

# CHAPTER 10

# The Alamo and Goliad

## Why It Matters

*The Texans' courageous defense of the Alamo cost Santa Anna high casualties and upset his plans. The Texas forces used the opportunity to enlist volunteers and gather supplies. The loss of friends and relatives at the Alamo and Goliad filled the Texans with determination.*

## The Impact Today

*The site of the Alamo is now a shrine in honor of the defenders. People from all over the world visit the site to honor the memory of those who fought and died for the cause of Texan independence. The Alamo has become a symbol of courage in the face of overwhelming difficulties.*

**1836**

- ★ February 23, Santa Anna began siege of the Alamo
- ★ March 6, the Alamo fell
- ★ March 20, Fannin's army surrendered to General Urrea
- ★ March 27, Texas troops executed at Goliad



**1835**

- Halley's Comet reappeared
- Hans Christian Andersen published first of 168 stories

**1836**

- Betsy Ross—at one time given credit by some for making the first American flag—died





Remember the Alamo by F.C. Yohn. *The Battle of the Alamo has been a popular theme with painters.*

**Compare-Contrast Study Foldable** Make this foldable to help you compare and contrast the Alamo and Goliad—two important turning points in Texas independence.

**Step 1** Fold a sheet of paper in half from side to side.

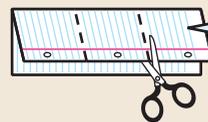


Fold it so the left edge lays about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch from the right edge.

**Step 2** Turn the paper and fold it into thirds.

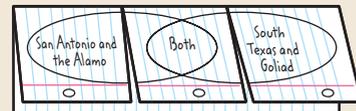


**Step 3** Unfold and cut the top layer only along both folds.



This will make three tabs.

**Step 4** Label as shown.



**Reading and Writing** As you read the chapter, write what you learn about the Battle of the Alamo and massacre at Goliad. Write key facts under the appropriate tabs of your foldable.



1837

**1837**

- Earthquake in southern Syria killed thousands

**1837**

- The United States recognized Republic of Texas

1838

**1838**

- Samuel Morse made first public demonstration of telegraph

**1838**

- Britain's Queen Victoria crowned in Westminster Abbey

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# A Clash of Armies

## Guide to Reading

### Main Idea

The Texas army scattered and divided as Santa Anna moved into Texas in early 1836.

### Key Term

**recruit**

### Reading Strategy

**Organizing Information** Complete a chart like the one shown here by filling in the information about volunteers in the Texas army.

Reasons for Volunteering	
Occupations	
Nationalities	

### Read to Learn

- what strengths and weaknesses existed in the Texas army.
- which individuals played key roles in defending the Alamo.

### Section Theme

**Geography and History** Some Texans began to gather at the Alamo to face Santa Anna's army.

### Preview of Events

◆ 1836

◆ 1837

**January 17**

Houston sends Bowie to the Alamo

**February 3**

William Travis joins the Alamo volunteers

**February 8**

David Crockett arrives at the Alamo



Volunteer Texan soldier

## A Texas Story

Andrew Boyle, an Irish immigrant, volunteered for service at Goliad. "Colonels Bowie and Crockett, then in command of the Alamo, sent a courier to Colonel Fannin . . . asking for reinforcements. A hundred men were at once detailed, and had crossed the San Antonio River, . . . when they were recalled on account of a report of the advance of the Mexican army under General Urrea, toward San Patricio."

—*I Survived the Goliad Massacre*, by Andrew A. Boyle

### A Missed Opportunity

When General Cós surrendered San Antonio to the Texans in December 1835, Santa Anna was furious. Santa Anna was determined to punish the Anglo rebels in Texas and those Tejanos who had defied

his government. Because of the distance between Texas and Mexico City, however, it would be some time before Santa Anna would be able to get to Texas. The Texans did not use the time wisely, however. During the first two months of 1836, Texas drifted without strong leadership toward an extremely critical period. Instead of organizing and training, most of the volunteer soldiers who had captured San Antonio returned home. The Texas army became smaller and smaller.



Most of those who remained in the army were new arrivals from the United States. They came to Texas for a variety of reasons. Some arrived to obtain the land promised by the Texas government. Some came because of their strong belief in liberty. Others were drawn by the spirit of adventure.

Some of the volunteers, such as former U.S. Congressman **David Crockett** of Tennessee, were already well-known public figures. Many others who joined the struggle were unknown farmers, hunters, and clerks who were part of the westward movement. They represented various nations, including England, Wales, Ireland, Scotland, and Germany.

## Texas Forces Are Divided

The Texan forces were badly divided at the end of 1835. No single leader was in control. General Sam Houston, who was made commander of the regular Texas army and the volunteers, attempted to bring the various military units together but met with little success. Many volunteers refused to recognize General Houston's

authority. Some volunteers were used to electing their own commanding officers. In addition, the provisional government headed by Governor Smith gave the same special assignment to several commanders. As an example, three men—**Colonel Frank W. Johnson**, **Dr. James Grant**, and **Colonel James W. Fannin**—were authorized to attack the Mexican city of **Matamoros**, near the mouth of the Rio Grande.

The Texan forces remained scattered. About 100 men were still in San Antonio under the command of **Colonel James C. Neill**. Johnson and Grant each had about 50 men near **San Patricio**. Fannin had about 450 men at **Goliad**. Another force was slowly being assembled at Gonzales. Little communication or coordination existed among these scattered units.



### Picturing History

David Crockett became famous for a saying that he adopted and made popular: "Be always sure you're right—then go a-head!"  
**How did Crockett follow his own advice? Do you agree with this saying?**



# People of Texas

James Fannin 1804-1836



James Walker Fannin arrived in Texas in 1834 and very soon became involved with the Texas cause for independence. He participated in the Battle of Gonzales and, along with Jim Bowie, led Texas forces in the Battle of Concepción.

In 1836 he was put in

charge of about 450 troops at Goliad. Used to the discipline of a regular army, he disliked leading volunteers and was seen as arrogant by many of his men.

General Houston ordered Fannin to retreat to Victoria, but Fannin delayed and found himself surrounded

by Mexican forces at the Battle of Coleto. He and his men surrendered and were imprisoned inside the presidio at Goliad.

On March 27, 1836, by order of Santa Anna, he and his men were put to death. "Remember Goliad" became a Texas battle cry.

## Santa Anna Moves North

While the Texans remained scattered and divided, General Santa Anna moved his army of some 6,000 soldiers northward. Part of the Mexican army had been **recruited**, or enlisted, quickly. Most of the new troops were untrained and undisciplined. Many of them were poorly clothed and fed. Many had to fight with old muskets and poor equipment and were forced to fight against their will.

Most Texans expected that Santa Anna would wait until the spring of 1836 to move northward so there would be grass for his horses and mules. Santa Anna, however, raised an army and marched it several hundred miles in the winter. He received information about the movement of the Texan troops from some of the Mexican ranchers in South Texas. He hoped to surprise the

Texans and end the rebellion against his authority. As Santa Anna marched northward, he divided his army into two main columns. Under his personal command, the larger column of about 6,000 troops crossed the Rio Grande

at Paso de Francia (near modern-day Eagle Pass) and headed toward San Antonio. The other column, commanded by **General José Urrea** (oo•REE•ah), crossed the Rio Grande at Matamoros and moved along the Gulf Coast toward Goliad.

