

Name: _____

Date: _____

History: _____

Independence Won: The Battle of San Jacinto

Santa Anna Remains in Texas

- The fall of the Alamo and the losses in South Texas opened the way for the Mexican army to move farther into Texas.
- Santa Anna ordered his troops to burn every town and settlement in their path.
- The Mexican army was now commanded by General Vincente Filisola.
- Santa Anna believed the Texas rebellion was crushed and his armies could finish the job by occupying the towns in central and east Texas and then arresting David G. Burnet.

Houston Builds the Texas Army

- On March 4, 1836, Sam Houston was named commander in chief over the army.
- After the convention, Sam Houston went to Gonzales and heard 2 days later that the Alamo fell.
- Houston had to make a difficult decision: fight or flee.
- Houston sent orders to Fannin to retreat at Goliad, blow up the prison there, and join him.

Houston's Army Retreats

- Houston's troops were forced to wait near Burnham's Crossing on the Colorado River because it was flooded.
- They waited 9 days and continued to train.
- As they waited, Houston's forces grew in number as volunteers arrived from the United States. Houston now had nearly 1,400 soldiers, but most were untrained and poorly equipped.
- Houston sent scouts to find out what had happened to Fannin's army. He learned they had been captured and massacred, and Santa Anna's army was moving toward the Colorado River.
- Houston ordered a retreat to the Brazos River. The soldiers were angered by the decision because they wanted to fight.
- Houston believed his forces were still too weak to oppose the Mexican army. He also knew that as the Mexican army was drawn farther east, its supply lines became stretched.

Panic Causes the Runaway Scrape

- Houston's decision to continue the retreat panicked the families living between the Colorado and Brazos Rivers.
- They feared that the Mexican army would harm them when they moved to their area.
- Hundreds of families gathered their belongings and headed east toward the Sabine River.
- This event became known as Runaway Scrape.

- Houston agreed to let them fight, but made them wear cardboard in their hatbands so the Texans would not mistake them for Mexican troops.

Houston calls for Council of War

- On the morning of April 21, 1836, General Marin Perfecto de Cos and about 540 more soldiers joined Santa Anna. Most of these soldiers were inexperienced.
- Santa Anna allowed the newly added troops to eat and rest. Santa Anna himself retired to his tent to rest.
- Meanwhile, Houston ordered Erastus "Deaf" Smith and Henry Karnes to destroy the bridge across Vince's Bayou. Destruction of the bridge would cut off a path of retreat for both the Texans and Mexican armies.
- At noon, Houston called a council of war with his officers to determine whether to fight then or wait until dawn.
- All favored fighting, but disagreed on whether to attack directly or set up a defensive position and wait for the Mexicans to attack.
- Houston dismissed the officers without announcing a decision.

"Remember the Alamo"

- At 3:30 that afternoon, Houston ordered his officers to assemble the troops for an immediate attack.
- With Houston's signal, the Texans moved out of the woods and across the open prairie that separated the two armies.
- The Mexican camp was quiet because many were still resting and others were watering their horses in a nearby stream.
- There was total confusion among the Mexicans and many attempted to flee across Vince's Bayou, but found the bridge was destroyed.
- Mexican resistance lasted 18 minutes, but the killing continued until dark.

Mexicans Suffer Heavy Loss

- Fewer than 10 Texans were killed or fatally wounded.
- 30, including General Houston, were injured. A musket ball shattered Houston's ankle.
- The battle report to President Burnet listed 630 Mexicans killed and 730 taken prisoner.
- Santa Anna was among the imprisoned.
- Texans did not realize they had Santa Anna because he was found in the tall grass dressed like a common soldier.
- It was one of his own men who singled him out as Santa Anna. His identity was confirmed through an interpreter.

Comparing Reports

- The capture of Santa Anna was a great achievement for the Texans because it left the Mexican troops without a high command.
- Santa Anna signed an order instructing General Filisola to withdraw all Mexican troops to south of the Rio Grande.

