Chapter 6 Major Battles of the Texas Revolution

Lesson 1: The Battle of Gonzalez
Lesson 2: The Battle of the Alamo
Lesson 3: The Battle of San Jacinto
Lesson 1: Revolution Begins

Pages 170-176
Reasons Santa Anna made Texas angry...

- Wanting Texas to trade with Mexico instead, Santa Anna demanded Texans pay tax on goods that were imported from the U.S.
- He wanted more power than what was given to him by the Constitution
- He sent troops into Texas and began fighting (Gonzales)
The Battle of Gonzalez
October 2, 1835

- 1st battle between the Texan colonists and Mexican troops over a small cannon.
- “COME AND TAKE IT!”
- First Texan victory – which gave them the courage to start a revolution.
Goliad - October 9th

- Texas attacked a Mexican Fort at Goliad.

- They wanted to protect settlers from the Mexican soldiers there.

- Goliad was their second battle.

- Gonzales and Goliad gave them the courage and faith that they could actually defeat Santa Anna
March on San Antonio

• On December 5th, 1835 - Ben Milam and Frank Johnson led an attack on Mexican soldiers in San Antonio.

  - The battle lasted for four days.

  - Ben Milam was killed but in the end, Texas won.
A New Form of Government

• San Felipe: A meeting was held called the “Consultation”

• This was a meeting to discuss a temporary government for Texas. Since they were still at war with Mexico, there wasn’t time to hold a regular election

• They elected Henry Smith as governor and Sam Houston as commander-in-chief of the army.
Convention of 1836

- The meeting was held at Washington-on-the-Brazos.
- This convention is significant because they decided to declare independence from Mexico.
- The declaration explained the reasons why they were unhappy with Mexico.
- March 2\textsuperscript{nd} - everyone in the convention voted in favor of the Declaration.
Texas Bill of Rights

- Three things the Bill of Rights provided for Texans:
  1) Freedom of Religion
  2) Freedom of Speech
  3) Right to a fair trial by jury

- One thing the Bill of Rights did not provide:
  - Did not free slaves living in Texas.
  - Free African Americans would have to permission from the new government to enter.
Texas Independence

- Texans declare independence on March 2, 1836 – Republic of Texas
- Sam Houston named head of the Texas Army
- Stephen Austin went to the U.S. to seek money and troops.

http://cookinlet.tripod.com/sitebuildercontent/sitebuilderpictures/texas_independence.jpg
Lesson 2: The Battle of the Alamo

Pages 180-184
Strengths of the Alamo

• 12 foot walls; 2-3 feet thick
• 20 cannons
• Food and water supplies very high
Weaknesses of the Alamo

• Too much space to defend (3 acres) with Travis’s army possessing only 150 men.

Travis sent a letter to the people of Texas and all Americans, asking for help. The final total was about 185 soldiers.

• A piece of the South wall, between the chapel and the main wall was built of fence planks and dirt. These walls would be part of the Texans down fall, as Santa Anna’s men rushed up the wooden ladders they had made to help them over the walls.
The Battle of the Alamo
February 24 - March 6, 1836
Santa Anna wants to make a statement!

- Why did Santa Anna want to attack the Alamo? He was furious that Texans had taken it a month before.

- What was their sole purpose of entering into the Alamo? Santa Anna wanted defeat the Texas army and stop the revolution.
At the Alamo

• Santa Anna flew the traditional **RED FLAG** from his headquarters, indicating “no quarter,” or no prisoners. → surrender or die

• As the Mexican Army marched toward the Alamo, they played music and sang, “**El Deguello**,” an ancient chant of **no mercy**.
The Line in the Dirt

- Knowing whoever fought in the battle that was soon approaching was sure to meet their death, Travis supposedly drew a line in the dirt with his sword and gave every man under his command the opportunity to flee, one man left.

- Why? The spirit of NATIONALISM!
Victory for Santa Anna!... Or is it?

- Santa Anna lost enough professional soldiers to be set back \textit{two weeks}, two weeks the Texans really needed.

- The brutality of \textbf{Santa Anna} made him lose much respect from his troops.