**Reading Check Identifying** What were three major reasons Texas troops were not well prepared for Santa Anna?

## Texans Occupy the Alamo

Meanwhile, the Texan troops at San Antonio occupied the abandoned Mission San Antonio de Valero. Built in 1718, the old mission had once housed a Spanish colonial company from Alamo de Parras in Mexico. As a result, most people referred to the building as the Alamo.

Colonel Neill had 104 soldiers in the Alamo. In January, he complained to the General Council that he needed guns and troops. On January 17, 1836, General Houston ordered **Colonel James Bowie** and about 25 Texans in Goliad to go to the Alamo. Bowie was to inspect the situation there and decide whether or not to abandon the post.

Bowie was already a well-known figure in the Southwest. He had gained a reputation as a formidable fighter after winning a struggle using an "overly-large" knife. The blade was thought to

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have been designed by his brother, but it was made famous by Jim Bowie. Blacksmiths received many orders to copy the famous Bowie Knife.

Bowie came to Texas in 1828 where he searched for a Spanish mine on the San Sabá River. He met Stephen F. Austin and began buying and selling land. It is reported that his activities in this business eventually irritated Austin, however. Like many adventurers of the time, Bowie took chances, skirted the law, and made as many enemies as he did friends. After the Battle of Concepción, diarist Noah Smithwick wrote:

“His voice is still ringing in my old deaf ears as he repeatedly admonished us. Keep under cover boys and reserve your fire; we haven’t a man to spare.”

In 1831, Bowie gained property and position with his marriage to Ursula María de Veramendi, the daughter of the vice governor of Coahuila y Tejas.

## Travis Arrives at the Alamo

On February 3, **Lieutenant Colonel William B. Travis** of the regular Texas army and about 30 soldiers from San Felipe joined the Alamo garrison. Although Travis had been a volunteer at other skirmishes in Texas, he missed the action at Gonzales. In 1835 Travis joined the regular army as a lieutenant colonel of the cavalry. He had been ordered by Governor Henry Smith to reinforce Colonel Neill and his men. Several days later



*Lt. Colonel William B. Travis*

David Crockett and 12 more volunteers arrived. Crockett was a frontier legend. A skilled sharpshooter, hunter, and storyteller, David Crockett claimed to have killed more than 100 bears in less than a year. He often dressed in colorful frontier clothing that included a coonskin cap. He served as a colonel in the Tennessee militia and as a representative in the Tennessee legislature and the U.S. Congress. He was nearly 50 years old when he came to Texas. “I would rather be in my present situation than to be elected to a seat in Congress for life,” he wrote his daughter in January 1836. Although offered a command in the regular army by Travis, Crockett preferred to serve as a private among the Alamo volunteers.

Some Tejanos played an active part in the uprisings—first against Spain and then Mexico. These Tejanos risked more than just their lives. They fought for freedom at the price of their lands, their homes, and their families. They had, at times, more to lose than did the Anglo Americans or Europeans seeking adventure,



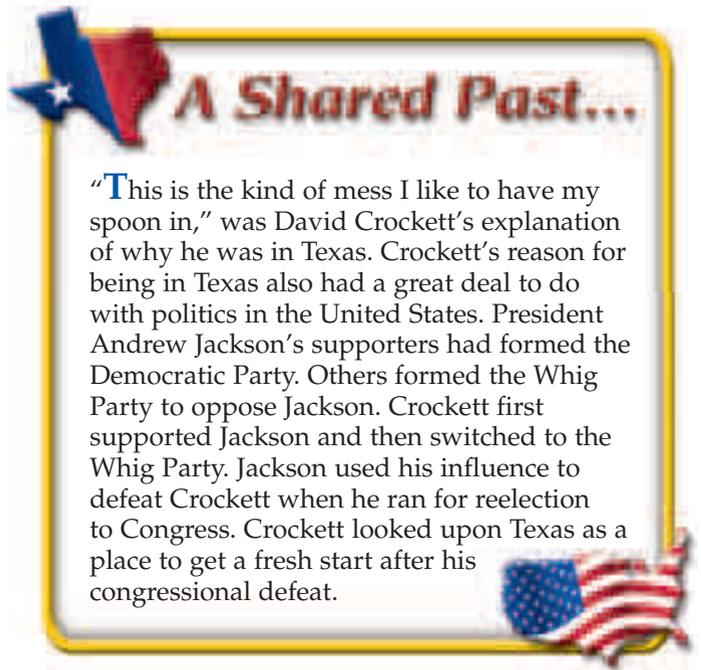
### **Picturing History**

William B. Travis (*left*) and Jim Bowie (*right*) both commanded troops at the Alamo, Travis as a lieutenant colonel. **What impressions does the engraving at right convey about Bowie?**

land, or liberty. Many Tejanos considered Santa Anna a dictator, especially because he did not follow the Constitution of 1824 that guaranteed a more democratic government for Mexico.

At least nine Tejanos helped defend the Alamo. They were Brigido Guerrero (geh•REH•roh), Juan Abamillo (ah•bah•MEE•yoh), Juan Antonio Badillo (bah•DEE•yoh), Carlos Espalier (ehs•pahl•YEHR), Gregorio Esparza, José Toribio Losoya, Antonio Fuentes (FWEN•tehs), Damacio Jiménez (hee•MEN•ehs), and Andrés Nava. Captain Juan Seguín was at the Alamo when Santa Anna’s army arrived, but he was sent out to raise more volunteers.

In early February, Colonel Neill left the Alamo because of family illness. Bowie was chosen commander of the volunteers in San Antonio. Travis became commander of the regular army soldiers. The election of Bowie to lead the volunteers did not mean that the men did not like or respect Travis. For many years there had been an ongoing dispute between regular and volunteer soldiers. The volunteers simply did not want to take orders from a regular officer. For a while, the two men served as joint commanders of the garrison. On February 23, however, Bowie became ill and passed command of the Alamo to Travis.



**A Shared Past...**

“This is the kind of mess I like to have my spoon in,” was David Crockett’s explanation of why he was in Texas. Crockett’s reason for being in Texas also had a great deal to do with politics in the United States. President Andrew Jackson’s supporters had formed the Democratic Party. Others formed the Whig Party to oppose Jackson. Crockett first supported Jackson and then switched to the Whig Party. Jackson used his influence to defeat Crockett when he ran for reelection to Congress. Crockett looked upon Texas as a place to get a fresh start after his congressional defeat.

Travis accepted the theory that Santa Anna would not enter Texas until late March, April, or May. In early February, a party of scouts for the Texan army reported that Santa Anna’s army had crossed the Rio Grande. Despite this report, Travis continued to believe that he would have more time.

**Reading Check Explaining** Why did some Tejanos join the colonists’ fight against Santa Anna?

## SECTION 1 ASSESSMENT

### Checking for Understanding

- Using Key Terms** Use the word **recruit** in a sentence about the Mexican army.
- Reviewing Facts** How did the Alamo get its name?

