The Story Matters...

José Antonio Navarro was active in public affairs and became a close friend of Stephen F. Austin. An experienced politician, he served in the state government of Coahuila y Tejas and also as a legislator in Mexico’s national congress.

At first, Navarro hoped to work with Mexico to gain more rights for the residents of Texas. However, as events unfolded, his views changed. He represented San Antonio at the Convention of 1836, and came to support Independence for Texas at that meeting. Navarro was one of three Tejanos who signed the Texas Declaration of Independence.
As the Texans' defiance to Mexican rule increased, Mexico sent more troops to the area. Skirmishes between the two sides broke out in several places, including Gonzales and Goliad. At San Antonio de Béxar, the Texans defeated a major Mexican force. The victory filled the Texans with confidence, and they began to plan for their independence.

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**Step Into the Place**

**MAP FOCUS** The fighting in San Antonio from December 5 to December 9, 1835, between Mexican troops and Texas troops has been called the "Siege of Béxar."

1. **PLACE** Where was the Alamo located in relation to the town of San Antonio de Béxar?
2. **LOCATION** About how far is San Antonio from Gonzales?
3. **CRITICAL THINKING** Drawing Inferences Based on the map, what do you think was the purpose of the Texas troop movements?

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When Mexican forces arrived at the town of Gonzalez and ordered the Texans to surrender their lone cannon, the Texans were not about to give it up. They flew a flag over the cannon defiantly declaring, "Come and Take It!"

As the Texans began their fight for independence, the town of San Antonio became a focus point for the fighting. In the first fighting at the town in December, 1835, the defeated Mexican forces retreated to the old Spanish mission known as the Alamo, where they were forced to surrender. The Texans took control of the mission and remained there until a more famous battle was fought at the site several months later.

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**Step Into the Time**

**TIME LINE** According to the time line, what political steps did Texas take during this period?

- **February 20, 1835** Concepción, Chile, destroyed by an 8.5 magnitude earthquake
- **August 30, 1835** Melbourne, Australia founded
- **October, 1835** Battles of Gonzales and Goliad fought between Mexican troops and Texan colonists

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**TEXAS**

**UNITED STATES**

**WORLD**

1835

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240 Chapter 10
It Matters Because

As Santa Anna attempted to exert more control, fighting erupted between Texan and Mexican forces, and Texas leaders pushed for independence.

The First Battle

GUIDING QUESTION What drove the colonists to battle in 1835?

In 1835 Antonio López de Santa Anna ignored the Constitution of 1824 and made himself dictator. His attempts to assert more control in Texas caused tension to grow. It seemed to Mexican officials both in the Mexican capital and in Texas that radicals like William B. Travis were becoming disloyal. The small number of Mexican soldiers at the forts had been unable to control the tense situation. More soldiers were needed.

The arrival of General Martín Perfecto de Cós with additional troops brought the number of Mexican soldiers in San Antonio to 650. This increase in Mexican military power in Texas caused much concern among the settlers. Towns formed committees of safety to provide protection from federal soldiers. Patrols watched the roads to give warnings of approaching troops.

Alarm spread across Texas. Rumors spread that General Cós was planning to arrest all Texan leaders and march them back to Mexico in chains. Committees of correspondence—local groups sharing political and military information, much like those that formed during the American Revolution—helped unify the Texans.
The Battle of Gonzales

The first conflict between Mexican troops and Texan colonists came at Gonzales on October 2, 1835, two weeks before the scheduled start of the Consultation at Washington-on-the-Brazos. The first battle of the American Revolution had taken place at Lexington, Massachusetts, when British soldiers attempted to take arms and ammunition away from the colonists. Because of the similarity in circumstances of the two revolutions, Gonzales is known as the “Lexington of Texas.”

The people of Gonzales had a small brass cannon that Spanish authorities had given them in 1831 for protection against Native American attacks. In September 1835 Colonel Domingo de Ugartechea (oo•gahr•teh•CHAY•ah), the Mexican military commander of Texas, sent a small group of soldiers to retrieve it. When the residents of Gonzales heard that the soldiers were coming, they buried the cannon in a peach orchard. When the soldiers arrived, the mayor of Gonzales told them he would not turn it over.

Modern individuals from the San Antonio Living History Association reenact the volunteer army that formed in the Texas Revolution.

CRITICAL THINKING

Hypothesizing What do you think prompted Texans to volunteer for service?
The Mexican soldiers left without the cannon. The mayor of Gonzales sent runners to neighboring areas to find volunteers who would help defend Gonzales if Colonel Ugartechea returned.

