Bowie arrived in San Antonio with 25 men. He examined Colonel Neill’s improvements to the fort and its 21 cannons. He and Neill agreed that the Alamo and its artillery were too important to destroy. He wrote Governor Smith explaining why.

Texas Voices

“The salvation of Texas depends in great measure on keeping Bexar [San Antonio] out of the hands of the enemy. . . . Colonel Neill and myself have come to the solemn [serious] resolution that we will rather die in these ditches than give them up to the enemy.”

—James Bowie, quoted in *Lone Star*, by T. R. Fehrenbach

When Smith received Bowie’s letter, he decided to send reinforcements. He ordered Colonel **William B. Travis** to raise a force and head to San Antonio. In spite of his efforts, Travis could gather only 30 soldiers. He and his troops rode in from San Felipe de Austin on February 3. As word spread of the rebellion, U.S. volunteers trickled into Texas. Davy Crockett led a dozen Tennessee volunteers into San Antonio a few days after Travis arrived. Although Crockett was a famous frontiersman and a former U.S. congressman, he did not want a position of authority. He told Travis, “Assign me some place and I and my Tennessee boys will defend it all right.” **James Bonham** and a volunteer force from Alabama called the Mobile Grays also joined the Texas defenders. When Colonel Neill left the Alamo to care for an ill family member, he put Travis in command. Travis and Bowie argued over control, finally agreeing to share command.

Reading Check Supporting a Point of View Do you agree or disagree with Bowie’s decision to defend the Alamo? Explain your answer.

Biography



William B. Travis (1809–1836)

William B. Travis was born in South Carolina, but his family moved to Alabama in 1818. He later became an attorney and married Rosanna Cato. Shortly afterward, Travis began publication of the *Claiborne Herald* newspaper and joined the Alabama militia. In 1830 Travis left his family and headed for Texas. He acquired land from Stephen F. Austin and set up a law practice at Anahuac. Travis became part of a rebel group that opposed the Law of April 6, 1830. Upon his death at the Alamo he became a Texas hero.

What role did Travis play in the Texas Revolution? **TEKS**



A Mexican soldier created this map of the Alamo and San Antonio for Santa Anna.

The Siege of the Alamo

In preparation for the Siege of the Alamo, Texans built up the fortifications around the old mission and placed cannons in strategic spots along the walls. However, they needed more troops to defend such a large area.



Visualizing History

- 1. Science, Technology & Society** What improvements did the Texans make to the Alamo to help their chances of survival? **★ TEKS**
- 2. Connecting to Today** Why do you think many Texans today consider the defenders of the Alamo heroes? **★ TEKS**

★ The Siege Begins

As the Mexican forces approached San Antonio, the Texas troops at the Alamo built up their defenses. Green Jameson, a 29-year-old lawyer, was in charge of strengthening the plaza walls. He and the other defenders built up the walls to 12 feet high and 2 feet thick. Jameson directed the building of palisades—high fences made of stakes—behind which soldiers could fight. Jameson also worked with artillery officer Almaron Dickinson to place the 21 cannons around the Alamo. Even with such improvements, the Alamo would be difficult to defend without more troops. It was originally built as a mission, not a fort. The area enclosed by the two buildings and walls of the Alamo was about three acres, and likely required about 1,000 soldiers to defend it properly. The Texas soldiers in the Alamo at this time numbered little more than 150.

Travis and the rest of the Alamo defenders hoped for reinforcements. Juan Seguín organized scouts to look for Santa Anna's troops. Travis soon began hearing reports that Santa Anna's army was approaching. At first, the Texans doubted the reports. Travis and Bowie had thought that the rainy weather would delay the Mexicans until mid-March. However, Santa Anna had pushed hard. On February 23 a lookout spotted the Mexican troops marching down the road.

James Bowie was an experienced soldier known for carrying a type of large knife, called a bowie knife.



As Mexican troops marched into the city, the defenders, their families, and some local residents rushed to get inside the walls of the Alamo. Expecting a siege, the defenders gathered food, ammunition, and other supplies from local citizens. General Santa Anna arrived just after the defenders were safely inside and soon demanded their surrender. The Texas rebels responded by firing a cannon shot toward the Mexican army. Santa Anna reacted swiftly. He ordered that a large blood-red flag be raised so the defenders within the Alamo could see it. This “no quarter” flag meant that Santa Anna would leave no survivors. The **Siege of the Alamo** was under way.

On February 24, Mexican forces began firing on the Alamo. That day Travis wrote his famous plea “To the People of Texas and All Americans in the World.” The letter was a request for aid in the face of certain death. Cannons bombarded the Alamo for hours at a time. Bowie, who had been ill, collapsed on the second day of the siege. Travis took charge. On the fourth day of the siege, Travis ordered the Texas troops to stop shooting and save their ammunition. He was worried that Santa Anna’s army would soon launch a full-scale attack.

Reading Check Evaluating How did Texas troops prepare for the Siege of the Alamo, and was it adequate preparation in your point of view?

Historical Document

Travis’s Letter

William B. Travis wrote this plea for help at the Alamo on February 24, 1836.

⁴Commandancy of the Alamo—

Bejar [San Antonio], Fby. 24th 1836—

To the people of Texas & all Americans in the world—

Fellow Citizens—& compatriots [fellow countrymen]—

I am **besieged**,¹ by a thousand or more of the Mexicans under Santa Anna—I have **sustained**² a continual Bombardment & **cannonade**³ for 24 hours & have not lost a man—The enemy has demanded a surrender at **discretion**,⁴ otherwise, the garrison are to be put to the sword, if the fort is taken—I have answered the demand with a cannon shot, & our flag still waves proudly from the walls—I shall never surrender or retreat. Then, I call on you in the name of Liberty, of patriotism &

everything dear to the American character, to come to our aid, with all **dispatch**⁵—The enemy is receiving reinforcements daily & will no doubt increase to three or four thousand in four or five days. If this call is neglected, I am determined to **sustain**⁶ myself as long as possible & die like a soldier who never forgets what is due to his own honor & that of this country—

VICTORY OR DEATH

William Barret Travis

Lt. Col. Comdt.