### Reviewing Themes

- Geography and History** Why did many Texans, including Lieutenant Colonel William B. Travis, believe Santa Anna would wait until spring to move northward?

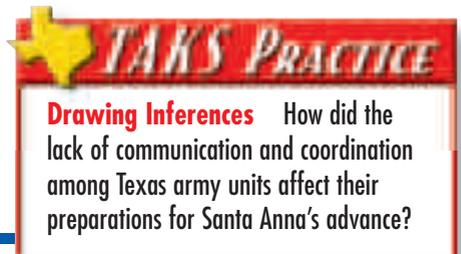
### Organizing to Learn

- Creating Charts** Create a chart like the one shown here and mark an X in the appropriate column for either James Bowie or David Crockett.

	James Bowie	David Crockett
Famous for his knife		
Member of the Tennessee legislature		
Wore a coonskin cap		
Ordered from Goliad to the Alamo		

### Critical Thinking

- Analyzing Information** While at the Alamo, David Crockett wrote in a letter, “I would rather be in my present situation than to be elected to a seat in Congress for life.” What does this say about Crockett’s heroism and sense of adventure?



**Drawing Inferences** How did the lack of communication and coordination among Texas army units affect their preparations for Santa Anna’s advance?

# Texas LITERATURE

## Gary Clifton Wisler



Gary Clifton Wisler's writing career began with the encouragement of his students.

His first novel, *My Brother, the Wind*, was nominated for the 1980 American Book Award. Since then he has published 72 books, and his work has been translated into five foreign languages. Wisler currently lives in Plano, Texas.

## Reading to Discover

As you read this excerpt, imagine how you would feel knowing that enemy forces of a thousand or more were on their way to the area where you live.

## Reader's Dictionary

**resolution:** a formal statement of a decision or expression of opinion put before or adopted by a governmental assembly

**Tejanos:** those of Mexican descent living in Texas

**cavalry:** troops trained to fight on horseback

## All for Texas

by GARY CLIFTON WISLER

*Jefferson and Miguel worry about the impact of war on their families.*

... "Yes, I know it seems odd," he said, laughing. "Do you know that, here in Goliad, a **resolution** was passed for an independent Texas? This happened, but then some of the old people said we should not break away. Many **Tejanos** would not join a rebellion against their mother country. Some continued to feel that way. My father is a man of the law—a judge, you would call him. Because he is not a supporter of Santa Anna he is no longer."

"Where [is he]?" I asked.

"It's difficult to know," Miguel said, staring southward. "In January he left to purchase a bull. We have no letters from him. Maybe he is arrested. Who can say?"

"My pa's supposed to be at the fort," I said, sighing. "I guess we both wonder, huh?"

"I don't think this will be a good time for either of us, amigo. A thousand **cavalry**? These are the best soldiers in all of Mexico. Too many, I think, for Fannin. Too many, perhaps, for all of Texas to fight." . . .

I finally faded off into a light sleep, but a thousand Mexican horsemen rode through my dreams, and I found no peace. Not long after dawn, . . . [a] handful of riders



dressed in every kind of outfit imaginable galloped toward us, led by a young girl.

Among the other riders was a trio of red-haired fellows—and Pa!

"Jefferson, you've gone and grown old on me," he declared.

"I'm not so old," I said, handing over Ma's letters. "We've missed you past measuring."

"As I have you, son," he declared as he opened the first letter.

## ANALYZING LITERATURE

**Recall and Interpret** Why are Jefferson and Miguel worried about their fathers?

## Interdisciplinary Activity

**Writing Letters** Jefferson was carrying letters from his mother to his father. Write a letter from Jefferson's mother explaining what life is like at home while her husband is at war.

# Texans Defend the Alamo

## Guide to Reading

### Main Idea

The Texans at the Alamo fought bravely but were ultimately defeated by Santa Anna's army.

### Key Terms

fortify  
bombard

### Reading Strategy

**Classifying Information** As you read this section, complete a chart like the one shown here listing the strengths and weaknesses of the Alamo.

Strengths	Weaknesses

### Read to Learn

- what events occurred at the Alamo.
- how events at the Alamo helped to unite Texans in their struggle for independence.

### Section Theme

**Individual Action** The sacrifices of those at the Alamo helped the fight for independence.

### Preview of Events

◆ 1836

**February 23**

Santa Anna's army arrives in San Antonio

**February 24**

Travis sends urgent plea for help

**March 6**

Battle of the Alamo; almost all defenders are killed

◆ 1837



*Mexican officer*

## A Texas Story

Most of Colonel Fannin's men were captured as they withdrew from Goliad. Andrew Boyle wrote, "[A]t the hospital, the Mexican officers seemed kindly disposed to me . . . Mr. Brooks, aide to Colonel Fannin, was there. I found him completely ignorant of what was going on. Upon being informed, he said, 'I suppose it will be our turn next.' In less than five minutes [he was] carried out, cot and all, placed in the street, and there shot."

### In Defense of the Alamo

When Bowie arrived at the Alamo, he knew there were too few soldiers. He and Travis, however, believed that holding the Alamo was vital to the fate of Texas. They began to strengthen its defenses.

Travis was surprised on February 23, when the advance wing of Santa Anna's army arrived at San Antonio. The Texans barely made it inside the walls of the Alamo before the Mexican cavalry roared into the town.

In some ways, the Texans had a good defensive position. The walls of the old mission were 2 to 3 feet thick and 12 feet high. Twenty-one cannons **fortified**, or strengthened, the mission, including one powerful 18-pounder. Travis placed it at a southwest angle so his troops could command movements in the town. Supplies of beef and corn were high, and sufficient water was available. The Texans were well provisioned.

Serious weaknesses, however, hurt the Alamo's defense. The wall surrounding the main plaza of the old mission was incomplete—there was a gap between the south wall and the

