



0. Alamo, The - Story Preface

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This illustration of the Alamo, by an unknown artist, appeared in *Gleason's Pictorial Drawing Room Companion* during 1854. It depicts the Alamo Mission in a still-damaged condition following its fall to General Santa Anna in March of 1836.

*The obstinacy of Travis and his soldiers
was the cause of the death of the whole of them,
for not one would surrender.*

General Santa Anna

March 16, 1836 Letter

When Texas was still part of Mexico, a former Spanish mission known as "[The Alamo](#)" was captured by rebel forces. Those rebels were known as "[Texians](#)." Many had accepted the Mexican government's offer of land and citizenship in the Texas territory.

Independence was in the air. America, to the north, had [thrown off](#) British rule in 1776. Mexico, long a Spanish possession, had declared its independence with the "[Cry of Dolores](#)," in 1810, and was [free of Spain](#) by 1824.

On March 2, 1836 - when [about 200](#) Alamo defenders were nearing the fatal end of a siege personally led by Mexico's new president (Antonio Lopez de [Santa Anna](#)) - Texians declared *their* independence from Mexico.

Some of the rebels were Americans who had become Mexican citizens. Others (from Ireland, Scotland, England and Wales, from France, Germany and other parts of the world) were recent arrivals to the Texas territory.

Why did they resist Santa Anna? What were they fighting for? How did they plan to form a new country (the Republic of Texas) a mere fifteen years after Stephen Austin (an American) received permission to colonize a portion of Mexico? And ... why did so few men aid the besieged Alamo garrison?

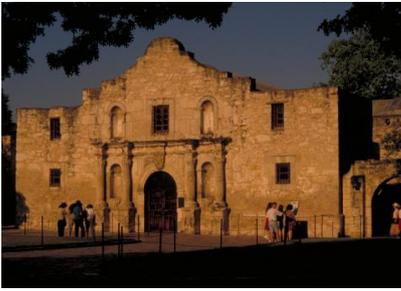
Answers to some of these questions remain shrouded in mystery. Answers to others depend on one's point of view.

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Alamo-The>

See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](#)

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Alamo - As It Appears Today

The Alamo, San Antonio. Public domain.

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Santa Anna - Mexico's President

Image, Library of Congress.

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