Upon hearing that the Texans refused to give up the cannon, Ugartechea sent Lieutenant Francisco de Castañeda and a hundred soldiers on horseback to seize the cannon. They were prepared to use force if necessary. On September 29, 1835 Castañeda and his men reached the Guadalupe River. Their entry into Gonzales was blocked by high water and a small force of Texans. Hoping to avoid conflict, Castañeda made camp and waited.

Over the next few days, Castañeda asked for the cannon, but the Texans refused. Meanwhile, the men of Gonzales gathered about 160 reinforcements from nearby settlements. The townspeople dug up the cannon and mounted it on a wagon. A local blacksmith quickly forged some ammunition out of iron scraps and pieces of chain. The Texans decorated the front of the cannon with a white flag that bore the words “Come and Take It.”

These volunteers, under the command of Colonel John H. Moore, decided to attack the Mexican forces. On the morning of October 2, the Texans advanced toward the Mexican troops, and then the blacksmith fired the cannon at the Mexican soldiers.

Castañeda arranged for a parley, or a brief truce, with Moore. He asked why the Texans had attacked his men without cause. Moore replied that they were fighting to keep the cannon and to uphold the Constitution of 1824. Unable to find a common ground, the two leaders broke off their talks. The fighting began again, but Castañeda did not want to start a full-scale war. He ordered his troops to withdraw toward San Antonio. One Mexican soldier had been killed and several others wounded. No Texans died in the confrontation.

Just as the Battles of Lexington and Concord sparked the American Revolution, the incident at Gonzales launched a fight for Texas independence. News of the clash spread quickly throughout Texas. Texans used the battle as a rallying point, creating support for confrontation with the Mexican army. For the Mexicans and General Cós, the battle meant Mexico was at war with the defiant Texans.

**The Army of the People**

A week after the Battle of Gonzales, a force of about 120 Texans attacked the Mexican garrison at Goliad. After a brief battle, scarcely 30 minutes long, the Mexican troops surrendered and the garrison was in control of the Texans.

Goliad, located on the route from the Gulf of Mexico to San Antonio, was an important strategic location. The Texans had also captured a large amount of weapons and ammunition at Goliad. The victories at Gonzales and Goliad increased the ‘Texans’ confidence. The only large Mexican force remaining in Texas was
the troops at San Antonio de Béxar, the military base in the city. Texans began gathering near Gonzales, eager for a fight. Many took up a stirring cry: “On to San Antonio!”

Stephen F. Austin was called upon to take command of the 300 Texans who had gathered in Gonzales. Although Austin lacked military experience, the colonists had confidence in his judgment and leadership. Austin’s troops, known as the Army of the People, started their advance toward San Antonio. More joined as they marched until they numbered almost 400.

General Cós, however, commanded about 650 soldiers. After a brief battle at Concepción, near San Antonio, the Army of the People realized that San Antonio would not fall as quickly as Goliad. Because the Texans had no heavy artillery—or large guns or cannons—they knew that an all-out attack on the Mexican stronghold would be risky.

Instead, Austin’s army decided to lay siege to San Antonio de Béxar, rather than to try to win an outright battle. A **siege** is a military blockade of a city or fortress. Such a blockade prevents supplies from reaching the troops inside. The Texans hoped that Cós would run out of supplies and be forced to surrender.

**Content Vocabulary**

**siege** a military blockade of a city or fortress

The former presidio at Goliad was in Texans’ hands when leaders met in the Consultation.

**Critical Thinking**

**Drawing Inferences** How do you think the Texans’ victories at Gonzales and Goliad would make these leaders feel?
Texas Consults

GUIDING QUESTION What decisions did the delegates make at the Consultation of 1835?

Because of the fighting at Gonzales and Goliad and the siege of Béxar, plans for the scheduled Consultation changed. The Texans decided to move the meeting from Washington-on-the-Brazos to San Felipe. San Felipe was chosen because it had a printing press that would allow the Texans to mass-produce records of their meetings. The Consultation was also postponed to the next month.

When the Consultation began on November 3, 1835, the delegates faced an important decision. Should they align themselves with Federalists in Mexico who opposed Santa Anna and work to restore the rights granted in the Constitution of 1824? Or, should they seek independence from Mexico?

War or Peace

Most delegates aligned themselves with one of two groups. One group—led by William Harris Wharton and Henry Smith—favored an immediate declaration of independence from Mexico. These men of the War Party believed that the fighting showed that Texas could no longer remain under Mexico’s rule.