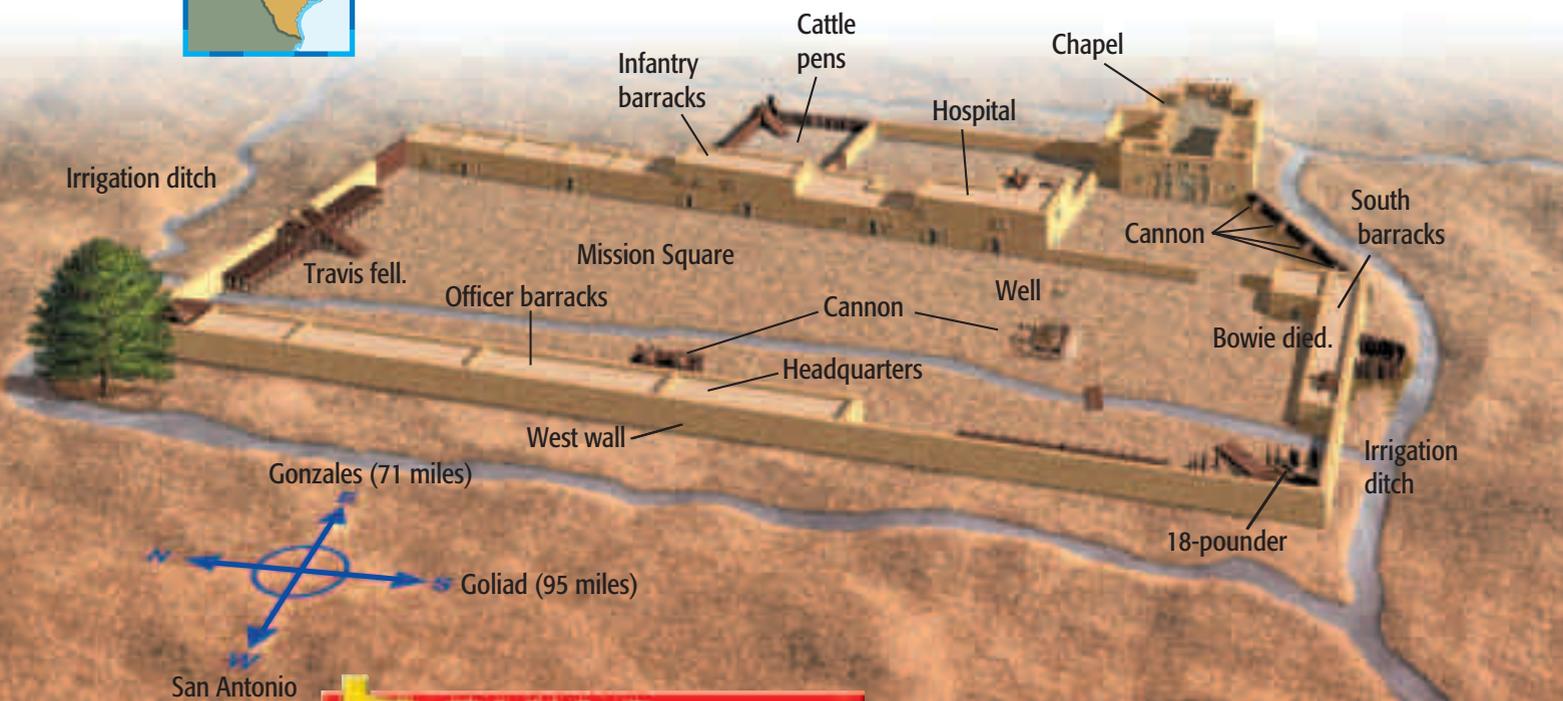
old chapel on the southeast. Although a fence of sticks and dirt was built to close this gap, it remained the weakest point in the defense. Also, the mission was too large for Travis to defend with the few troops he had. The walls enclosed nearly three acres of land, and Travis had fewer than 200 men. To defend the Alamo successfully, a much larger army was necessary.

## Travis Declares "Victory or Death"

Travis was determined to hold the Alamo. The mission had come to symbolize to many of the defenders the achievements that had been so dearly won in the struggle for independence. Travis wrote several messages to the people of Texas and the United States, asking them to answer his call for assistance. His letter of



### The Alamo, February and March, 1836



### TAKS PRACTICE

This model details the layout of the Alamo as it existed during the Battle of the Alamo in 1836. Note where some of the cannons were placed and which areas seemed most heavily defended. Models are often used by present-day military commanders in order to

consider areas of strength and weakness and to develop strategy. **Analyzing** Review the text and study this model carefully. In your opinion, what areas of the Alamo were easiest to attack and which were easiest to defend?

February 24, 1836, is one of the finest statements of courage in American history. He knew the odds were clearly against him. He wrote:

*Commandancy of the Alamo  
Béxar, Feby. 24th, 1836*

*To the People of Texas & all  
Americans in the world—Fellow  
Citizens & compatriots—*

*I am besieged by a thousand or more  
of the Mexicans under Santa Anna—  
I have sustained a continual  
Bombardment & cannonade for 24  
hours & have not lost a man—The  
enemy has demanded a surrender at  
discretion, otherwise, the garrison are  
to be put to the sword, if the fort is  
taken—I have answered the demand  
with a cannon shot, & our flag still  
waves proudly from the walls—I shall  
never surrender or retreat. Then, I  
call on you in the name of Liberty, of  
patriotism & everything dear to the  
American character, to come to our  
aid, with all dispatch—The enemy is  
receiving reinforcements daily & will  
no doubt increase to three or four  
thousand in four or five days. If this  
call is neglected, I am determined to  
sustain myself as long as possible &  
die like a soldier who never forgets  
what is due to his own honor & that  
of his country—Victory or Death!*

*William Barret Travis  
Lt. Col. comdt.*

*P.S. The Lord is on our side—When  
the enemy appeared in sight we had  
not three bushels of corn—We have  
since found in deserted houses 80 or  
90 bushels, & got into the walls 20 or  
30 head of Beeves [cattle]—*

The outside help brought by the letters did not arrive in time. Meanwhile, Texan military

forces were still poorly organized and spread out. Travis hoped that Fannin would move with his army from Goliad, but Fannin lacked enough wagons to move all of his supplies. On March 1, Travis received 32 volunteer reinforcements from Gonzales. Led by **Albert Martin** and **George C. Kimball**, they made their way into the Alamo while it was still dark.

Santa Anna made his headquarters at the San Fernando church, which faced eastward toward the Alamo. He ordered the red flag of “no quarter” to be flown, meaning that he did not intend to take any prisoners in the coming battle.

On March 3, Travis wrote his last appeal for help at the Alamo. It was sent by messenger to the president of the Convention of 1836, which was meeting at **Washington-on-the-Brazos**. Travis described the fighting that had already taken place and repeated his request for assistance. He warned that “the power of Santa Anna is to be met here, or in the colonies; we had better meet them here than to suffer a war of devastation to rage in our settlements.” He ended with the statement that he and his troops were determined to hold the Alamo. Although no troops were sent, James Bonham, the messenger, returned knowing he would face his death.

 **Reading Check** **Evaluating** Why didn't Travis receive much response from his letters?



**A Shared Past...**

Some Whigs (a national political party) in the United States thought the Texas Revolution was a conspiracy of slaveowners to extend slavery. They disapproved of Americans volunteering to fight in the revolution. They wondered whether the volunteers were violating the Neutrality Act of 1818, which did not allow Americans to invade a country with which the United States was at peace. In December 1835, a federal judge in New York said that the volunteers going to Texas were not violating the Neutrality Act.





### **History Through Art**

*Dawn at the Alamo* by H.A. McArdle, 1876–1883

Although Texans fought bravely, the Alamo fell to Santa Anna and his forces on March 6, 1836. [How accurate does the artist's representation seem?](#)

## Facing Certain Death

As Mexican armies encircled the Alamo, it became apparent to Travis that he had no chance for victory. On the evening of March 5, Travis explained to his troops that remaining in the Alamo meant certain death. According to legend, Travis took his sword and drew a line on the ground. All those who wished to stay and defend the Alamo were asked to cross over the line. According to the story, all but one of the men crossed over the line.

The one man who supposedly did not cross the line was Louis “Moses” Rose, a native of France who had come to Texas in about 1827. He was a veteran of the Napoleonic wars and saw no need to sacrifice his life for a hopeless cause. It is not important whether or not Travis drew the line on the ground. It is not important whether or not one man chose to leave the Alamo. Nearly 200 men—mostly volunteers—were free to leave the Alamo, but they decided to stay and fight for a cause in which they believed.