P.S. The Lord is on our side—when the enemy appeared in sight we had not three bushels of corn—we have since found in deserted houses 80 or 90 bushels and got into the walls 20 or 30 heads of **Beeves**.⁷

Travis⁸

Analyzing Primary Sources 

- Finding the Main Idea** What request does Travis make?
- Making Generalizations and Predictions** What effect do you think this letter had?

¹besieged: under attack

³cannonade: attack by cannons

⁵dispatch: speed

⁷Beeves: cattle

²sustained: suffered

⁴discretion: without demands

⁶sustain: protect



"The Fall of the Alamo" by Robert Onderdonk, courtesy of The Friends of the Governor's Mansion, Austin, Texas

Interpreting the Visual Record

The Alamo. Fighting during the Mexican attack on the Alamo was fierce. How did the artist portray the bravery of Texas soldiers?



★ The Fall of the Alamo

Travis sent out several more requests for help. Bonham left to find aid for the Alamo, only to sneak back in on March 3. Juan Seguín also sneaked past Mexican troops to request help from Colonel James Fannin at Goliad. But no help arrived. Finally, on March 1, 32 volunteers from Gonzales rode into the Alamo. Led by Captain Albert Martin, they crept in under cover of early morning darkness. There would be no other help. The Texas force officially numbered 189, although some historians now believe there were more than 200 soldiers. Santa Anna sent at least 1,800 troops to take the Alamo. Travis made one last desperate appeal. On March 3 he sent a letter to Washington-on-the-Brazos.

★ Analyzing Primary Sources

Drawing Inferences and Conclusions What does Travis mean when he says he has to “fight the enemy on his own terms”?

Texas Voices

“Colonel Fannin is said to be on the march to this place with reinforcements, but I fear it is not true, as I have repeatedly sent to him for aid without receiving any. . . . I look to the colonies alone for aid; unless it arrives soon, I shall have to fight the enemy on his own terms.”

—William B. Travis, quoted in *Documents of Texas History*, edited by Ernest Wallace

In the early morning hours of March 6 the Texas defenders were awakened suddenly. They heard shouts from Mexican soldiers and the

sound of music. Santa Anna's army band was playing "El Degüello." The song meant that no mercy would be shown.

At about 5:00 A.M., four columns of Mexican soldiers attacked, but they were halted by the Texas artillery. The Mexican forces regrouped, however, and the four columns of troops overwhelmed the Texans. Mexican soldiers entered the Alamo by the hundreds. They captured a cannon, turned it inward, and opened fire. Hand-to-hand combat followed until almost every defender had been killed.

As the smoke cleared, at least 182 Texans were dead. The Tejano defenders who died included Juan Abamillo, Juan A. Badillo, Carlos Espalier, José María Esparza, Antonio Fuentes, Damacio Jiménez, José Toribio Losoya, and Andrés Nava. Accounts of Mexican losses vary. There were some 600 Mexican **casualties**—those killed, wounded, captured, or missing during war. There were some Alamo survivors, including **Susanna Dickinson**, wife of Almaron Dickinson, and her baby. Another survivor was Ana Salazar Esparza, wife of fighter José María Esparza. Santa Anna also spared a slave named Joe and several other **noncombatants**, or people who are not involved in fighting. One Tejano described the Alamo long after the attack.

That's Interesting!

Line in the Sand

According to a famous Texas legend, on March 5 William B. Travis took his sword and drew a line on the ground. Those troops who wished to stay and defend the Alamo were asked to cross over the line. All but one person crossed the line. Some believe that one person may have been Louis Rose.



Texas Voices

"Ah Señor [Sir], had you but seen the Alamo on a feast day, as I have seen it, not like it is now, in ruins. . . . I never look into the ruins of the church without shedding a tear; not half the walls are now to be seen."

—Anonymous, quoted in *The Alamo Remembered*, by Timothy M. Matovina

General Santa Anna believed that the fall of the Alamo would convince Texans to surrender. In a letter, he wrote that he had achieved "a complete and glorious triumph." Instead, the Alamo became a symbol to many Texans that they must fight on at any cost.

Reading Check Analyzing Information Why do you think that the fall of the Alamo became a symbol that inspired many Texans to continue to fight?



Section 3 Review

TBGS Questions 2, 3, 4a, 4b, 5

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Homework Practice Online

keyword: ST3 HP11

1 Define and explain:

- casualties
- noncombatants

2 Identify and explain:

- Davy Crockett
- José de Urrea
- James Fannin
- James "Jim" Bowie
- William B. Travis
- James Bonham
- Siege of the Alamo
- Susanna Dickinson

3 Sequencing

Copy the diagram below. Use it to show the path of events that led to the fall of the Alamo.

The Siege of the Alamo begins.
The Alamo falls.

4 Finding the Main Idea

- What was the condition of the Mexican and Texas troops, and why was Sam Houston worried?
- Why did James Bowie decide to defend the Alamo, and how did Texas troops prepare for battle?

5 Writing and Critical Thinking

Evaluating Imagine that you are at the Alamo during the siege. Describe in a journal the traits of leadership that Texans showed.

Consider the following:

- Bowie's decision to protect the Alamo
- Travis's actions

TAKS

The Convention of 1836

Read to Discover

1. Who attended the Convention of 1836, and what did it achieve?
2. What kind of government did the Convention establish, and what problems did it face?

Why It Matters Today

On March 2, 1836, convention delegates adopted the Texas Declaration of Independence. Use Onfyi.com or other **current events** sources to learn about how people around the world celebrate their nations' independence today. Record your findings in your journal.