The delegates of a second group, the Peace Party, were just as committed to fighting Santa Anna’s rule. However, they were not ready to declare independence. They wanted the Consultation to say that Texas was fighting for the Mexican Constitution of 1824, which Santa Anna no longer followed. They hoped that this moderate approach would convince the people of other Mexican states to join in the struggle.

Votes Are Cast

On November 6, the delegates concluded their debate and made a decision. Fourteen delegates voted in favor of independence and thirty-three voted against it.

The next day the Consultation adopted a statement of principles. They called it the “Declaration of the People of Texas in General Convention Assembled.” In the document, the delegates stated that they were loyal to Mexico. They declared their support of the Mexican Constitution of 1824 and their desire to have it restored. They blamed Santa Anna for the troubles, saying that they had fought only for protection and to defeat him. They urged all citizens of Mexico to join their struggle against Santa Anna’s military dictatorship. Also, the delegates said that due to Santa
Anna's treatment, they were no longer bound by the union of Texas with Mexico. Finally, they offered land to anyone who fought alongside them. The Consultation printed the Declaration of the People in both English and Spanish so that all Texans could read it.

**Provisional Government Formed**

Since the Texans no longer considered themselves a part of Mexico, they needed their own government. The delegates decided on a government made up of a governor, a lieutenant governor, and a general council. That council would include one representative from each municipality, or large community.

Delegates chose Henry Smith of Brazoria as governor and James W. Robinson of Nacogdoches as lieutenant governor. Both Smith and Robinson belonged to the War Party, but most of the people chosen for the general council represented the Peace Party.

The idea may have been that if both parties shared power compromise would result. Instead, the arrangement led to ineffective government, because both groups held fast to their own beliefs. Another problem for the young government was that the powers of the officials were poorly defined. Without clearly defined roles and with dramatically opposing views, the governor and council often quarreled.

**Preparing for War**

The Consultation created a regular, or official, army and named Sam Houston as its commander. He was not given authority over the Army of the People, the volunteers at San Antonio, however. This decision would lead to trouble in the coming months.

The Consultation also chose Stephen Austin, William Wharton, and Branch T. Archer as commissioners to the United States. Their task was to go to the United States to secure the troops, money, and supplies necessary to carry out a war for independence from Mexico. The delegates had few doubts that war was coming.

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**READING PROGRESS CHECK**

**Explaining** Why was San Felipe chosen as the site for the Consultation?

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**LESSON 1 REVIEW**

**Reviewing Vocabulary**

1. Write a definition for the word *adopt* and use it in a sentence that demonstrates your understanding of the meaning of the word as it is used in the lesson. 228

**Answering the Guiding Questions**

2. **Identifying** Why were more Mexican troops sent to Texas in 1835? 218

3. **Explaining** How did the Texans react when they learned that more troops were being stationed in Texas? 218

4. **Summarizing** Summarize the colonists’ decisions regarding independence at the Consultation of 1835. 218

5. **Speculating** Why do you think the Texans were planning to ask the United States for troops and supplies? 218

6. **PERSUASIVE WRITING** Suppose that you are a delegate to the Consultation of 1835. Write a short speech arguing either for or against Texan independence. 17C, 21D, 21E, 22D
LESSON 2
The Winter of 1835–1836

ESSENTIAL QUESTION Why does conflict develop?

It Matters Because
Although Texans opposed the dictatorship of Santa Anna, Mexico was determined to hold on to Texas. To achieve independence, the Texans would have to engage the Mexican army in several battles.

Military Action
GUIDING QUESTION What military victories did the Army of the People gain in late 1835?

The volunteer Texan forces who were laying siege to the Mexican forces garrisoned at San Antonio de Béxar were commanded by Stephen F. Austin. Before the Consultation began, more than 400 Texans had joined that army. Among their ranks were James Bowie and Juan N. Seguín, who led a company of Tejanos, or Texans of Mexican descent. Throughout early November, the volunteer army numbered over 600.

Meanwhile, another hundred Mexican soldiers arrived to reinforce General Córs at San Antonio de Béxar. This brought the number of Mexican troops there to 750. The Texans were still outnumbered.

Throughout the fall, the two armies fought many skirmishes. The Texans tried to capture the Mexican army’s supplies. In early November William Barret Travis captured from the Mexican forces some 300 mules and horses grazing near the Medina River.

