

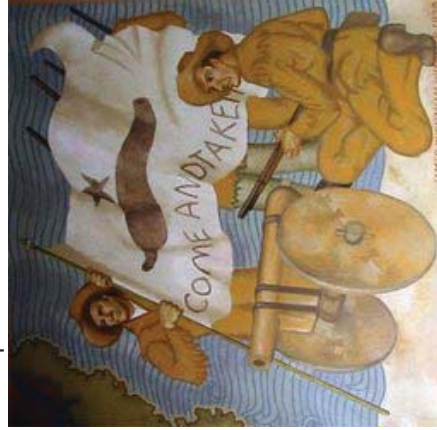
TEXAS REVOLUTION: BEYOND THE ALAMO

SECTION 1: "COME AND TAKE IT!"

The myth and legend of the Alamo is the creation story of Texas. For many, the battle has become a symbol of patriotic sacrifice and the only story describing the revolution. However, the Texas Revolution has more details than just the Battle of the Alamo. In fact the story first begins many months before the Mexican siege of San Antonio de Bexar, when differences between Texas and Mexico grew from the talking stage to the shooting stage at The Battle of Gonzales. This battle is considered to be the first battle of the Texas Revolution.

The Mexican authorities, under the orders of General Antonio López de Santa Anna, went to recapture a cannon that had been provided to the residents of Gonzales for defense against Indians. In response to the Mexican force, the Texans loaded the cannon with scrap iron, aimed at the Mexicans, and fired the shot that began the revolution.

The battle flag used by the Texans at the Battle of Gonzales gained considerable recognition as the "Come and Take It" flag. On a white banner was a picture of the old cannon, painted in black. The flag



acquired its name from the words "come and take it" printed below the cannon.

SECTION 2: "THE ALAMO"

This disrespect for the government angered the Mexican officers. How could these Texans be so disobedient? The Texans were now ready to fight!! In December 1835 an army of Anglo-Texans captured the town of San Antonio de Bexar from Mexico. With a great victory, a majority of the Texan volunteers of the "Army of the People" left service and returned to their families.

James Clinton Neill received command of the fort at San Antonio de



Bexar, also known as the Alamo. Throughout January he did his best to make the mission a fort. Major Green B. Jameson, chief engineer at the Alamo, boasted to General Sam Houston that if the Mexican army stormed the Alamo, the defenders could "whip 10 to 1 with our artillery." By January 17, Houston had begun to question the wisdom of maintaining the army at Bexar. James Bowie, an entrepreneur-adventurer, and a company of volunteers had left to assist at the Alamo.

On January 19, Bowie rode into the Alamo compound, and what he saw impressed him. As a result of much hard work, the mission had begun to look like a fort. On February 3,



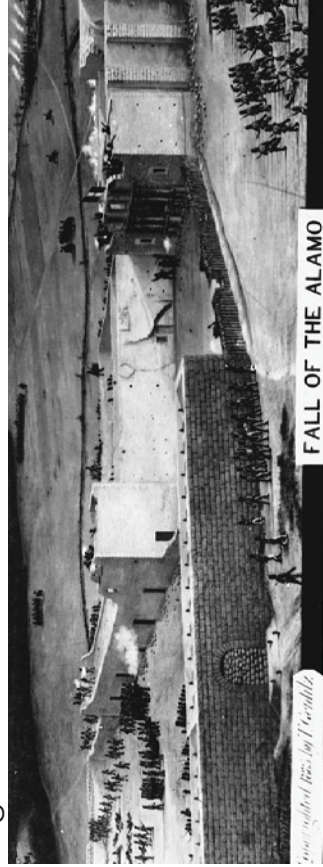
Lieutenant Colonel William B. Travis, and his cavalry contingent reached the Alamo. Reinforcements began to trickle into Bexar. David Crockett, a congressman from Tennessee, soon arrived with a group of American volunteers. On February 14, Neill departed after he learned that illness had struck his family and that they desperately needed him back in Bastrop. While on leave, Travis would command the soldiers and Bowie would command the volunteers.

