

Name: _____

Remember the Alamo!

By Anita Venegas

No one can be sure who first spoke that phrase. What we are sure of is how it became a rallying cry for Texan independence from Mexico in 1836.

In the 1500s, Spanish explorers sailed across the Atlantic Ocean. Spanish



Preview

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The conflict over Texan independence began in the early 19th century. Political differences were one issue. Another was fear of losing more land. Mexico knew that if Texas won independence, other places might follow. Perhaps the most important issue was unchecked immigration of Anglo (English) Americans from the United States. They were drawn to Mexico's cheap land and farming opportunities.

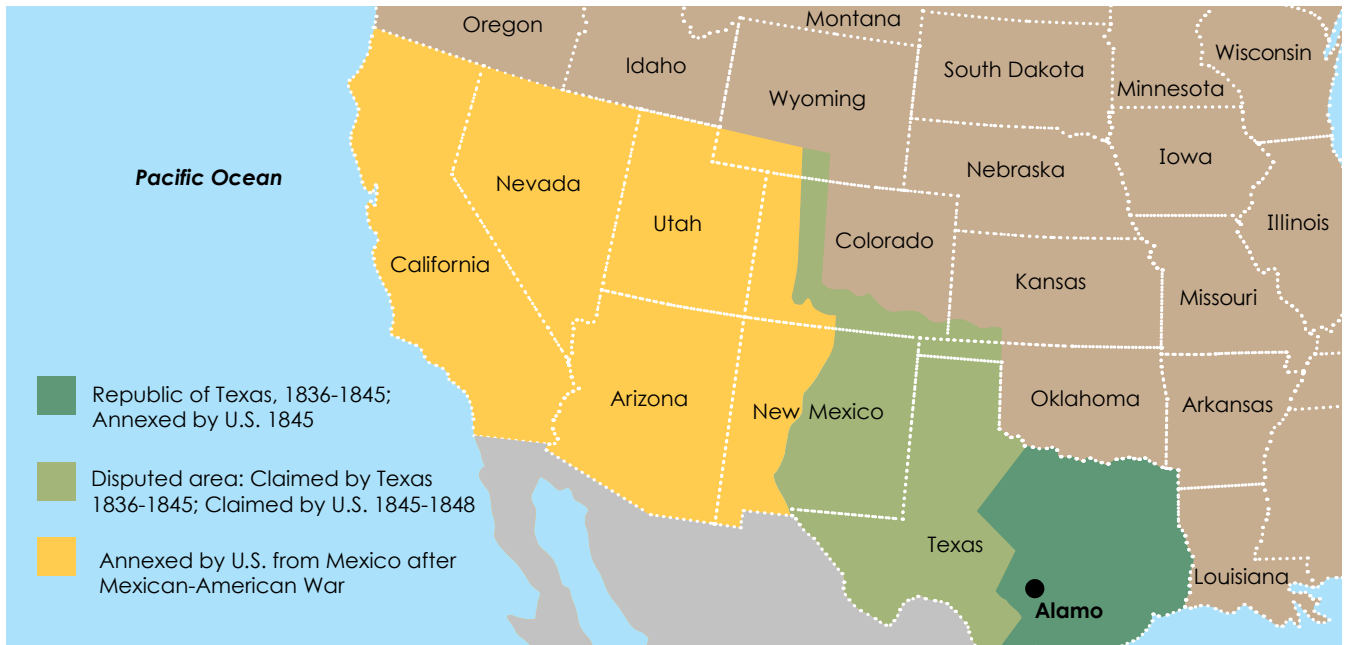
Mexican President Antonio López de Santa Anna feared losing control of a growing population. He put a stop to

was held in the town of Gonzales, near San Antonio. The Texas Revolution had begun.

The Alamo was an old mission, or kind of church. However, its location made it a good fort for troops and supplies. Texans took control of it in December 1835.

On February 23, 1836, President Santa Anna led his troops into San Antonio de Bexár. They greatly outnumbered the Texian Army. When Santa Anna arrived at the Alamo, he raised a red flag. It meant he would not surrender, nor would he show compassion to the Texans.

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...they started the battle in the early
dawn on March 6, 1836. For 90 minutes,
Santa Anna's army attacked the Alamo.
As promised, Santa Anna showed no
compassion. Any Texian Army volunteers
alive at the end of the battle were
executed.

Just days earlier, on March 2,
Texan representatives had met at
Washington-on-the-Brazos. They
declared independence. They also
elected government officials and wrote
a constitution. The Battle of the Alamo
was a defeat for the Texans, but it
strengthened their determination to fight

soldiers led by Major General Sam
Houston surprised President Santa Anna's
soldiers at the San Jacinto River. Santa
Anna wasn't prepared to fight. He was
taking an afternoon nap!