Define

- legislative branch
- executive branch
- judicial branch
- bill of rights
- petition
- ad interim

Identify

- Convention of 1836
- Lorenzo de Zavala
- George C. Childress
- David G. Burnet

The Story Continues



Despite near-freezing weather, delegates met in an unfurnished building that looked much like this one.

Rain made travel rough. But on March 1, 1836, delegates slowly began to arrive in Washington-on-the-Brazos. At the newly built settlement, delegates found the streets full of ankle-deep mud. Organizers of the convention were using a small unfurnished building. Because only cloth covered its window openings, chilly winds blew through the building regularly. In spite of the uncomfortable conditions, the delegates were determined to accomplish their task.

★ Texas Declares Independence

The **Convention of 1836** was held at Washington-on-the-Brazos on March 1. Many of the 59 delegates had served in the U.S. government. They included Sam Houston, Richard Ellis, Robert Potter, Martin Parmer, and Samuel Carson. One of the delegates, **Lorenzo de Zavala**, had served in the Mexican Congress. The delegates named Richard Ellis of Pecan Point president of the convention.

The first order of business was to vote whether to declare independence. The vote passed quickly. **George C. Childress** chaired the committee in charge of drafting the document declaring independence. Childress wrote most of the declaration, using the U.S. Declaration of Independence as a guide. The Texas declaration listed the complaints the settlers had

against Santa Anna's government. It stated that Mexico had denied them many rights guaranteed under the Constitution of 1824, and it declared Texas an independent country. The declaration was presented to the convention on March 2, 1836. The vote in favor of the declaration was unanimous—a decision in which everyone agrees. José Antonio Navarro and José Francisco Ruiz, the only Tejanos at the convention, signed the document. However, many Tejanos opposed the declaration, and some Tejanos left the Texas army after hearing the call for independence. Nevertheless, with the adoption of the declaration the Republic of Texas was born. Texans today celebrate March 2 as Texas Independence Day.

Reading Check Summarizing What was the first significant action of the Convention of 1836, and why did the delegates take that action?

★ The Constitution of 1836

A few days later, the delegates learned about the Siege of the Alamo. Many of them wanted to rush to San Antonio to aid the defenders. But Sam Houston urged the delegates to stay and create a constitution, or a plan for government, for the new republic. The delegates used the U.S. Constitution as a model and created a government with three branches. The **legislative branch** makes the laws, which are carried out by the **executive branch**. The Republic's legislative branch was called the Congress, and the executive branch was headed by a president. The **judicial branch** provides a court system. The powers of each branch were limited to only those listed in the document. The Texas Constitution also established a republican government in which representatives and executive officials are elected by the people. This idea, that the power to create or change the government comes from the people, is called popular sovereignty.

Interpreting the Visual Record

The Convention of 1836. *The Texas Declaration of Independence described Santa Anna's abuses against Texans, such as the arrest of Stephen F. Austin. The delegates approved the declaration's wording the second day they met. How does the artist convey the serious nature of the convention's work?* ★ TEKS



Biography



Lorenzo de Zavala

(1788–1836)

Lorenzo de Zavala was politically active during much of his life. He served as a Mexican congressman and governor. In 1829 Zavala received a land grant to settle 500 families in East Texas. In 1835 he became involved in the Texas independence movement. As a delegate to the Convention of 1836, Zavala played a key role in drafting the Texas Constitution. He was elected ad interim vice president. He also proposed a design for the first flag of Texas. **How was Zavala important to the Texas Revolution?**



Like the U.S. Constitution, the Constitution of 1836 contained a **bill of rights**. This is a statement of basic rights that the government cannot take away from individual citizens. The Texas bill of rights helps protect the rights of citizens and guarantees several freedoms. These include the freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of the press, and the right to trial by jury. The Constitution of 1836 also called for a public school system and a policy of giving land to settlers.

The new constitution also resolved a controversial issue—slavery. The constitution ensured slavery as a legal institution, as well as the importation of slaves. The Texas Constitution also required free African Americans to **petition** Congress to stay in Texas. A petition is a formal request that is made to the government. Among those who had to do so was Samuel McCulloch Jr., the first Texan to shed blood during the revolution. He was wounded at Goliad in 1835.

The delegates then set up a new government. Because Texas was still at war, they created an **ad interim**, or temporary, government of leaders until elections could be held. **David G. Burnet** was selected as president, and Lorenzo de Zavala as vice president. Samuel P. Carson was named secretary of state. Bailey Hardeman was selected as secretary of the treasury. Thomas J. Rusk, Robert Potter, and David Thomas were named as secretary of war, secretary of the navy, and attorney general, respectively. The officers were sworn in on March 17, 1836, at Washington-on-the-Brazos. Later that day, they fled after hearing that the Mexican army was near. The government set up again at Harrisburg, but was forced to flee Santa Anna's advancing troops. Constantly on the move, the ad interim government had to leave the future of the Republic in the hands of Sam Houston and the army.

Reading Check Comparing How was the Texas Constitution similar to the U.S. Constitution?



Section 4 Review



Questions 2, 3, 4a, 4b, 5

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Homework
Practice
Online

keyword: ST3 HP11

1 Define and explain:

- legislative branch
- executive branch
- judicial branch
- bill of rights
- petition
- ad interim

2 Identify and explain:

- Convention of 1836
- Lorenzo de Zavala
- George C. Childress
- David G. Burnet

3 Identifying Points of View

Copy the graphic organizer below. Use it to explain why the convention delegates created the documents listed below.

Document	Delegates' Purpose
Declaration of Independence	
Constitution	

4 Finding the Main Idea

- a. How did the political experiences of the delegates affect the convention?
- b. What problems did the ad interim government have?