The defenders of the Alamo held the garrison against heavy odds. Since February 23, Mexican cannons had **bombarded**, or fired upon, the Alamo daily. The Texans, with their long-range Kentucky rifles, were able to shoot Mexican troops at great distance. Despite this, it was clear Santa Anna had most of the advantages.

## Texan Troops Give Ground

On the night of March 5, 1836, Santa Anna’s troops were in place for battle. Santa Anna ordered the attack on the Alamo to begin at dawn. At about 5:00 on the morning of March 6, the battle began. Some sources estimate that 1,800 Mexican troops took part in this final assault. Five columns of troops moved forward to attack the Alamo at three different points. Mexican buglers played the notes of “El Degüello” (ehl deh•GWAY•yoh), an ancient chant indicating that no mercy would be shown.

The Texans were ready, and the first wave of Mexican attackers was riddled by cannon and rifle fire. A second wave met the same fate. The Texan defenders put up a stubborn fight, but the third assault of Mexican troops successfully pushed back the Texans and allowed Santa Anna’s men to storm over the walls. The fighting within the compound was especially fierce as rifles gave way to knives and clubs. Although the Mexican forces suffered heavy casualties scaling the walls, they continued to attack until the whole garrison was overpowered. By 8:00 on the morning of March 6, the battle for the Alamo was over.

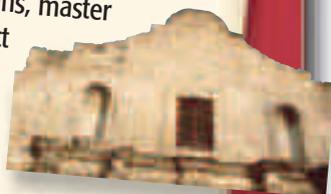
# TWO VIEWPOINTS

## The Death of Davy Crockett

Historians today are still debating details about the death of legendary hero, Davy Crockett. Read the two views below and then answer the question.

### A Newspaper Article Describes a Hero's Death

From the [beginning] to its close, the storming lasted less than an hour. Major Evans, master of ordnance, was killed when in the act of setting fire to the powder magazine, agreeably to the previous orders from Travis. The end of David Crockett [sic] . . . was as glorious as his career through life had been useful . . . The countenance of Crockett was unchanged: he had in death that freshness of hue, which his exercise of pursuing the beasts of the forest and the prairie imparted to him. Texas places him, exultingly, amongst the martyrs of the cause.  
—A newspaper account from after the Alamo's fall



### A Mexican Army Officer Claims Crockett Surrendered

Seven men survived . . . and . . . were brought [by General Castrillón] before Santa Anna. Among them was . . . the naturalist David Crockett . . . who had undertaken to explore the country and who, finding himself in Béxar at the very moment of surprise, had taken refuge in the Alamo, fearing that his status as a foreigner might not be respected. Santa Anna answered Castrillón's intervention [on] Crockett's behalf with . . . indignation and, addressing himself to the [troops closest to him], ordered his execution.  
—From the de la Peña diary, published 1975

### Learning From History

What are the strengths and weaknesses of eyewitness testimony?

It is not known how many people were killed at the Alamo—after the fighting ended, the bodies of the defenders were burned. Santa Anna reported that 600 Texans were killed in the battle. Historians first believed that at least 189 Alamo defenders died. New ongoing research, however, shows that as many as 250 defenders died. Bowie, Travis, and Crockett were among those killed. A Mexican officer, **Colonel José Enrique de la Peña** (ehn•REE•kay day lah PEH•nyah), wrote that Crockett survived the battle. According to de la Peña, Santa Anna ordered the immediate execution of Crockett and five or six others.

Mexican losses in the battle also are uncertain. Santa Anna first claimed that he lost only 70 men. Many Texans believe that more than 1,000 Mexicans were either killed or wounded. Most historians believe it should be closer to 600. Even so, Santa Anna paid heavily for the capture of the Alamo.

 **Reading Check** **Examining** Why were Travis's troops unsuccessful at the Alamo?

## A Battle Cry for Victory

Although Santa Anna ordered that all defenders of the Alamo be put to death, several did survive. Santa Anna released the women and children who had been in the Alamo during the battle. Among these were the wives of soldiers—Ana Salazar de Esparza, wife of Gregorio Esparza; Juana Navarro de Alsbury, whose husband was away on a scouting mission; and Susanna Dickinson, wife of an officer in the Alamo. She, her daughter Angelina, and Joe Travis, an enslaved person, were allowed to leave San Antonio and carry word of the disaster to the Texans at Gonzales. Andrea Castañon Villanueva (Señora Candelaria), another Tejano woman, had nursed James Bowie.



# People of Texas

Andrea C. Villanueva 1785–1899



Andrea Castañon Villanueva (Señora Candelaria) survived the Alamo along with other women and children.

When she was about 25, she moved to San Antonio and married Candelario Villanueva. Señora

Candelaria was a caring woman who often nursed the sick, helped the poor, and gave money to strangers. Over a lifetime, she adopted 22 orphans and raised them along with her 4 children.

Historians are in dis-

agreement over her claim that she was actually at the Alamo, but most believe her. In spite of the difference of opinion, the Texas legislature gave Señora Candelaria a pension for being an Alamo survivor. She lived to be 113.

At least one member of the garrison itself, Brigido Guerrero of San Antonio, survived the battle. He convinced Santa Anna that he had been a prisoner of the Texans and had been forced to fight against his will.

Some historians believe that Texas would not have won its independence without the Battle of the Alamo. Santa Anna lost many professional soldiers in the fighting and may have been delayed because of it. In addition, the courage of Travis and his forces made Texans more determined than ever to win their

independence. The battle also encouraged citizens of the U.S. to help Texans in their struggle for freedom. Santa Anna hoped the fall of the Alamo would convince other Texans that it was useless to resist his armies. Instead, the heroism of those in the Alamo inspired other Texans to carry on the struggle. “Remember the Alamo!” became the battle cry of Houston’s army.

**✓ Reading Check Examining** How did the battle at the Alamo aid the ultimate independence of Texas?

## SECTION 2 ASSESSMENT

### Checking for Understanding

- Using Key Terms** What is a synonym for **fortified**? What is a synonym for **bombard**?
- Reviewing Facts** What did Santa Anna’s red flag of “no quarter” mean?

### Reviewing Themes

- Individual Action** Why did most volunteers stay to defend the Alamo when they knew it meant almost certain death?

### Organizing to Learn

- Identifying Points of View** Reread the text about the battle at the Alamo. Then create a chart like the one shown, listing the losses at the Alamo.

According to...	Mexico’s Losses	Texas’s Losses
Santa Anna		
Historians		
Texans		Not given

### Critical Thinking

- Explaining** Santa Anna hoped that the fall of the Alamo would convince Texans that it was useless to resist his armies. What happened instead?



**Determining the Main Idea** Reread and summarize the advantages and disadvantages of the Mexican army at the Battle of the Alamo.



# Critical Thinking TAKS Skillbuilder



## Identifying Central Issues

### Why Learn This Skill?

Historical dates, events, and names are easier to understand and remember when they are connected to the main idea in the material. Identifying central issues allows you to grasp the whole picture.

### Learning the Skill

To identify central issues, follow these steps:

- 1 Read the material and ask, “What is the purpose of this material?”
- 2 Ask, “What are the most forceful statements in the material?”
- 3 Identify any details that support a larger idea or issue.
- 4 Identify the central issue, or main idea.