They soon learned that General Antonio López de Santa Anna's army had reached the Rio Grande. Santa Anna's army traveled through the harsh winter arriving to San Antonio de Bexar on February 23. As Texans



gathered in the Alamo, Travis dispatched a hastily scribbled letter to Gonzales: "The enemy in large force is in sight. We want men and provisions. Send them to us. We have 150 men and are determined to defend the garrison to the last." Travis and Bowie understood that the Alamo could not hold without additional forces.

Santa Anna sent a courier to demand that the Alamo surrender. Travis replied with a cannonball. Centralist artillerymen set about knocking down the walls. Bottled up inside the fort, the Texans had only one hope, that reinforcements would break the siege.



FALL OF THE ALAMO

Texas Revolution Booklet p3

On February 24, Bowie fell victim to pneumonia leaving Travis in full command. Travis wrote a letter in which he pledged that he would "never surrender or retreat" and swore "Victory or Death." The real message, however, was a cry for help: "I call on you in the name of Liberty, of patriotism and everything dear to the American character, to come to our aid, with all dispatch." On March 1, thirty-two Texas troops made their way through the enemy cordon and into the Alamo. Travis was grateful for any reinforcements, but knew he needed more.

On March 5, day twelve of the siege, Santa Anna announced an assault for the following day. This sudden declaration stunned the Mexican officers. The Alamo's walls were crumbling. No Texan relief had appeared. When the provisions ran out, surrender would remain the rebels' only option. There was simply no good reason for



the attack on this mission thick with cannons. But ignoring these reasonable objections, Santa Anna stubbornly insisted on storming the Alamo. Around 5:00 A.M. on Sunday, March 6, he hurled his

columns at the battered walls from four directions. Texan gunners stood by their artillery. As about 1,800 attack troops advanced into range, canister ripped through their ranks. Soon they were past the defensive perimeter. Travis was among the first to die. Abandoning the walls, defenders withdrew to the dim rooms of the Long

Texas Revolution Booklet p4

Barracks. There some of the bloodiest hand to hand fighting occurred. Bowie, too ravaged by illness to rise from his bed, found no pity. Mexican soldiers slaughtered him with their bayonets. By dawn, the Mexican army had carried the works. The assault had lasted no more than ninety minutes. As many as seven defenders survived the battle, but Santa Anna ordered their execution. Many historians count Crockett as a member of that unlucky group. By eight o'clock every Alamo fighting man lay dead, a total of 189 defenders. Though Santa Anna had his victory, the common soldiers paid the price as his officers had anticipated. Accounts vary, but best estimates place the number of Mexicans killed and wounded at about 600.

Mexican officers led several noncombatant

women, children, and slaves from the smoldering

compound. He pledged safe passage through his lines and provided each with a blanket and two dollars. The most

famous of these survivors were Susanna W. Dickinson, widow of Capt. Almaron Dickinson, and their infant daughter, Angelina Dickinson. After the battle, Mrs. Dickinson traveled to Gonzales.

There, she reported the fall of the post to General Houston. The sad intelligence precipitated a wild exodus of Texan settlers called the Runaway Scrape.



SECTION 3: “THE RUNAWAY SCRAPE”

The once brave Texans were now running for their lives. It was a time of terror and panic among the settlements of Texas, as Santa Anna and the Mexican armies swept eastward from San Antonio, without any restrictions.

During the runaway, the colonists gathered a few personal possessions, abandoned their homes, and headed eastward under most difficult conditions. Rain and cold weather during the period slowed the settler's eastward progress along the muddy roads and trails. There was widespread hunger and sickness, and many died. News of Santa Anna's violence (some true, but some distorted by rumor) added to the frenzy.



SECTION 4: "TAKE NO PRISONERS"

While Santa Anna held San Antonio under siege, Mexican General Jose Urrea with some 900 troops, followed a coastal route into Texas. The first town approached by Urrea was San Patricio, where on February 27 he encountered about 50 Texans. Five men escaped, but the rest were either killed or captured. A few days later, the Mexicans also fell upon another 50 men, and all but one of the Texans were killed.