5 Writing and Critical Thinking

Comparing Imagine that you are reporting on the Convention of 1836. Write an article describing how the structure of the new government is a reflection of the ideas in the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights.

Consider the following:

- structure of the new government
- rights guaranteed in the Texas documents



THE TEXAS DECLARATION *of* INDEPENDENCE

On March 1, 1836, delegates met at Washington-on-the-Brazos to form a new government for Texas. One of the convention's first acts of business was to declare independence from Mexico. Below is the Texas Declaration of Independence, unanimously adopted on March 2.

THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE Made by the Delegates of The People of Texas in General Convention, at Washington, ON MARCH 2nd, 1836.

When a government has ceased to protect the lives, liberty and property of the people, from whom its legitimate powers are derived, and for the advancement of whose happiness it was instituted; and so far from being a guarantee for their inestimable and **inalienable** rights, becomes an instrument in the hands of evil rulers for their **suppression**. When the federal republican constitution of their country, which they have sworn to support, no longer has a substantial existence, and the whole nature of their government has been forcibly changed, without their consent, from a restricted federative republic, composed of sovereign states, to a consolidated central **military despotism**, in which every interest is disregarded but that of the army and the priesthood, both the eternal enemies of civil liberty, the ever ready **minions** of power, and the usual instruments of tyrants. When, long after the spirit of the constitution has departed, moderation is at length so far lost by those in power, that even the **semblance** of freedom is removed, and the forms themselves of the constitution discontinued, and so far from their petitions and **remonstrances** being regarded, the agents who bear them are thrown into dungeons, and mercenary armies sent forth to enforce a new government upon them at the point of the bayonet.

When, in consequence of such acts of **malfeasance** and **abdication** on the part of the government, **anarchy** prevails, and civil society is dissolved into its original elements, in such a crisis, the first law of nature, the right of self-preservation, the **inherent** and inalienable right of the people to appeal to first principles, and take their political affairs into their own hands in extreme cases, enjoins it as a right towards themselves, and a sacred obligation to their **posterity**, to abolish such government, and create another in its stead, calculated to rescue them from impending dangers, and to secure their welfare and happiness.

Exploring the Document

George C. Childress chaired the committee in charge of drafting the Texas Declaration of Independence.

How do you think Childress used the U.S. Declaration of Independence as a model for this document? ★ TEKS

inalienable: permanent

suppression: holding back

military despotism: military dictatorship

minions: faithful servants

semblance: likeness

remonstrances: protests

malfeasance: official's wrongdoing

abdication: giving up responsibility

anarchy: disorder

inherent: natural

posterity: future generations

Exploring the Document

Here the Declaration explains that Texans had a responsibility to call for independence. **Why do you think Texans felt that they had to demand their independence?** ★ TEKS

Exploring the Document

Many Texas settlers were upset with Santa Anna for not enforcing the Constitution of 1824. **What alternative did the Mexican government offer in the constitution's place?**



Exploring the Document

The Declaration lists the charges that the settlers made against the Mexican government. **What were some of their concerns?**



- amenable:** answerable
- habituated:** accustomed to
- acquiesced:** accepted
- privations:** hardships
- incarcerated:** jailed
- zealous endeavor:** enthusiastic efforts
- procure:** gain
- palladium:** a protecting spirit
- axiom:** a rule
- arbitrary:** unreasonable
- defiance:** disregard
- piratical attacks:** robbery
- desperadoes:** outlaws
- confiscation:** taking of goods
- dictates:** principles
- temporal:** timely or earthly
- functionaries:** officials
- formidable:** causing fear

Nations, as well as individuals, are **amenable** for their acts to the public opinion of mankind. A statement of a part of our grievances is therefore submitted to an impartial world, in justification of the hazardous but unavoidable step now taken, of severing our political connection with the Mexican people, and assuming an independent attitude among the nations of the earth.

The Mexican government, by its colonization laws, invited and induced the Anglo American population of Texas to colonize its wilderness under the pledged faith of a written constitution, that they should continue to enjoy that constitutional liberty and republican government to which they had been **habituated** in the land of their birth, the United States of America.

In this expectation they have been cruelly disappointed, inasmuch as the Mexican nation has **acquiesced** to the late changes made in the government by General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, who, having overturned the constitution of his country, now offers us the cruel alternative, either to abandon our homes, acquired by so many **privations**, or submit to the most intolerable of all tyranny, the combined despotism of the sword and the priesthood.

It has sacrificed our welfare to the state of Coahuila, by which our interests have been continually depressed through a jealous and partial course of legislation, carried on at a far distant seat of government, by a hostile majority, in an unknown tongue, and this too, notwithstanding we have petitioned in the humblest terms for the establishment of a separate state government, and have, in accordance with the provisions of the national constitution, presented to the general congress a republican constitution, which was, without a just cause, contemptuously rejected.

It **incarcerated** in a dungeon, for a long time, one of our citizens, for no other cause but a **zealous endeavor** to **procure** the acceptance of our constitution, and the establishment of a state government.

It has failed and refused to secure, on a firm basis, the right of trial by jury, that **palladium** of civil liberty, and only safe guarantee for the life, liberty, and property of the citizen.

It has failed to establish any public system of education, although possessed of almost boundless resources, (the public domain,) and although it is an **axiom** in political science, that unless a people are educated and enlightened, it is idle to expect the continuance of civil liberty, or the capacity for self government.

It has suffered the military commandants, stationed among us, to exercise **arbitrary** acts of oppression and tyranny, thus trampling upon the most sacred rights of the citizens, and rendering the military superior to the civil power.

It has dissolved, by force of arms, the state congress of Coahuila and Texas, and obliged our representatives to fly for their lives from the seat of government, thus depriving us of the fundamental political right of representation.

It has demanded the surrender of a number of our citizens, and ordered military detachments to seize and carry them into the interior for trial, in contempt of the civil authorities, and in **defiance** of the laws and the constitution.