Cold weather and the failure to win a quick victory discouraged both sides, however. Some Texan volunteers went back home for warmer clothes and more supplies. Luckily, more volunteers from East Texas arrived. The new recruits helped offset those who departed.
The "Grass Fight"

On November 25, 1835, Austin left the battlefield and traveled to the United States to seek money and supplies for the Texans. Replacing Austin as commander of the Army of the People was Edward Burleson of Mina (MEE-nah), present-day Bastrop.

On November 26, one of the scouts, Erastus "Deaf" Smith, reported that Mexican cavalry and a mule train were heading toward San Antonio. Thinking that the caravan might be transporting bags of silver to pay Cós's soldiers at San Antonio, the Texans planned an attack. Burleson ordered a cavalry unit, soldiers on horses, and an infantry unit, or foot soldiers, to take the caravan.

The Texan cavalry attacked the Mexican cavalry while the infantry went after the mule train. The fight was near enough to San Antonio that Cós sent reinforcements to help his soldiers. In the end the Texans forced the Mexicans to flee to their fort at San Antonio.

The Texans captured more than three dozen mules, but they were disappointed when they returned to their camp. The packs the animals carried were not full of silver but of grass to feed the animals in Cós's command. The nature of the cargo gave the skirmish its name—the "Grass Fight."

The Battle of San Antonio de Béxar

By December, the Texan volunteers were growing restless. They seemed to be making no progress. They were also hungry, winter approaching, and they lacked clothing for cold weather. The Texan leaders argued over whether or not to attack San Antonio.

Burleson thought about ending the siege. Before he decided to do so, however, a Mexican officer surrendered. The officer said the Mexican army was in poor condition. Low morale and limited supplies meant that they might be easily defeated. The Texan leaders discussed what to do, but decided not to attack.

Academic Vocabulary

transport to carry or move objects from place to place
The Texas Revolution began with the Battle of Gonzales, on October 2, 1835. It was followed by two Texan victories.

1 MOVEMENT Where did the Texan and Mexican troops go after the Battle of Gonzales?

2 CRITICAL THINKING Drawing Conclusions Based on the troop movements around San Antonio de Béxar, which side won the fight there? Why do you think so?

Not everyone agreed with that decision. One who disagreed was Benjamin Milam. Milam, an empresario, had taken part in the capture of Goliad and then marched with the army to San Antonio. He believed that a major victory was vital to the cause of independence. Such a victory would encourage Texans to continue the fight. He pleaded with the Texan fighters to join him in an attack, asking “Who will go with old Ben Milam into San Antonio?”

About 300 men volunteered to go with him. Milam organized an attack that began before dawn on December 5. He divided his force into two columns, leading one himself and assigning Frank W. Johnson to lead the other. With this surprise attack, the Texans were able to seize houses north of San Antonio’s public square. The Mexican army responded with cannon and musket fire, halting the Texans’ advance.

**Academic Vocabulary**

**assign** to give a task or job to
Juan Nepomuceno Seguín was the only Tejano to serve in the Senate of the Republic of Texas.

Seguín became a captain in the Texas army during the Texas Revolution. After the capture of San Antonio, he served in the Alamo. He was sent out to seek reinforcements and survived the 1836 battle.

At the Battle of San Jacinto, Seguín led the only Tejano unit that fought along with Sam Houston. He returned to San Antonio and served as the city's military commander.

In 1837 Seguín resigned his military commission and was elected to the Texas Senate. He was elected mayor of San Antonio in 1840 but then got caught up in hostilities between Anglos and Mexican Texans. Although Seguín had helped defend San Antonio, he later was accused of treason and forced to leave Texas.

Summarizing What role did Seguín play during the Texas Revolution?

The battle lasted four days. Milam's troops had the advantage because the Mexican army was trained to fight on open battlefields, not through the streets of a town. On the third day of the battle, Milam was killed and Johnson took command. During the fighting, the Mexican forces were driven toward the center of town. They took refuge in the abandoned mission called the Alamo. On December 9, Cós, his supplies exhausted, asked for terms of surrender. In the four days of fighting, the Texans lost only two men and reported 21 wounded. The Mexicans suffered much higher casualties, with about 150 soldiers killed, wounded, or captured.

The surrender agreement required the Mexican soldiers to move south of the Rio Grande. Cós also promised that he would never again fight against the colonists or the Constitution of 1824.