Citizens of Refugio, the next town in Urrea's path, were slow to evacuate. To provide assistance, James W. Fannin, commander of forces at Goliad, sent two relief forces numbering a total of 180 men.



Meanwhile back in Goliad, Fannin and his remaining force of about 350 were called on to aid William Barrett Travis and the Alamo defenders.

Afterwards, he was also ordered by Sam Houston to retreat back to Victoria. Due to indecision and carelessness, he failed to accomplish either of these missions.

After a delay of about five days, Fannin finally began his retreat. It was not long before the Texans found themselves surrounded by General Urrea's forces on an open prairie. By dusk, the Texans had lost about sixty men killed or wounded against some 200 of the Mexicans.

Still heavily outnumbered and with no water and few supplies, the Texans waved the white flag of truce the following morning. Believing that they would be taken captive and eventually returned to their homes,

the Texans surrendered the morning of March 20. They were escorted back to Goliad as prisoners.

When news of their capture reached Santa Anna, he was furious that the Texans had not been executed on the spot. Santa Anna sent orders to execute the Goliad prisoners.

Santa Anna's orders were followed. On Palm Sunday, the 27th of March, the prisoners were divided into three groups, marched onto an open prairie, and shot. Thus, all of Fannin's command except a few that managed to escape and several physicians and others deemed useful by the Mexicans, were massacred, collected into piles, and burned.

Like the defenders at the Battle of the Alamo who died only three weeks earlier, the men of Goliad served as martyrs for the remaining forces in Houston's army.



Section 5: "Remember the Alamo!! Remember Goliad!!"

The Texans had been divided and many feared that they would not be able to make it out of Texas alive!! With successful destruction of the Texas forces at the Alamo and Goliad, Santa Anna was now ready to divide his army and the revolution all together.

Sam Houston and the small army of Texas retreated east. The troops were becoming increasingly impatient as they reached Buffalo Bayou, a few miles southeast of present day Houston.

On the morning of April 19, the Texans crossed over and marched down the right bank of Buffalo Bayou to within half a mile of the San Jacinto River. Here, the army prepared their defenses on the edge of a grove of trees. Their rear was protected by timber and the bayou, while before them was an open prairie.

The following morning, Mexican General Antonio López de Santa Anna came marching across the prairie in battle array. A stream from the Texan's "Twin Sisters" artillery brought him to a sudden halt. Falling back to a clump of trees a quarter of a mile distant, Santa Anna formed in line of battle with his army of 700.

The 21st of April dawned bright and beautiful. The main forces of the Texas army were there, totaling about 750 men. They faced over 1500 of the enemy, secure and flushed with pride at their success at the Alamo and Goliad. Early in the morning, Houston sent Deaf Smith, to destroy Vince's bridge, thus cutting the Mexican Army's only available escape.



When Houston's order to advance was given, the Texans did not hesitate. The Texan shouts of "Remember the Alamo" and "Remember Goliad" rang along the entire line. Within a short time, 700 Mexicans were slain, with another 730 taken as prisoners. The battle for Texas was won.



Section 6: "An End to the Revolution"

The Treaties of Velasco were two treaties signed at Velasco, Texas, on 14 May 1836 between Antonio López de Santa Anna of Mexico and the Republic of Texas, in the aftermath of the Battle of San Jacinto. The signers were Interim President David G. Burnet for Texas and General Santa Anna for Mexico. The



Treaties were intended to provide a conclusion of hostilities between the two. However, the treaty was never ratified by the Mexican government.