It has made **piratical attacks** upon our commerce, by commissioning foreign **desperadoes**, and authorizing them to seize our vessels, and convey the property of our citizens to far distant ports for **confiscation**.

It denies us the right of worshiping the Almighty according to the **dictates** of our own conscience, by the support of a national religion, calculated to promote the **temporal** interest of its human **functionaries**, rather than the glory of the true and living God.

It has demanded us to deliver up our arms, which are essential to our defense—the rightful property of freemen—and **formidable** only to tyrannical governments.

It has invaded our country both by sea and by land, with the intent to lay waste our territory, and drive us from our homes; and has now a large mercenary army advancing, to carry on against us a war of extermination.

It has, through its **emissaries**, incited the merciless savage, with the tomahawk and scalping knife, to massacre the inhabitants of our defenseless frontiers.

It has been, during the whole time of our connection with it, the **contemptible** sport and victim of successive military revolutions, and has continually exhibited every characteristic of a weak, corrupt, and tyrannical government.

These, and other grievances, were patiently borne by the people of Texas, until they reached that point at which **forbearance** ceases to be a virtue. We then took up arms in defense of the national constitution. We appealed to our Mexican **brethren** for assistance: our appeal has been made in vain; though months have elapsed, no sympathetic response has yet been heard from the interior. We are, therefore, forced to the melancholy conclusion, that the Mexican people have acquiesced in the destruction of their liberty, and the substitution therefore of a military government; that they are unfit to be free, and incapable of self government.

The necessity of self-preservation, therefore, now decrees our eternal political separation.

*We, therefore, the delegates, with **plenary** powers, of the people of Texas, in solemn convention assembled, appealing to a candid world for the necessities of our condition, do hereby resolve and declare, that our political connection with the Mexican nation has forever ended, and that the people of Texas do now constitute a FREE, SOVEREIGN, and INDEPENDENT REPUBLIC, and are fully invested with all the rights and attributes which properly belong to independent nations; and, conscious of the **rectitude** of our intentions, we fearlessly and confidently commit the issue to the supreme Arbiter of the destinies of nations.*

In witness whereof we have hereunto subscribed our names.

RICHARD ELLIS,
President and Delegate
from Red River.
Albert H. S. Kimble,
Secretary.
C. B. Stewart,
James Collinsworth,
Edwin Waller,
A. Brigham,
John S. D. Byrom,
Francisco Ruiz,
J. Antonio Navarro,
William D. Lacy,
William Menefee,
John Fisher,
Matthew Caldwell,
John S. Roberts,
Robert Hamilton,
Collin McKinney,
A. H. Latimer,
James Power,

Sam. Houston,
Edward Conrad,
Martin Parmer,
James Gaines,
William Clark, jun.,
Sydney O. Pennington,
William Motley,
Lorenzo de Zavala,
George W. Smyth,
Stephen H. Everett,
Elijah Stepp,
Claiborne West,
William B. Leates,
M. B. Menard,
A. B. Hardin,
John W. Bunton,
Thomas J. Gazley,
R. M. Coleman,
Sterling C. Robertson,
George C. Childress,
Bailey Hardeman,

Robert Potter,
Charles Taylor,
Samuel P. Carson,
Thomas J. Rusk,
William C. Crawford,
John Turner,
Benjamin Briggs
Goodrich,
James G. Swisher,
George W. Barnett,
Jesse Grimes,
E. O. Legrand,
David Thomas,
S. Rhoads Fisher,
John W. Bower,
J. B. Woods,
Andrew Briscoe,
Thomas Barnett,
Jesse B. Badgett,
Stephen W. Blount.

emissaries: agents

contemptible: deserving scorn


forbearance: acceptance

brethren: brothers

plenary: full

rectitude: righteousness


Exploring the Document

Here the Declaration explains that Texans have carried the burden of the listed grievances. **What does the author hope Mexican citizens will do?** 

Biography



George C. Childress (1804–1841)

George C. Childress was born and raised in Tennessee. In 1835 he volunteered for the Texas army. Childress was elected to the Convention of 1836 and played a key role in it. He called the convention to order and served as the primary author of the document. **What role did Childress play in Texas history?** 

Independence Is Won

Read to Discover

1. What events led to the Runaway Scrape?
2. What led to James Fannin's surrender at Goliad?
3. How did the Texas army defeat Mexican forces and win independence?

Why It Matters Today

Many U.S. and Tejano settlers fled from Santa Anna's army. Use cnnfyi.com or other **current events** sources to learn about refugees to the United States today. Record your findings in your journal.

Identify

- Runaway Scrape
- Battle of Refugio
- Battle of Coleto
- Goliad Massacre
- Francita Alavez
- Battle of San Jacinto



During the Runaway Scrape, Texans abandoned their farms and homes, taking with them only the things they could easily carry.

The Story Continues

In the spring of 1836, 10-year-old Dilue Rose Harris sadly packed up her belongings. Scouts had warned the Harris family that Santa Anna's soldiers were on their way. The Harrises believed that Santa Anna would destroy the Texas rebellion and Texans like them, so they ran for their lives. The Harris family packed their bed linens, clothes, and food on a sleigh pulled by a team of oxen. They left their farm as the sun was setting, wondering if they would ever see their home again.

★ The Runaway Scrape

General Sam Houston had the task of defeating Santa Anna so that Texans like the Harrises could return to their homes. During the Convention of 1836, the delegates had given Houston full command of both the regular army and the volunteers. This did not solve all of his problems, however. Houston was still short on troops, guns, ammunition, supplies, and money. He also had to quickly organize and train his army.