The capture of San Antonio was a great victory for the Texans. Their volunteer army had defeated a larger, trained military force. They had captured San Antonio and now held the Alamo and the presidio at Goliad. More importantly, Texas soil was cleared of Mexican troops. With this victory, many volunteers thought that the war was over. Believing that victory was won, Texan volunteers began to return to their homes.
Hendrick Arnold lived in San Antonio de Béxar and was very familiar with the area. He was also related by marriage to "Deaf" Smith and served with him later in the Texas Revolution.

**CRITICAL THINKING**

**Making Connections** How did Arnold's background make him valuable to the Texans outside Béxar?

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**Tejanos and African Americans Fight for Texas**

The siege of Béxar had divided the Tejanos of San Antonio. Most stayed neutral, some helped Cós, and more than 100 joined the Texan Army of the People. Many Tejanos served in a scouting company commanded by Captain Juan Seguín. Plácido Benavides (PLAH•see•doh ben•ah•VEE•des) of Victoria brought 30 Mexican ranchers to join the fight. Manuel Flores of San Antonio volunteered to serve under Seguín, his brother-in-law.

The Army of the People also included African American fighters. After Mexico gained its independence from Spain, the government passed a law that declared freed African Americans equals with Anglo colonists. Because of this, a small number of African Americans moved to Texas seeking a better life.

Several African Americans contributed to the fight for Texas independence. Hendrick Arnold, a free African American, served as a guide to Milam's column in the fight for San Antonio. Another free African American, Greenbury Logan, was the third Texan wounded at San Antonio. He suffered a wound to his right arm that crippled him for life.

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**SKILLS PRACTICE**

Ask for help when you do not understand something during a lesson. Raise your hand or use some other signal.
William Goyens played a different role in the fight, but a very important one. He had long had good relations with the Cherokee people living in East Texas. During the Texas Revolution, Sam Houston relied on Goyens to obtain a promise from the Cherokees not to attack the Texans.

**READING PROGRESS CHECK**

**Explaining** What did Cós promise according to the surrender terms?

### Opposing Parties

**GUIDING QUESTION** How did differences among Texan leaders affect the Texas Revolution?

While the fighting was raging in San Antonio, members of the provisional government were also battling amongst themselves. Quarrels between the War Party and the Peace Party made reaching decisions nearly impossible. The council favored efforts to cooperate with the Federalists in Mexico who supported the Constitution of 1824. Governor Smith and the War Party favored a declaration of independence and total separation from Mexico. The differences between the two political parties came to a head over plans for an expedition to Matamoros.

### The Matamoros Expedition

The port of Matamoros, at the mouth of the Rio Grande, was a great source of income. If Texas gained control of the port, it could use the income to pay for the war. Having control of the city would also give the Texans a base from which to lead attacks into Mexico.

Philip Dimmitt promoted the plan to take Matamoros. He was sure that a Texas attack would have the support of the people of Matamoros and gain strength for the movement to restore the Constitution of 1824. A **campaign**, or military operation, against the Centralists would also give the restless soldiers a reason to stay and fight. Dimmitt worked with Governor Smith and Sam Houston to plan an attack.

**Henry Smith** came to Texas from his native Kentucky in 1827. He became active in politics soon after his arrival and was eventually named the first American governor of Texas.

**CRITICAL THINKING**

**Identifying Central Issues** How well did Smith get along with other members of the provisional government?

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**Content Vocabulary**

**campaign** a military operation
Francis W. Johnson, the leader of the Army of the People at San Antonio, developed a similar plan of his own. Johnson drummed up support among the volunteers at Béxar. Arguments over who would lead the expedition broke out between the governor and the council. Smith did not trust Johnson and vetoed, or rejected, his appointment. The council, however, overrode, or counteracted, that veto.

On January 14, 1836, the council authorized Johnson to take command of the expedition. He persuaded most of the remaining volunteers at San Antonio to join him on the campaign. No expedition was ever undertaken, as the competing efforts to raise troops delayed plans.

Also, several events changed the situation in Texas. News arrived that Santa Anna was marching with a large force toward San Antonio to recapture the Alamo. That ended all thoughts of moving Texan fighters to the south. Everyone would be needed in Texas.

**Call for a Convention**

Another disagreement within the government concerned a proposed convention of the people. In December the general council voted to hold a convention of the people in the spring. Governor Smith vetoed the proposal. The general council voted to override his veto. Delegate elections were set for February 1, 1836, and the convention was scheduled for March 1.

After weeks of disagreement, Governor Smith tried to dissolve the council. The council responded by declaring that Smith was no longer governor and recognizing Lieutenant Governor James Robinson as head of state.