- In an attempt to squash the Texan spirit, \textbf{Santa Anna} couldn’t have done more to ignite the Texan passion for independence.
The Final Attack

- The actual battle took an estimated **90 minutes** -- 5:30am to about 7:00am.
- All who defended the **Alamo died**, with the exception of women and children, and a Mexican soldier who convinced Santa Anna he was fighting against his will.
- The Mexican armies lost an estimated **600 trained soldiers**, all of whom were very hard to replace.
Remember the Alamo!

- The bloody battle at the Alamo, soon became the slogan for Sam Houston’s battle cry, “Remember the Alamo”.
- Many Texans also honor those who died at the Alamo because they had not even heard that Texas had declared its independence on March 2nd.
Lesson 3: Victory at San Jacinto

Pages 188-195
James Fannin vs. Jose Urrea
Fannin and “a series of unfortunate events…”

- On March 14th, Fannin decided to stay at Fort Goliad instead of leading them to safety in Victoria.
- March 18th, General Urrea arrived and fought with Fannin’s men.
- Fannin decided to head to Victoria, but Urrea’s army surrounded him and Fannin fought, but was forced to surrender.
- All the captives thought they would be returned to the US – instead, they were marched to Goliad where Santa Anna ordered that they all be executed!
Runaway Scrape

• When Anglo settlers heard of the massacres at the Alamo and Goliad, they feared for their lives.

• As Santa Anna approaches Gonzales, the people there began to flee – some all the way to Louisiana and some to places like Nacogdoches and Galveston Island.
The Battle of San Jacinto
April 21, 1836
Houston and His Rag-Tags

- Days before the Battle of San Jacinto, Sam Houston was said to have had an estimated 1,000 soldiers.
- The majority of his soldiers were volunteers who knew a whole lot about farming, and very little about war.
- He decided to take 2 weeks to teach them how to fight and work together. (which would pay off greatly in the end!)
“Charge, and Remember the Alamo!”

- Houston ordered his troops to attack at 3:00 the afternoon of April 21st.
- The Mexican troops were all for the most part resting, watering horses, or eating.
- Houston’s troops enter the camp virtually unnoticed.
“Charge, and Remember the Alamo!”

- The battle lasted no more than **eighteen** minutes.
- **9** Texans killed, **30** wounded including **Sam Houston**, who shattered his ankle due to a musket shot.
- **630** Mexicans killed, **750** taken prisoner including **Santa Anna**.
Santa Anna Makes a Run for it!

- Santa Anna surprised by the attack, seeing defeat in sight attempts to escape capture.
- He makes a soldier switch clothes with him, and tries to run for it.
- He is caught later in the evening hiding in the tall grass of a field, a Mexican soldier calls him out and he is brought in to custody.
Victory at San Jacinto

• On April 21st, 1836, the Texans advanced on the Mexican army “with the stillness of death”.

• In just 18 minutes, the Texans killed more than half of the Mexican army.

• Santa Anna was forced to sign a treaty giving Texas its freedom.

• With the Battle of San Jacinto, Texas was no independent.
Treaty of Velasco

- Santa Anna was forced to sign this treaty which agreed to the following:

1. Texas would exchange prisoners of war with Mexico
2. Mexico would stop the fighting against Texas.
3. Mexico would remove all its forces from Texas.
The Secret Treaty & The Monument

• In addition to the Treaty of Velasco Santa Anna signed a secret one too, promising to urge the Mexican government to recognize the independence of Texas.

• The San Jacinto Monument - A place that is a reminder of the Texans’ victory in the last battle of the Texas Revolution.
Independent Nation

- Sam Houston elected President
- Stephen Austin becomes Secretary of State
- Texas offers new settlers land grants; many come from southern states & bring enslaved Africans with them.

http://www.dallashistory.org/images/Sam_Houston_on_Horse.jpg
The New Republic

- The Republic of Texas successfully set up its new government.
- Texans also elected a congress (people who made nation’s laws), established judges and collected tax to help run the government.
- Challenges the faced:
  1. Texas was in a lot of debt, due to the amount of money they had borrowed to purchase weapons during the war.
  2. Settlers still wanted Native American land.
  3. Some Texans believed Texas should be part of the U.S.