### Practicing the Skill

Read again the following excerpt from William B. Travis’s letter asking for reinforcements at the Alamo. Use the questions listed under **Learning the Skill** to identify the central issue.

*I am besieged by a thousand or more of the Mexicans under Santa Anna—I have sustained a continual Bombardment & cannonade for 24 hours & have not lost a man—The enemy has demanded a surrender at discretion, otherwise, the garrison are to be put to the sword, if the fort is taken—I have answered the demand with a cannon shot, & our flag still waves proudly from the walls—I shall never surrender or retreat. Then, I call on you in the name of Liberty, of patriotism & everything dear to the*



*Courtyard of the Alamo*

*American character, to come to our aid, with all dispatch—The enemy is receiving reinforcements daily & will no doubt increase to three or four thousand in four or five days. If this call is neglected, I am determined to sustain myself as long as possible & die like a soldier who never forgets what is due to his own honor & that of his country—Victory or Death!*



## TAKS PRACTICE

**Identifying Central Issues** Read the excerpt entitled “Marriage Bond” in the Primary Source Library on page 689. Use the questions listed under **Learning the Skill** to identify the central issue.

Glencoe’s **Skillbuilder Interactive Workbook**, Level 1, provides instruction and practice in key social studies skills.



# Defeat in South Texas

## Guide to Reading

### Main Idea

After Fannin delayed his withdrawal from Goliad, General Urrea's forces overpowered and destroyed the Texas armies.

### Key Term

*dispatch*

### Reading Strategy

**Organizing Information** As you read this section, complete a chart like the one shown here, outlining what happened on each of the following dates.

Date	What Happened
March 13	
March 19	
March 20	
March 27	

### Read to Learn

- what factors caused the Texan defeats at the Battle of Coleto and in South Texas.
- about the massacre at Goliad.

### Section Theme

**Groups and Institutions** The Mexican army defeated the Texans at Goliad.

### Preview of Events

◆ 1836

◆ 1837

#### March 19

Fannin withdraws troops from Goliad

#### March 20

Mexican troops capture Fannin's soldiers

#### March 27

Mexican troops execute Texas prisoners



*Mexican officers*

## A Texas Story

Andrew Boyle was captured during the withdrawal from Goliad. " [A]fter the murder of Mr. Brooks, an officer addressed me. He said, 'Make your mind easy, sir, your life is spared.' He had taken my name and description from my sister, Mary, at whose house he had been quartered while [he] occupied San Patricio. She refused all [money] from him, only asked that if I should fall into his hands I be treated kindly." Andrew escaped death because of his sister's kindness.

### Urrea Sweeps Northward to Refugio

While the fighting at the Alamo raged, the other unit of the Mexican army under General José Urrea was advancing from Matamoros up through South Texas. Urrea had about 1,000 soldiers under his command as he moved northward. At San Patricio on February 27, 1836, he destroyed

a force of 50 Texans under Frank W. Johnson's command. Only Johnson and 4 others escaped. On March 2, part of Urrea's army defeated about 30 of Dr. James Grant's men at Agua Dulce.

As Urrea advanced, civilians in his path fled. Some of the people at **Refugio** asked Colonel Fannin at Goliad to send them help. Fannin **dispatched** Captain Amon B. King and about 30 soldiers to help them, but just as King arrived at Refugio, part of Urrea's army surrounded the town. King and his men took refuge in the Mission Señora del Refugio and asked Fannin to send more forces.

Fannin sent Colonel William Ward and more than 100 Texans to help King. Ward reached Refugio on March 13. The Texans, however, divided their forces. While Ward and his troops remained in the mission, King led his men on a scouting expedition. His party was stopped by Urrea's forces and most of the men were either killed or captured. Colonel Ward was able to withdraw his troops from Refugio but suffered heavy losses while retreating. The remainder of the force was captured by Urrea's army near **Victoria**. The loss of lives at San Patricio, Refugio, and Victoria was a severe blow to the Texan efforts to halt the Mexican army's drive northward.

## Fannin Delays His Departure

The inability of Fannin, the commander of the Texan troops at Goliad, to make a decision and stick to it also hurt the Texas cause. In late February, Fannin had decided to help Travis at the Alamo. However, a shortage of wagons for transporting supplies caused him to return to Goliad. On March 14 Fannin received orders from General Houston to retreat toward Victoria. Houston did not think the Texans were ready to fight the Mexican army. Fannin waited several days hoping to hear the fate of King and Ward. Fannin then lost a skirmish with an advance force of Mexican troops. He finally began his withdrawal on March 19.

Fannin's withdrawal from Goliad was slowed by oxen pulling the heavy cannon. On the afternoon of March 19, he allowed his soldiers to rest and eat. They were about three miles from **Coletto Creek** in an open prairie. Suddenly, Fannin and the Texans were surrounded by Urrea's troops. Fannin had about 300 men, and Urrea had 300 to 500 men. Fannin assembled his soldiers in a square to meet Urrea's attack. Mexican troops charged three times, but each time they were driven back. During the fighting, 7 Texans were killed and 60 were wounded. Colonel Fannin himself was wounded in the leg.

Both sides spent the night strengthening their positions. The Mexicans had the advantage of being in the nearby woods. The Texans had little cover and no water. Even so, their spirits remained high. Some of them believed that help would arrive from Victoria. When morning came, however, it was Urrea who received reinforcements. At daybreak on March 20, Mexican cannons opened fire on Fannin's army. After a brief exchange of gunfire, Fannin asked General Urrea for the terms of surrender. The officers held a brief discussion, and Fannin signed an agreement of surrender. The **Battle of Coletto** was over.

 **Reading Check Analyzing** What factors led to Fannin's surrender?



### A Shared Past...

Support for the Texas Revolution was strongest in the Southern United States. In 1835, a meeting was held in Macon, Georgia, to show support for the Texans. The people raised money to help the cause and organized the Georgia Battalion to fight in Texas. As they were marching away, Johanna Troutman gave the soldiers a flag she had made. It featured one blue star (the lone star) on a white background with the words "Liberty or Death" below the star. For this, Troutman became known as the Betsy Ross of Texas.





### **Picturing History**

The presidio at Goliad was renamed Fort Defiance by James Fannin in February of 1836 in preparation for the Mexican attack. [Do you think the name helped or hurt the Texas cause?](#)

## **Texans Surrender**

There has been much confusion about the terms of surrender. Many Texans believed they were prisoners of war and would be treated fairly by their captors. However, the surrender agreement, now in the Mexican archives, contains no such promise. The document states that the Texans surrendered unconditionally, placing themselves at the mercy of the Mexican commander.

Evidence shows that Urrea assured Fannin that the Texans would be treated fairly, no matter what document was signed. According to several Texan survivors, Mexican officers said that the Texans would soon be released. After the surrender was signed, Fannin and his troops were marched back to Goliad, where they were imprisoned in the old presidio. Other Texans captured in the area were taken to Goliad within the next several days.