Smith refused to leave office, however. Within a few weeks, most of the members of this first provisional, or temporary, government left for home. During the month of February 1836, Texas was virtually without a government.

**READING PROGRESS CHECK**

**Summarizing** Why did the provisional government break up?

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**LESSON 2 REVIEW**

**Reviewing Vocabulary**

1. Use the word **veto** in a sentence that shows how it is an important power for a government leader.  

**Answering the Guiding Questions**

2. **Summarizing** Why did the Texan soldiers become discouraged during the siege on San Antonio?  

3. **Identifying** Which officials in the provisional government favored Texas independence?  

4. **Identifying Central Issues** Why did some Texas leaders support an attack on the town of Matamoros?  

5. **Drawing Inferences** Why was Texas virtually without a government in February 1836?  

6. **Descriptive Writing** Imagine you are a soldier who took part in the siege of San Antonio de Béxar and the battle that ended it. Write a letter home telling your family about either the siege or the battle.
It Matters Because

Following the capture of San Antonio, Texans moved toward independence and formed a new government.

Starting a New Republic

GUIDING QUESTION  How did the views of Texans toward independence change in early 1836?

In early February 1836, Santa Anna marched into Texas with a large army, crossing the Rio Grande at Laredo. By February 23, his army was in San Antonio.

While one group of Texans was readying for battle in San Antonio, 59 elected delegates began arriving at Washington-on-the-Brazos to attend the Convention of 1836. The town consisted of only a few poorly built cabins. The delegates met in an unfinished, unheated building in freezing winter weather. They hung cloth over the open windows to try to keep out the harsh northerns.

The delegates began their work on March 1, 1836. The Convention of 1836 marked the fourth time that Texans had met to debate the status of Texas as a part of Mexico. In 1832 and 1833, they had appealed to the Mexican government. In 1835 they had sought support from other Mexican states. At this fourth meeting, most delegates were determined to split from Mexico. With Santa Anna’s army in Texas, they knew they had to act quickly.
Delegates to the Convention

Just as in earlier Texas meetings, the delegates were all male. This meeting differed from the earlier ones, however, because all the settlements in Texas were represented this time. The sites of the most recent battles were especially well represented. Béxar was *allocated* four delegates, while Gonzales and Goliad were each allocated two delegates.

Only two of the 59 delegates, José Antonio Navarro and José Francisco Ruiz, were native Texans. Some other native-born Texans—Gaspar Flores, Erasmo Seguín, and José María Carbajal—were elected as delegates, but for different reasons did not attend. Forty-five of the delegates had been born in the southern United States and moved to Texas. Seven were originally from the northern United States. One was from Mexico and four came from foreign countries—one each from England, Scotland, Ireland, and Canada. Several of the delegates had previous legislative experience. Sam Houston and Samuel P. Carson had served in the U.S. Congress. Others had served in state legislatures before coming to Texas.

The first task of the convention was to elect a chairman, and the delegates chose Richard Ellis. He would be in charge of running each session. H. S. Kimble was chosen as secretary, to record debates and decisions. The next important step the delegates took was to appoint a committee to write a declaration of independence.

Declaring Independence

George Childress, originally from Tennessee, had made the motion to write a declaration and was named chairman of the committee to write it. Historians generally agree that he was the declaration's *sole* author. On the morning of March 2, the committee presented the Texas Declaration of Independence to the convention. That same day, all the delegates at the convention approved the declaration. As a result, March 2 became Texas Independence Day.

After approving Childress's declaration, the convention turned its attention to writing a constitution for the new republic. A *republic* is a government in which citizens rule through
elected representatives—unlike the dictatorship established by Santa Anna. On the night of March 16, the constitution was completed and approved. The delegates then formed an ad interim government and elected Sam Houston as the commander-in-chief of the Texas military.

The convention made other decisions, as well. It passed a resolution requiring all males ages 17 to 50 to serve in the Texas army. The delegates also offered land grants of 1,280 acres (518 hectares) to those people who volunteered for the army and remained in service until the war ended. They did all this work in only two weeks, during which time they received almost daily reports about the Mexican invasion and the dramatic events at the Alamo in San Antonio. There, a small group of Texans was holding out against Santa Anna’s approaching army.

READING PROGRESS CHECK

Drawing Inferences Why did the members of the Convention of 1836 act so quickly?

Models for a New Government

GUIDING QUESTION How did Texas’s diverse background influence its Declaration of Independence and Constitution?

The delegates had only a short time to write both the Declaration of Independence and Constitution of Texas. They decided to use other documents as their models.