On March 6 Houston left Washington-on-the-Brazos and headed to Gonzales, still unsure of the outcome at the Alamo. When Houston reached Gonzales on March 11, he was greeted with rumors of the defeat. He sent out his best scouts to find out what had happened and

where Santa Anna's forces were. Scouts Deaf Smith, R. E. Handy, and Henry Karnes left to investigate. The next day, the scouts escorted Susanna Dickinson and a few other survivors of the Alamo into Gonzales. Houston and the Texas army heard for the first time the details of the defenders' last stand at the Alamo.

He also learned that Santa Anna was heading to Gonzales, where Houston had fewer than 400 men. With more than 700 Mexican troops advancing on them, the Texans were in danger. Houston ordered a retreat. Many civilians packed their belongings and left as well. Houston then ordered the town of Gonzales burned so that the Mexican troops would not take any additional supplies.

Word began to spread through Texas about the Alamo. Fearing for their lives, Texans fled eastward. U.S. settlers—often accompanied by African American slaves—and many Tejanos left their farms, homes, and towns to avoid the advancing Mexican forces. This movement of settlers became known as the **Runaway Scrape**. Jeff Parson, a slave at the time, described the scene. "People and things were all mixed, and in confusion. The children were crying, the women praying. . . . I tell you it was a serious time." Conditions were made worse by heavy rains and flooding during the spring of 1836. Many died from disease and hardships during the Runaway Scrape.

Reading Check Identifying Cause and Effect What led to the Runaway Scrape, and how did it affect Texas?

★ Fannin's Surrender at Goliad

Many U.S. settlers in southern regions of Texas were fleeing before another Mexican army. General José de Urrea had crossed the Rio Grande with some 550 troops. He moved up the Texas coastline, attacking settlements along the way. On February 27, 1836, Mexican troops defeated 34 Texas soldiers holed up at San Patricio. At least eight Texas rebels were killed. On March 2, Urrea's troops ambushed and defeated some 26 Texas soldiers along Agua Dulce Creek.

While Santa Anna was stalled at the Alamo, Urrea continued toward Refugio. On March 14 he won the **Battle of Refugio**, defeating a number of Colonel James Fannin's troops who had been sent to evacuate the settlement. Some Texas soldiers escaped during the battle, only to be captured later by Urrea's forces. Urrea's next target was Fannin's army at Goliad.

On March 14 Fannin received an order from General Houston to withdraw to Victoria. Instead of acting immediately, Fannin waited for his troops to return from Refugio. Meanwhile, General Urrea was hurrying to catch up to Fannin. On March 18 Urrea's advance force met Fannin and his troops in a series of brief fights. Fannin then decided to leave the protection of the fort at Goliad and head northeast to Victoria.

Biography



Susanna Dickinson

(c. 1814–1883)

Susanna Wilkerson was born in Tennessee, where she later married Almaron Dickinson in 1829. Two years later the young couple moved to Gonzales. When her husband left for San Antonio with a volunteer army in October 1835, she stayed behind and took care of their home and daughter. As Mexican troops approached, she moved into the Alamo. Dickinson hid with her baby as the battle raged. After the battle Mexican troops led her to Santa Anna. She was released, but Santa Anna had her take a message to Sam Houston. It was a warning that Santa Anna was coming after the Texans. **Why did Santa Anna release Dickinson?** ★ TENS

Biography



James Fannin

(c. 1804–1836)


James Fannin is believed to have been born on January 1, 1804, in Georgia. He moved to Texas with his family in 1834. The next year Fannin joined the Texas army, fighting in the Battle of Gonzales. Later he commanded the Texas forces in the Battle of Concepción, in which 90 Texans defeated some 400 Mexican soldiers. In December Fannin took charge of at least 400 troops at Goliad. Fannin surrendered to General Urrea on March 20, 1836. He and many of his troops were executed on March 27 by order of General Santa Anna. In memory of Fannin and his troops, "Remember Goliad!" became a battle cry of the Texas Revolution.

How did Fannin inspire Texans? 

On March 19 the Texas troops marched into an open prairie outside of Goliad during a heavy fog. When they stopped to rest their animals, Urrea and his main army surrounded them. The Texas force numbered at least 300 soldiers, and the Mexicans had 300 to 500 troops. Fannin chose to stand and fight near Coleta Creek. In the **Battle of Coleta**, the Texas rebels were pinned down without cover and with a limited water supply. Fannin was wounded in the battle. The next morning, Mexican reinforcements arrived, giving Urrea several hundred more troops. Fannin decided to surrender. Following the surrender, he and most of the other Texas rebels were marched back to Goliad.

The prisoners were held in Goliad for a week. One U.S. settler described Urrea. "[Urrea] was not blood thirsty and when not overruled by orders of a superior . . . was disposed [likely] to treat prisoners with lenity [mercy]." Urrea wrote to Santa Anna, asking him for permission to hold the Texas troops as prisoners of war, rather than kill them. Santa Anna's response was swift and clear. Anyone who had taken up arms against the government of Mexico must be executed immediately.

On March 27, Mexican soldiers shot more than 400 Texans outside of Goliad. Those executed included Fannin's troops as well as Texas soldiers captured outside of Victoria. When the firing began, a few of the Texans ran and escaped. Some survived the **Goliad Massacre** during the smoky confusion. **Francita Alavez**, who was traveling with the Mexican troops, helped a few people escape. Texans later referred to her as the Angel of Goliad.

 **Reading Check Summarizing** How did geographic factors and other events lead to Fannin's surrender?

★ Houston Prepares the Troops

With news of Goliad, some angry Texans began to demand an attack on Mexican forces. The Texas army had grown to more than 1,200 men after the fall of the Alamo. Houston, however, believed that his army was still too small and untrained to defeat the larger and better-supplied

During the conflict outside of Goliad, Fannin's troops were surrounded on the open prairie.





Battles of the Texas Revolution, 1835-1836

Interpreting Maps As Mexican forces marched across Texas, General Houston retreated eastward.