## **Santa Anna's "Cruel Necessity"**

Most of the prisoners waited for their release. General Urrea wrote to President Santa Anna, requesting that the lives of the prisoners be spared. In his reply, Santa Anna ordered the immediate execution of the Texans. He feared that if he let the Texans go, they would join others in the rebellion. He also relied on the Mexican law that required the execution of those who took up arms against the government.

On Palm Sunday, March 27, the able-bodied prisoners were divided into three columns and marched out onto the prairie. They believed they were to perform a work detail or even go home. Upon a signal, the Mexican soldiers fired at them. Other prisoners who had been wounded and were unable to march were executed later in the morning. A few managed to escape. According to some accounts, Colonel Fannin was the last

prisoner to be shot. It is believed that about 350 Texans were executed. General Urrea deeply regretted President Santa Anna's decision. He wrote the following in his diary:

“It was painful to me, also, that so many brave men should thus be sacrificed, particularly the much esteemed and fearless Fannin. They doubtlessly surrendered confident that Mexican generosity would not make their surrender useless . . . I used my influence with the general-in-chief to save them, if possible, from being butchered, particularly Fannin. I obtained from His Excellency only a severe reply, repeating his previous order, doubtlessly dictated by cruel necessity.”

Several prisoners, including two physicians and some workers, were not executed because the Mexicans needed their skills. Many of the Mexicans living in Goliad opposed the execution. Some of the Mexican soldiers shot over the heads of the Texans and allowed several to escape. **Señora Francita Alavez**, the wife of a Mexican army officer, helped care for the

Texans during their imprisonment. She also helped several Texans avoid execution. The survivors later referred to her as the “Angel of Goliad.”

## The Lessons of the Alamo and Goliad

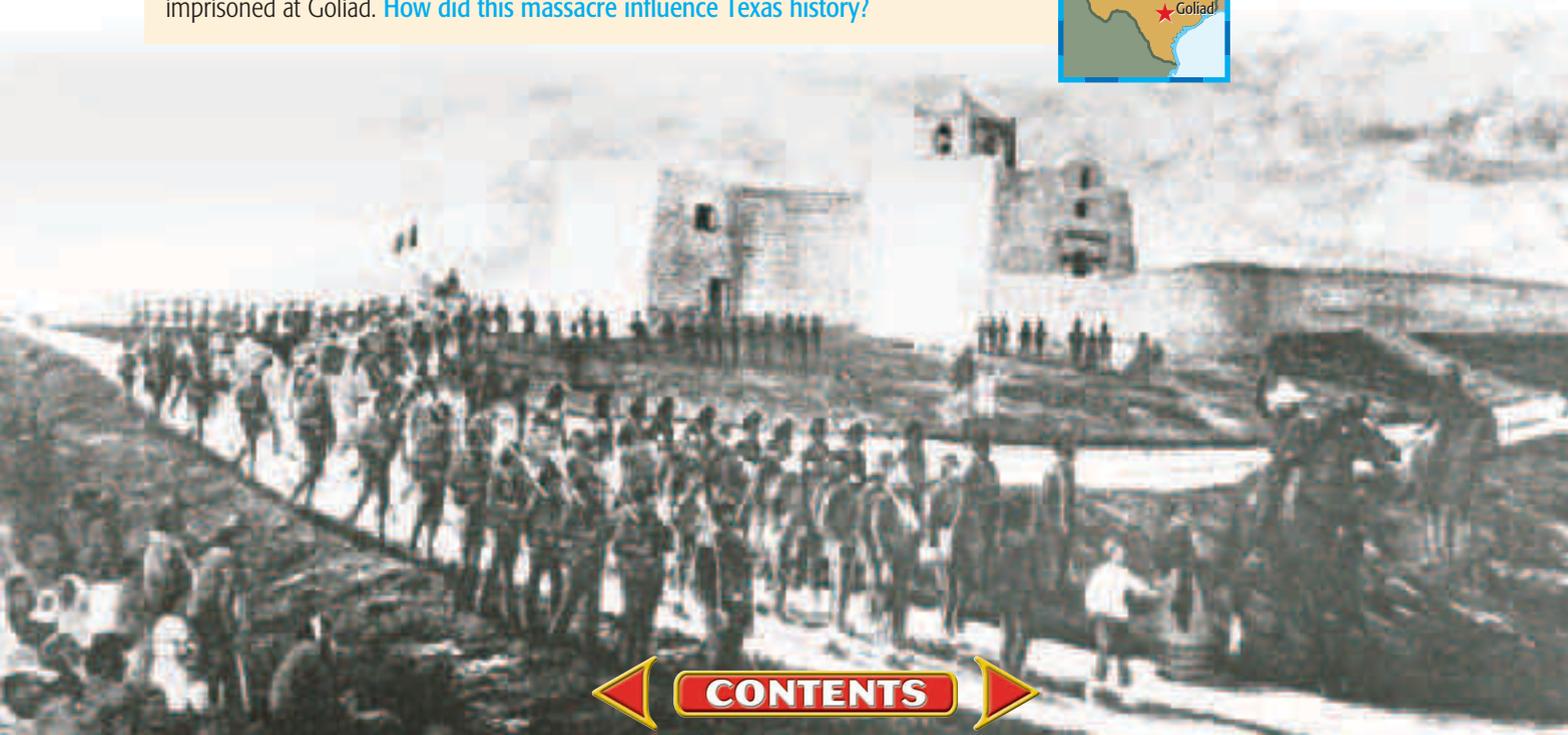
By the beginning of April 1836, Santa Anna seemed to have everything going his way. His forces had crushed the defenders of the Alamo and overwhelmed the Texas troops withdrawing from Goliad. Santa Anna concluded from these battles that driving the rest of the rebels out of Texas would be an easy task.

In fact, however, Texans may never have won their independence without the Battle of the Alamo. The battle cost Santa Anna the lives of a considerable number of professional soldiers, and the Mexican general and his troops were delayed for more than two weeks by the fighting. This delay was of great value to the Texan cause.

News of the battle also inspired U.S. citizens to aid the Texans in their fight for freedom. People and money flowed into Texas. Santa Anna had hoped that the fall of the

### History Through Art

**The March to the Massacre by Andrew Houston** Although Fannin and his troops expected to be released, Mexican forces executed almost all of the Texans who were imprisoned at Goliad. [How did this massacre influence Texas history?](#)





### History Through Art

Untitled painting by Harry Anthony DeYonng Susanna Dickinson was allowed by Santa Anna to leave the Alamo. She helped to spread news of the Alamo defeat to the other Texas forces. **What is the significance of the Battle of the Alamo to the people of Texas?**

historian wrote that never did Americans fight more bravely than in Texas, and never did they manage their affairs more poorly. Dividing authority between volunteer groups and a regular army and the ill-fated attempt to capture Matamoros had produced nothing but disaster for the Texans. The fighting in South Texas revealed the lack of cooperation among Texas forces. The defeats at the Alamo and Coleto convinced General Sam Houston that he must not allow his forces to be separated into small groups. The disasters at Coleto, San Patricio, and Agua Dulce showed the folly of trying to fight the Mexican Army on the open plains of South Texas. On those plains the Mexican cavalry had a huge advantage over the Texans due to the superiority of cavalry on open terrain.