Beginning on March 1, 1836, delegates attended the Convention of 1836 at Washington-on-the-Brazos, in an unfinished, unheated building in the cold of late winter.

CRITICAL THINKING

Making Connections What was the military situation at this time?

Content Vocabulary

ad interim a Latin term meaning “for the time between”
In addition they were denied the right to be freed. Furthermore, free African Americans were not permitted to live in the Republic of Texas without the permission of the legislature, and their rights to own land were restricted. African Americans who fought for Texas independence found themselves in a frustrating position. They were unable to live freely in the state that they, as free people, had helped liberate.

Native American rights were also left out of the Constitution. In 1835 Sam Houston, an adopted member of the Cherokee Nation, began discussions about a treaty with the Cherokee. The treaty was finalized in February of 1836. It granted the Cherokee people the rights to their land. It never took effect, however, because the convention did not approve it.

**READING PROGRESS CHECK**

**Assessing** What was the legal status of African Americans under the Texas Constitution of 1836?

# The War’s Influence

**GUIDING QUESTION** How did Mexico’s invasion of Texas affect the formation of the new government?

The war with Mexico influenced the decisions and activities of the convention. Because of Santa Anna’s progress toward San Antonio, the delegates knew they had to act quickly.

**An Ad Interim Government**

There was not time to hold general elections to approve the constitution and to vote for a leader of the new republic. Therefore, it was necessary to set up a temporary government. The convention’s last act was to select officers for the ad interim government. These

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>President</th>
<th>David G. Burnet</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Lorenzo de Zavala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary of State</td>
<td>Samuel P. Carson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary of Treasury</td>
<td>Bailey Hardeman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary of War</td>
<td>Thomas J. Rusk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secretary of Navy</td>
<td>Robert Potter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attorney General</td>
<td>David Thomas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commander of the Army</td>
<td>Sam Houston</td>
</tr>
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officers were to serve until regular elections could be held. The new leaders included the first president, David G. Burnet.

Sam Houston was elected by unanimous vote as commander-in-chief of the army. The convention did not repeat the mistake of the Consultation—Houston was put in charge of both the volunteers and the regular army.

**On the Move**

The convention received frequent reports from the Alamo. Many delegates wanted to leave the meeting and join the fight. Houston convinced them to stay. He spoke convincingly of the importance of their work.

Houston left the convention on March 6 to take command of the army at Gonzales, arriving there on March 11. By that time the Alamo had already fallen, its defenders killed. Houston began preparing to meet the threat from Santa Anna and his army.

On March 15, reports reached the convention that the Alamo had fallen. Two days later, on March 17, the delegates received word that Santa Anna’s army was marching toward their location at Washington-on-the-Brazos. With that news the convention adjourned, or ended, and the members scattered.

President Burnet and his cabinet headed southeast. They established a government at Harrisburg, a small town that today is part of Houston.

A few weeks later, as Santa Anna’s army approached them there, the Texas government again was forced to flee, this time to Galveston. The war was underway, and the future looked bleak for the new Republic of Texas.

**READING PROGRESS CHECK**

**Drawing Conclusions** Why was the ad interim government forced to move so many times?

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**LESSON 3 REVIEW**

**Reviewing Vocabulary**

1. **Use petion and community property in a sentence** that demonstrates you understand the meaning of the terms as they are used within the lesson. 22a

**Answering the Guiding Questions**

2. **Drawing Inferences** Why was one of the first acts of the Convention of 1836 to require males to serve in the military? 3C, 218

3. **Comparing** What ideas from the American Declaration of Independence did George Childress include in the Texas Declaration of Independence? 3B, 218

4. **Explaining** Did the convention of 1836 address the rights of Native Americans? Explain. 218

5. **Speculating** How do you think news of the events at the Alamo influenced the delegates at the Convention of 1836? 3C, 218

6. **Explaining** How did the establishment of the Republic of Texas bring civil freedom, political freedom, and religious freedom to the new nation? 3B, 218

7. **EXPOSITORY WRITING** Write a newspaper article summarizing and explaining the events of the Convention of 1836. 3C, 220
Directions: Write your answers on a separate piece of paper. Use standard grammar, spelling, sentence structure, and punctuation.