TAKS Skills

- 1. Locate** Where did the major battles of the Texas Revolution occur? **TBIS**
- 2. Evaluating** Why do you think Texas and Mexican forces traveled through towns and river crossings such as Beason's Ferry? **TBIS**

Mexican army. So he continued the retreat, moving eastward toward the Brazos River. Santa Anna's army was close behind. He was hoping to capture the ad interim government and Houston. Several Texas troops openly rebelled against Houston, criticizing him for retreating. Even President Burnet challenged Houston to fight. "The enemy are laughing you to scorn."

Houston ignored the criticism. He moved 500 men to Groce's Landing, 20 miles north of San Felipe de Austin. They camped at Jared Groce's plantation, where Houston trained and drilled his troops. The Texas troops also increased their stock of supplies and ammunition, some of which came from supporters in the United States. The citizens of Cincinnati, Ohio, had sent two cannons to the soldiers. The Texas rebels named the cannons the Twin Sisters.

Houston and the Texas army left Groce's Landing on April 12, marching southeast toward Harrisburg, where they arrived on April 18. That same day, Houston's scouts reported the location of Santa Anna and part of his army. They had crossed the Brazos River and were camped not far from Harrisburg. Houston made his decision. He wrote a friend, "We are in preparation to meet Santa Anna. It is the only chance of saving Texas." The stage was set for the final battle against Santa Anna.



Santa Anna carried a set of dishes like this one during his campaign in Texas.

Reading Check Supporting a Point of View Explain how, in your opinion, Houston's actions after the Alamo and Goliad were or were not an example of good leadership.



Interpreting the Visual Record

San Jacinto. During the Battle of San Jacinto, Texas forces crept onto the prairie that separated the Texan and Mexican camps. The Texans then launched a surprise attack crying, "Remember the Alamo! Remember Goliad!" How does the artist show the confusion of battle?

Analyzing Primary Sources

Finding the Main Idea
According to Delgado, how did geography make the Mexican position vulnerable?

★ The Battle of San Jacinto

The Texas troops traveled down the Buffalo Bayou. On April 20 they camped in a grove of live oak trees, with a wide field in front of them. The only way the Mexicans could attack them would be to cross the field. Santa Anna and his forces arrived at the junction of the San Jacinto River and Buffalo Bayou that afternoon. They set up camp in a vulnerable spot. Santa Anna's forces were exposed to the Texas troops, who were partially hidden by the grove of trees. One of Santa Anna's officers, Colonel Pedro Delgado, was worried about the location.

Texas Voices

"We had the enemy on our right, within a wood, at long musket range. Our front, although level, was exposed to the fire of the enemy, who could keep it up with impunity [without punishment] from his sheltered position."

—Colonel Pedro Delgado, quoted in *Texian War*, by Stephen L. Hardin

On April 20 there were one or two clashes. In one of the fights, Private Mirabeau B. Lamar daringly saved the lives of two Texans. Lamar was promoted to colonel and placed in charge of the cavalry. In spite of the efforts of the Texas troops, the Mexican soldiers held their ground. The Texas rebels realized that defeating the more than 1,200 Mexican soldiers would not be easy. Shortly before noon on April 21, Houston called a meeting of the Texas army officers. They discussed a battle plan. After debating whether to attack immediately or wait for Santa Anna to attack, the group decided to attack that afternoon.

Houston assembled approximately 900 Texas troops—including Juan Seguín and a small group of Tejanos—at about 3:00 P.M. The

Texas soldiers moved from the woods onto the prairie, unseen by the Mexican forces. Many of the Mexican soldiers, exhausted from days of marching and the previous day's battle, were sleeping. Houston ordered the advance. Many Mexican troops were awakened by bullets and battle cries of "Remember the Alamo!" and "Remember Goliad!" The **Battle of San Jacinto** lasted only about 18 minutes. Surprised by the afternoon attack, many Mexican soldiers fled or tried to surrender. The Texas troops continued firing. When the shooting stopped, 630 Mexican soldiers had been killed. Only nine Texas troops had been killed or died of wounds from the fighting. Houston was among the wounded, with an ankle shattered by a rifle ball.

Santa Anna had disappeared during the battle. He was found the next day hiding in the marsh. Having captured Santa Anna, the Texas army won not only the Battle of San Jacinto but also the war. Houston refused to let the soldiers kill the Mexican general. He later explained his reasons.

Texas Voices

"My motive in sparing the life of Santa Anna was to relieve the country of all hostile enemies without further bloodshed, and to secure his acknowledgment of our independence."

—Sam Houston, from an address to the citizens of Texas



Sam Houston was considered a hero after the Battle of San Jacinto.

Reading Check Evaluating What physical and human factors, such as landforms and military decisions, led to the Texas victory over the Mexican forces at San Jacinto?

April 21, 1836

Texans win the Battle of San Jacinto, and Texas gains its independence from Mexico.



Section 5 Review

★ TENS Questions 1, 2, 3a, 3b, 4

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Homework
Practice
Online

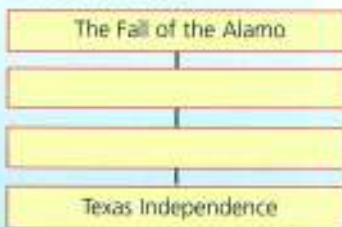
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1 Identify and explain:

- Runaway Scrape
- Battle of Refugio
- Battle of Coleto
- Goliad Massacre
- Francita Alavez
- Battle of San Jacinto

2 Summarizing

Copy the graphic organizer below. Use it to explain the significant events in 1836 after the fall of the Alamo that led to Texas independence.



3 Finding the Main Idea

- What led to the Runaway Scrape?
- Why were Fannin's troops forced to surrender at Goliad?

4 Writing and Critical Thinking

Identifying Points of View Write a short news report explaining the Runaway Scrape and Sam Houston's leadership, and how these issues affected the Battle of San Jacinto.