News of the defeat at the Alamo and the executions at Goliad spread rapidly throughout the eastern settlements of Texas. Some of the fallen soldiers were Tejanos who had lived all their lives in Texas. Others were recent arrivals who had been in Texas only a few weeks. The news of their deaths angered Texans. “Remember Goliad” now joined “Remember the Alamo” as the rallying cries of the Texas soldiers.

Alamo would convince the Texans to give up. The defeat had just the opposite effect.

Sam Houston and his Texan army drew other lessons from these same battles. One

**Reading Check Explaining** Why were Santa Anna’s execution orders called a “cruel necessity”?

## SECTION 3 ASSESSMENT

### Checking for Understanding

- Using Key Terms** Use the key term **dispatch** in a sentence.
- Reviewing Facts** Why was Señora Francita Alavez called the “Angel of Goliad”?

### Reviewing Themes

- Groups and Institutions** Although Santa Anna ordered the immediate execution of the Texans being held at Goliad, why were some prisoners not executed?

### Organizing to Learn

- Creating Charts** Fill in a chart like the one shown here to answer the question, “What happened to each of the Texas commanders’ troops as they encountered General Urrea?”

Texas Commander	What Happened
Frank Johnson	
Dr. James Grant	
Amon King	
William Ward	

### Critical Thinking

- Evaluating** Reread “Fannin Delays His Departure.” Do you agree with the actions of Colonel Fannin? If you were in the same situation, what choices would you have made?

### TAKS PRACTICE

**Determining Supporting Details** General Urrea and Santa Anna were on the same side, yet they disagreed on some decisions. What evidence from the text supports this?

## Chapter Summary

### The Alamo and Goliad

**1836**

After Cós's defeat in 1835, Santa Anna vows to crush Texan resistance. ★



On January 17, Gen. Houston orders Col. Bowie and 25 other Texans to the Alamo.



Santa Anna's army arrives at the Alamo on February 23. ★

★ Colonel Travis sends out message for assistance on February 24.

The Alamo falls to Santa Anna's army on March 6. Nearly all Texans at the Alamo are killed. ★



★ Gen. Fannin surrenders to General Urrea at Coleto on March 20. Prisoners are taken to Goliad where, on orders of Santa Anna, they are executed.

The courage and tragedy at the Alamo and Goliad help unite Texans against Santa Anna.



### Reviewing Key Terms

Number your paper from 1 to 3. Next to each number, write the letter that correctly defines each vocabulary word.

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| 1. fortify | a. to enlist in an armed service        |
| 2. recruit | b. to make strong by forts or batteries |
| 3. bombard | c. to attack with artillery             |

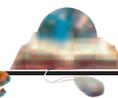
### Reviewing Key Facts

- Why were the Texas forces badly divided in late 1835?
- Name the Texas leaders at the Alamo.
- Why did Travis write several letters to the people of Texas and the United States?
- Indicate how the Texans at the Alamo knew that Santa Anna did not intend to take any prisoners.
- In which city is the Alamo located?
- Describe the significance of the Battle of the Alamo to Texas history.
- What military disadvantages did Fannin and his troops face when they encountered the Mexican troops at Coleto Creek?
- Why did Santa Anna order that the Texas prisoners taken at Coleto be executed?

### Critical Thinking

- Drawing Conclusions** Explain what the fighting in South Texas demonstrated about Texas military forces and the lessons that Sam Houston learned from these important battles.
- Making Generalizations** Describe the troops who remained to defend Texas after December 1835. Explain who they were, their reasons for coming, and how well organized and trained they were.
- Making Inferences** What do you think was the most important factor in the Texans' defeat at the Alamo, Coleto, and South Texas? Explain your answer.
- Determining Cause and Effect** How did Colonel Fannin's indecision hurt the Texans' cause?
- Evaluating Leadership Qualities** Compare Santa Anna's style of leadership with that of the Texas leaders. Create a chart like the one below to organize your ideas.

Leaders	Examples of Leadership
Santa Anna	
Travis	
Fannin	



**Self-Check Quiz**

Visit the [texans.glencoe.com](http://texans.glencoe.com) Web site and click on **Chapter 10—Self-Check Quizzes** to prepare for the chapter test.

CLICK HERE



**Geography and History Activity**

17. Create a model of the Alamo as it existed in 1836. Your model can be 3-D, a diorama, or a design on paper. Review the diagram on page 231 for ideas.

**Cooperative Learning Activity**

18. **Creating a Display** With other members of your class, design a bulletin board or 3-D display about the events at the Alamo. Include reports on the men and women who were there, a diagram and pictures of the Alamo, and daily bulletins describing the events that took place.

**Practicing Skills**

**Identifying Central Issues** Identifying central issues, or main ideas, in historical materials leads to a clearer understanding of the events being studied. Read the excerpt below, then answer the questions that follow.

*While at Gonzales awaiting recruits, tidings came to us of the fall of the Alamo on the 6th of March, and of the terrible loss of 180 men, . . . [including] the band of 27 Texans who during the siege made their way into the fort and were all slain. Many of the citizens of Gonzales perished in this wholesale slaughter of Texans, and I remembered most distinctly the shrieks of despair with which the soldiers' wives received news of the death of their husbands. I now could understand that there is woe in warfare, as well as glory and labor . . . A heavy gloom seemed to settle upon our men after the fall of the Alamo . . .*

—John Holland Jenkins  
*Recollections of Early Texas, 1885*

- 19. What is the purpose of the passage?
- 20. What points are stated most forcefully?
- 21. What details are provided that support a larger issue or idea?
- 22. What is the central issue of the passage?



**Portfolio/TAKS Writing Activity**

23. **Writing a Paragraph** According to this chapter, “one historian wrote that never did Americans fight more bravely than in Texas, and never did they manage their affairs more poorly.” This is one historian’s opinion based on an interpretation of historical fact. Write a paragraph either supporting this opinion or opposing it. Save your work for your portfolio.



**Building Technology Skills**

24. **Creating a Computer Slide Show** Create a computer presentation of 4 to 6 slides about the Battle of the Alamo or other events discussed in this chapter. A popular tool for computer slide shows is PowerPoint, although there are other programs as well. Refer to the TAKS Skillbuilder in Chapter 28 for more instructions if necessary.

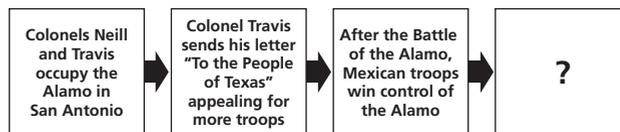
**Culture and History Activity**

25. **Locating Places of Importance in Texas** Visit the official Alamo Web site (<http://www.thealamo.org>) and take one of the virtual walking tours.



Use the diagram to answer the following question.

**Some Early Events in 1836**



- Which of the following events completes the flowchart?
- F Texans were captured at Coleto then executed at Goliad.
  - G The Mexican army lost its commander, Santa Anna.
  - H Heavy spring rains posed a problem for the Mexican forces.
  - J Travis’s letter mobilized troops and supplies.

**Test-Taking Tip:**

A flowchart shows a cause-and-effect relationship between events. To determine the missing event in a flowchart, establish the cause-and-effect relationship between the events.