That wasn't the last of the Alamo.
In 1845, the United States annexed, or
added, Texas as the 28th state. This act
brought about the Mexican-American
War (1846–1848). American soldiers once
more cried, "Remember the Alamo!"
When the war ended, the U.S. annexed
land that would one day help make up
seven more states.

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1. Which did *not* control Texan land at some point?
a. Republic of Texas **b.** Spain
c. Portugal **d.** United States
2. Which two major conflicts used the rallying cry "Remember the Alamo"?

3. What three factors does the author say most added to the conflict for Texan independence?



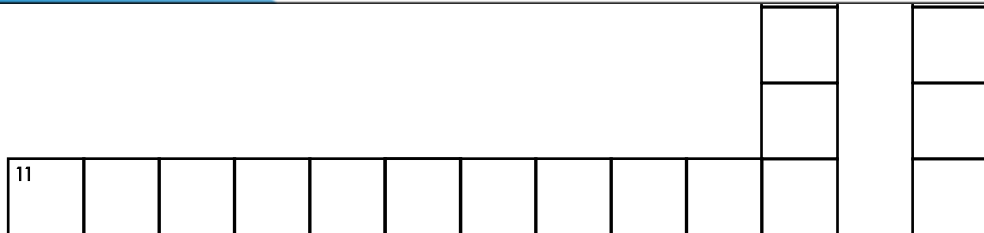
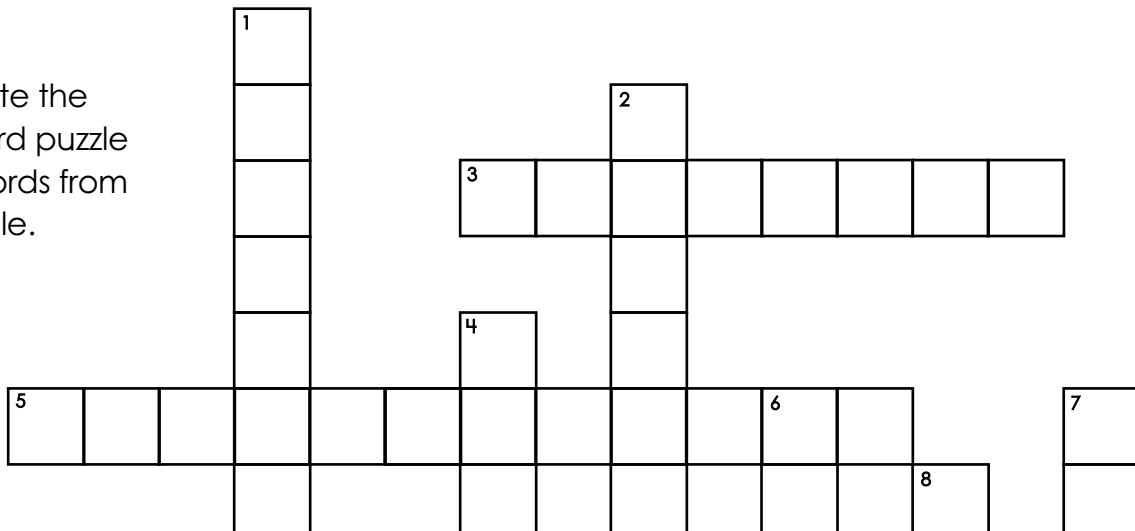
- _____ San Jacinto declared
_____ San Antonio **b.** river near where Santa Anna was defeated
_____ Washington-on-the-Brazos **c.** city named after the general who defeated Santa Anna
d. city where the Alamo is located

5. Which state does *not* contain land annexed after the Mexican-American War?
a. California **b.** Wyoming **c.** Colorado **d.** Nebraska
6. Explain why "Remember the Alamo!" was an effective rallying cry for people fighting for independence from Mexico.

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Complete the crossword puzzle using words from the article.



Down:

1. fighters in an army
2. unfairly severe; causing a great burden
4. added land to a country
6. kindness toward those in pain or distress
7. to take over by force
8. to give up

Across:

3. government where citizens vote for leaders
5. freedom from another's control
9. killed by order
10. a military blockage of supplies
11. the movement of people into a new nation

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Remember the Alamo!

In the article, "Remember the Alamo!", you read about some of the factors that contributed to the Texas Revolution. You also read about the Battle of the Alamo.

Pretend it is April 1, 1836, and you are a Texan revolutionist. Write a diary entry explaining why you support independence as well as your current hopes for achieving it. Include developments from the month of March as described in the article.



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ANSWER KEY

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fighting for independence from Mexico.

Answers may vary. An example is: Mexican President Santa Anna showed no compassion to the Texians at the Alamo. This made people want to fight harder.

ANSWER KEY

Remember the Alamo!



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