

Bellringer: D8

What caused the Texans to declare independence?

U.S. History I

Ch. 12.2B Independence for Texas: Clash of Cultures

Goals for Today:

*Continue to investigate how **Mexico** kept on mistreating the Texan-Americans, and the reactions that led to the eventual **annexation** of **Texas***

The Struggle for Independence

In 1835, as unrest grew, the people of **Gonzales** resisted efforts by the Mexican Government to disarm. The revolution had begun.



The Texans offered free land to anyone willing to assist them. Many did, including Davy Crockett, Tejanos, and even some African Americans.

In December, 1835, the Texans recaptured **San Antonio**, with help from many **Tejanos**, including Captain **Juan Seguin**, in what was called the **Siege of Bexar**. Texans thought the war was over, but they were wrong...



The Battle of the Alamo

While Texans were celebrating their recent victories, **Gen. Santa Anna** was making preparations. He brought a large enemy force to San Antonio in February, 1836, and with about 2,000 men, he faced off a much smaller Texan force of about 200. The Texans barricaded themselves in an old mission known as [The Alamo](#).

Effects of [The Alamo](#)

Texans were again overrun in March, 1836 by the Mexicans at [Goliad](#) and here is an [Interactive Video](#)

Despite the loss, the Texans fought on. While the Alamo was being attacked, Texan leaders drew up a new constitution and a Declaration of Independence, much like those of the U.S. **Sam Houston** was named the Commander in chief to face off against Gen. Santa Anna.

While these men lost their lives, those who bravely died defending it lived on in the cries of “Remember the Alamo!” and “Remember Goliad!” in the subsequent battles.

The Battle of San Jacinto

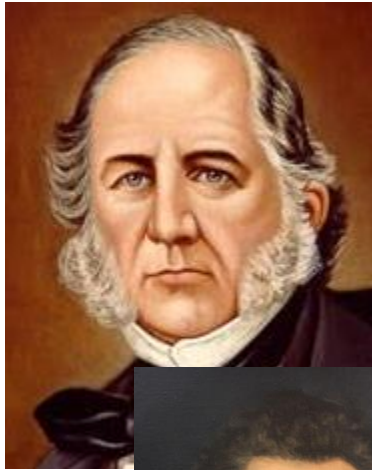
Gen. Santa Anna continued to attack the Texans mercilessly. Houston meanwhile moved his men, distant enough to stay out of Santa Anna's reach, but close enough to send spies to watch. We waited for a chance to get revenge...and he got it at the [Battle of San Jacinto](#)

On **April 21st 1836**, Houston and his 800 Texan troops surprised Gen. Santa Anna and his army of 1,300. Before they attacked, Sam Houston told his soldiers "We must act now, or abandon all hope!" They snuck up on him at a bend in the **San Jacinto River** during their siesta, and caught them off guard, killing 600 and capturing 700.


Having been captured, **Gen. Santa Anna** was forced to sign a treaty giving the Texans their independence.



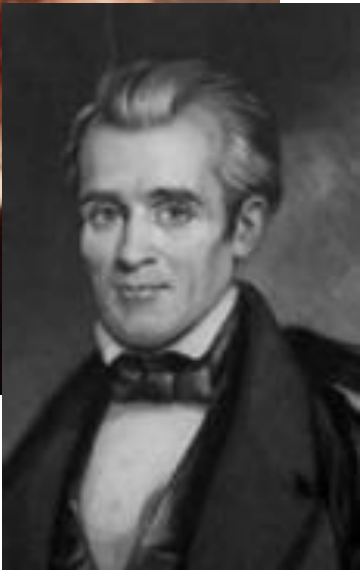
Annexation of Texas



Things weren't over yet, however. **Sam Houston** was elected in September 1836 to be president of the Republic of Texas, with **Lorenzo de Zavala**, a Tejano, as VP.



The Texans knew that they could not survive a continued conflict with Mexico, where most people believed the treaty giving them independence was illegal, signed by a POW.



So, Houston sent a delegation to Washington, D.C. to ask that the U.S. **annex**, or take control of Texas, which would keep it out of Mexican hands. But Texas was a hot potato that people weren't sure they wanted. **Pres. John Tyler** [gambled on Texas](#).

When **James K. Polk** ran for president in 1844, he argued to add both Oregon and Texas...and won. Congress approved of the annexation Dec. 1845.

HW: Check out the Oregon Trail!

Make sure to finish your **Oregon Trail** worksheet if you haven't. Next, begin working on your next assignment, creating either a **propaganda poster**, a **political cartoon**, or **editorial letter** saying how you are in **favor** or **against** the **Mexican American War**.