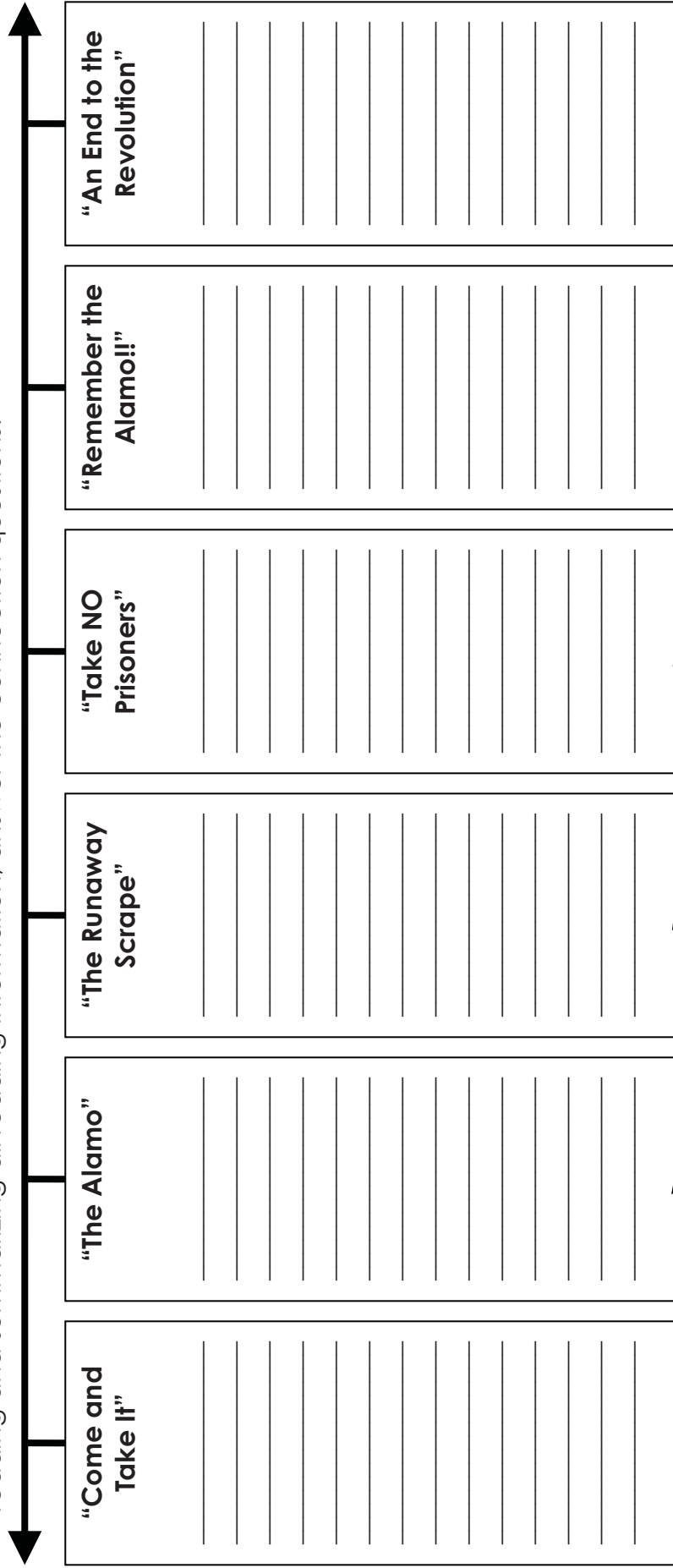
The news of the Texas victory at San Jacinto was received with great rejoicing. Settlers immediately began rebuilding their homes and settlements. The recovery seemed speedy, and within a short time, the settlements were restored and the material evidence of the invasion disappeared.

Texas Revolution Booklet p10

Texas Revolution Booklet p9

The Texas Revolution Timeline

Directions: Read each section of "The Texas Revolution" booklet. Summarize each battle noted below. After reading and summarizing all reading information, answer the connection questions.



What significance does the Texas Revolution hold for the history of Texas and the United States? _____

Bibliography

Rocha, Rodolfo and Crawford, Ann Fears. *Celebrating Texas: Honoring the Past, Building the Future*, Austin, Texas: McDougal Littell, 2003.

The Archives. Lone Star Junction. 27 August 2007. <http://www.lsjunction.com/>

"ALAMO, BATTLE OF THE." The Handbook of Texas Online. 20 August 2007.
<<http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/view/AA/qea2.html>>

The Texas Revolution. Wikipedia. 23 August 2007.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Texas_Revolution