Consider the following:


- Houston's retreat and training of troops
- Houston's decision to attack on the afternoon of April 21



CHAPTER 11

REVIEW

The Chapter at a Glance

Examine the following visual summary of the chapter. Then use the visual to create an oral presentation that describes the events of the Texas Revolution. 



Identifying People and Ideas

Use the following terms or people in historically significant sentences.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Antonio López de Santa Anna | 6. Convention of 1836 |
| 2. Sam Houston | 7. Lorenzo de Zavala |
| 3. James Fannin | 8. George C. Childress |
| 4. William B. Travis | 9. Goliad Massacre |
| 5. Siege of the Alamo | 10. Battle of San Jacinto |

Understanding Main Ideas

Section 1 (pp. 226–230)

1. What early victories did Texans achieve in the revolution?

Section 2 (pp. 231–233)

2. How did the structure of the government created by the Consultation lead to problems?

Section 3 (pp. 234–239)

3. Describe the events that led to the fall of the Alamo in 1836.

Section 4 (pp. 240–242)

4. How did the ideas of the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights influence the Constitution of 1836?

Section 5 (pp. 246–251)

5. What led to the Runaway Scrape?
6. What was Sam Houston's strategy after the fall of the Alamo, and how successful was it?

You Be the Historian

Reviewing Themes

1. **Constitutional Heritage** What impact did the Mexican federal Constitution of 1824 have on the events of the Texas Revolution?
2. **Citizenship** How did Tejanos and other Texans participate in the revolution?
3. **Geography** How did the geography of Texas contribute to the outcome of several battles during the Texas Revolution?

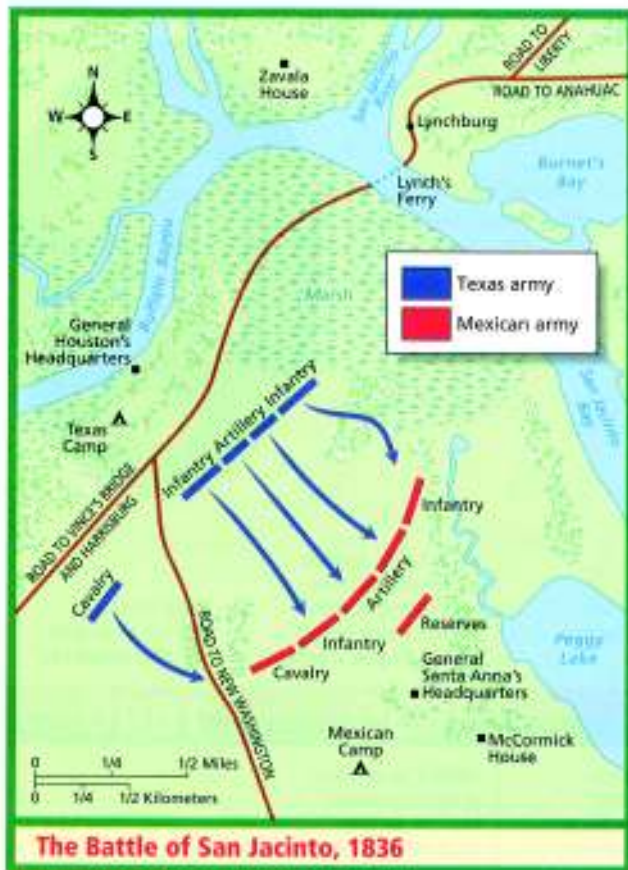


Practice: Thinking Critically

1. **Comparing** Examine both the Texans' victories and their defeats. What are some of the common elements of the victories? What are some of the common elements of the defeats?
2. **Summarizing** Why was the year 1836 significant to Texas?
3. **Supporting a Point of View** Do you think the Siege of the Alamo was a tragedy or an important rallying point for Texans? Explain your answer.

Interpreting Maps ★ TKS

Study the map below. Then answer the following questions.



- Which of the following statements best describes the location of the Texas forces?
 - near Peggy Lake
 - on Lorenzo de Zavala's property
 - in Lynchburg
 - near the Buffalo Bayou
- Based on this map, how do you think geography affected the Battle of San Jacinto?

Analyzing Primary Sources ★ TKS

Read the following quote by Sam Houston. Then answer the questions.

"War is raging on the frontiers. Bejar [San Antonio] is besieged by two thousand of the enemy. . . . By the last report, our force in Bejar was only one hundred and fifty men strong. The citizens of Texas must rally to the aid of our army, or it will perish. . . . *Independence is declared*, it must be maintained. Immediate action, united with valor [bravery], alone can achieve the great work."

- Which of the following statements best summarizes how Houston inspired Texans to fight?
 - Texans will be ashamed of themselves.
 - The Alamo must be avenged.
 - The enemy will destroy Texans if Texans do not defend themselves.
 - The enemy has reinforcements.
- What events in Texas influenced Houston's comments and point of view? Give specific examples.

Alternative Assessment

Cooperative Learning ★ TKS

Work with a small group to complete the following activity. Each person in your group should select one of the following participants in the Texas Revolution:

- Sam Houston,
 - Antonio López de Santa Anna,
 - James Fannin,
 - William B. Travis,
 - Lorenzo de Zavala,
 - George C. Childress.
- Have each member create a biography for a news report on the important roles played by significant individuals in the Texas Revolution. Present your news report to the class.

**BUILDING YOUR
 Portfolio**

played by significant individuals in the Texas Revolution. Present your news report to the class.

Internet connect

Internet Activity: go.hrw.com
 KEYWORD: ST3 TX11

Access the Internet through the HRW Go site to locate primary and secondary sources on the Battle of the Alamo. Write a short essay examining how geographic factors, transportation, communications, and other human factors affected the events. Also identify any biases and the points of view of the authors of the sources.