

0. REVOLUTION IN TEXAS - Story Preface

1. ANGLOS COLONIZE MEXICO

2. TENSIONS IN TEXAS

3. REVOLUTION IN TEXAS

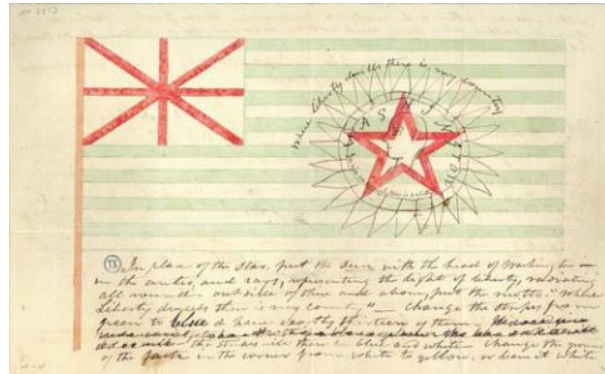
4. THE ALAMO

5. DAWN AT THE ALAMO

6. THE ALAMO BATTLE

7. GOLIAD MASSACRE

8. REMEMBER THE ALAMO



Believing that Texas would have to declare its independence from Mexico, in order to protect colonists' interests, Stephen Austin worked on flag designs. This image, maintained by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, depicts one of the designs. Austin wrote these words, among others, on this drawing: "Where Liberty dwells there is my country."

At the time of his arrest, Austin had been a strong supporter of Texas as a separate state within Mexico. He had sworn a loyalty oath to Mexico and meant to keep it. Eighteen months in prison, however, helped to change his mind.

With their leader under Santa Anna's control, Texians (who feared for Austin's life) were relatively quiet (between 1833 and 1835). But when Austin walked out of his prison cell for the last time, Santa Anna was Dictator of all Mexico. Two hundred days which changed Texas were about to begin.

From the president's perspective, Texians were troublemakers who needed to be controlled. He banned Texas slavery (in 1835) and feared the expansionist tendencies of Mexico's neighbor to the north - the country from which Anglo-Americans had immigrated. Santa Anna believed the colonists would revolt absent strong, centralized government.

Texians (who numbered 20,000 by 1834) feared expulsion from their land. They, together with the Tejanos (who had long desired local rule), were convinced a dictator was deliberately disrupting their way of life and meant to end his interference one way or another.

Some of the key events, leading to the birth of Texas as an independent country, occurred between October of 1835 and March of 1836:

- After a skirmish known as the Battle of Gonzales, where 'volunteers' killed the Mexican commander and several soldiers, the rebels issued an urgent appeal "To Arms!!!!" The message, sent to all 'Freemen of Texas,' declared 'Now's the day, & now's the hour.' Comparing their own situation to Israelite bondage, in Biblical times, the volunteers urged:

If Texas will now act promptly; she will soon be redeemed from that worse than Egyptian bondage which now cramps her resources and retards her prosperity.

- Stephen Austin formed a Revolutionary Army in the fall of 1835.
- The Mexican Congress issued a decree on December 30, 1835 that anyone who bore arms against the government would be shot.
- Santa Anna - as Generalissimo - led his army into Texas in early January, 1836. Referring to anyone who used armed resistance against the Mexican government as 'pirates' (deserving no mercy), he planned to crush insurgency with the force of a mighty hammer.
- On March 2nd, a delegation of Tejanos and Texians attending the Convention of 1836, unanimously declared Texas independent and made Sam Houston major general of the Texas army.

- Santa Anna, meanwhile, had marched with thousands of his men to San Antonio. Texians in the town, seeking refuge from Santa Anna's approaching army, gathered in the old San Antonio de Valero Mission.

As Santa Anna's army positioned itself around the old mission, those inside were worried. Would they get reinforcements? Would there be enough supplies to hold out during a siege?

Today the San Antonio de Valero Mission is known by two simple words: The Alamo.

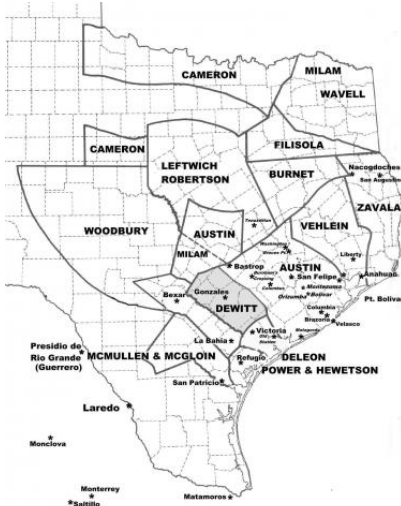
See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

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

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/REVOLUTION-IN-TEXAS-Alamo-The>

Media Stream



Map Showing Texas Land Grants

Map image online, courtesy Texas A & M University.

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Map-Showing-Texas-Land-Grants>



Santa Anna - Generalissimo

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Santa-Anna-Generalissimo>



Sam Houston

Image online, courtesy the Texas State Library.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Sam-Houston>

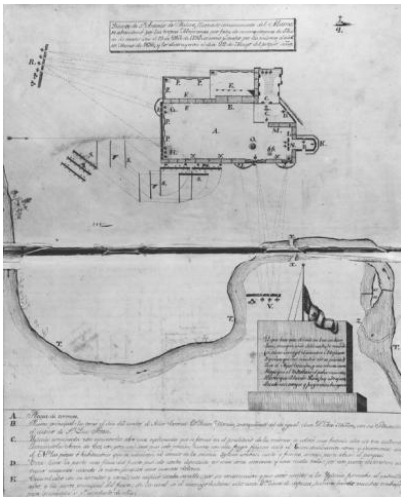


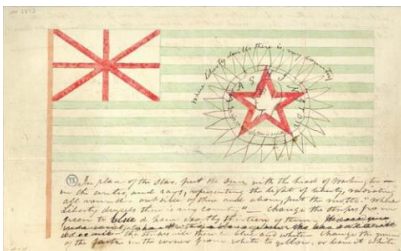
Diagram of the Alamo Mission

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Diagram-of-the-Alamo-Mission>



REVOLUTION IN TEXAS

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/REVOLUTION-IN-TEXAS>