1. Use your Foldables to explore the Essential Questions.

   EXPOSITORY WRITING  Write a short essay that describes the main reasons Texans wanted independence from Mexico, and what steps they took toward that goal. 218, 228, 220

2. Social Studies Skills

   IDENTIFYING POINTS OF VIEW  Work in groups to set up a mock debate that reenacts the Convention of 1836 at Washington-on-the-Brazos. Some students should state the case for independence from Mexico, while others make the case against it. 3c, 17c, 210, 228, 220

3. Thinking Like a Historian

   MAKING CONNECTIONS  Create a chart like the one shown listing the various laws and documents that influenced the drafting of the Texas Constitution and explaining how the ideas in those laws and documents were reflected in the Constitution. 148, 228

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<th>Influences on the Texas Constitution</th>
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4. VISUAL LITERACY

   Analyzing visuals

Examine the image of the flag. At what event was this flag flown? Which of the participants in the event created the flag? How does the image and the writing on the flag relate to the event? 210, 218, 228
Directions: Write your answers on a separate piece of paper. Use standard grammar, spelling, sentence structure, and punctuation.

CHECKING FOR UNDERSTANDING
1. Explain the importance of each of the following people in the early part of the Texas Revolution. 38, 218
   A. Colonel Ugartechea
   B. William Harris Wharton
   C. Henry Smith
   D. James W. Robinson
   E. William Barret Travis
   F. Edward Burleson
   G. Philip Dimmitt
   H. José Antonio Navarro and José Francisco Ruiz

CRITICAL THINKING
8. Making Connections Why was the garrison at Goliad a strategic location? 8A, 9A, 22B
9. Evaluating Why did Stephen F. Austin’s army decide to lay siege to Béxar, rather than attack the city? Do you think this was a good choice? Explain. 218, 22B
10. Contrasting Explain how the position of War Party delegates at the Consultation differed from those of the Peace Party. 17A, 218, 22B
11. Assessing What was the significance of the 1835 skirmish between Texans and Cós’s troops known as “The Grass Fight”? 218, 22B
12. Identifying Cause and Effect Why did Benjamin Milam disagree with the decision to continue the siege rather than attack San Antonio in 1835? What action did he take and what was the result? 218, 22B
13. Evaluating How did African Americans contribute to the Texan cause during this period? In your response, name and explain the accomplishments of at least three individuals. 218, 22B
14. Comparing and Contrasting What laws did the Texas Constitution include that reflected common practices in Spanish and Mexican law courts? How was this different from such practices in the United States? 19C, 22B

Need Extra Help?

If You’ve Missed Question 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14
Review Lesson 1,2,3 1 1 2 2 3 3 1 1 1 2 2 2 3

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**DBQ SHORT RESPONSE**

Read these excerpts from the diary of Colonel William F. Gray, a Virginia visitor to the Convention of 1836, then answer the questions that follow.

"Mr. Childers [Childress], from the committee, reported a Declaration of Independence, which he read in his place. It was received by the house . . . and unanimously adopted in less than one hour from its first and only reading. It underwent no [changes], . . . The only speech made upon it was a [short address] . . . by General Houston. . . . A committee of one member from each municipality [community] was appointed to draft a constitution."

—From Virginia to Texas, 1835: Diary of Col. Wm. F. Gray

15 **Citing Text Evidence** Did anyone at the Convention of 1836 vote against the Declaration of Independence? How do you know? 3c, 228

16 **Making Connections** Why do you suppose one member from each municipality was appointed to draft the Constitution? 3c, 218, 228

**EXTENDED RESPONSE**

17 **Narrative** Suppose you are an American colonist in Texas in 1836. Write a letter to your family back in the United States explaining the events that have led Texas to declare independence and your feelings about the decision. 220

**STANDARDIZED TEST PRACTICE**

**DBQ ANALYZING DOCUMENTS**

"Congress shall pass no laws to prohibit emigrants [setlers] from the United States of America from bringing their slaves into the Republic with them, and holding them by the same tenure [ownership] by which such slaves were held in the United States; nor shall Congress have power to emancipate slaves; . . ."

—Texas Constitution of 1836

18 **Finding the Main Idea** What is the purpose of this provision in the Texas Constitution of 1836? 218

A. to ensure the equality of all persons in Texas
B. to protect the institution of slavery in Texas
C. to exclude all non-whites from Texas
D. to ban the importation of enslaved persons into Texas

19 **Drawing Inferences** How does this provision relate to the cause of Texas independence? 218

F. Texans opposed Mexico’s attempt to ban slavery throughout Mexico.
G. Texans opposed Mexico’s participation in the slave trade.
H. Texans were fighting to free enslaved persons.
I. Texans opposed slavery in the United States.

**Need Extra Help?**

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