

## **The Texas Revolution**

*Read the information below then answer the questions at the bottom of the page on another piece of paper. Use complete sentences.*

Texas leaders met at the Austin colony. They set up their own government for Texas. Texan troops then attacked the town of San Antonio and drove out the Mexican troops.

General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna marched from Mexico with an army of about 4,000 troops. He planned to crush the revolution. In February 1836, the army reached San Antonio. Fewer than 200 American fighters were in San Antonio. They withdrew behind the walls of an old mission called the Alamo and turned it into a fort.

Santa Anna's army surrounded the Alamo. For 12 days, the Mexicans attacked the Americans. But the outnumbered rebels would not surrender. Time after time, the Americans drove the Mexicans back. Finally, on March 6, the Mexicans overran the Alamo. All of the American fighters were killed.

### **“Remember the Alamo”**

During the battle of the Alamo, Texas leaders met again. On March 2, they declared that Texas was independent from Mexico. They chose a commander for the Texas army, Sam Houston.

When Texans heard the news of the slaughter at the Alamo, they were enraged. They now had a battle cry in their fight for independence—“Remember the Alamo!”

### **Victory at San Jacinto**

For the next month or so, Santa Anna's army moved through Texas. Sam Houston and the smaller Texas army retreated before the Mexicans.

Then, on April 21, Houston's army suddenly attacked the Mexicans near the San Jacinto River. The Mexicans were caught completely by surprise. In 18 minutes, the Battle of San Jacinto was over. Nearly all of Santa Anna's troops were killed or captured. Texas had won its independence from Mexico.

### **The Republic of Texas**

The new Texas government set up the Republic of Texas. Like the United States, Texas would be governed by elected leaders. In 1836, Texans elected Sam Houston their first president. Texans also voted to join the United States.

But President Andrew Jackson did not want to annex Texas to the Union. He feared such an action would lead to war with Mexico. Many northerners also opposed annexing Texas because Texas would be a slave state. Texas remained an independent republic for nearly ten years.

1. What happened at the Alamo?
2. How did Sam Houston and the Texas army beat Santa Anna?
3. How was the government of Texas organized after independence?
4. Why didn't Texas become a state in 1836?

## **Americans Move to Oregon**

*Read the information below then answer the questions at the bottom of the page on another piece of paper. Use complete sentences.*

By 1840, American settlement had expanded to the Great Plains. There it stopped. Settlers believed the Great Plains were too dry for farming. Then, in the early 1840s, Americans began to hear news from the Oregon region, far away on the Pacific coast. Americans heard that the Oregon region was a land of tall trees, rich soil, and fish-filled streams. Thousands of Americans decided to move there.

### **The Oregon Trail**

Many settlers traveled to the Oregon region by a route called the Oregon Trail. The Oregon Trail began in Independence, Missouri. It crossed the Great Plains, and then went over the Rocky Mountains, in present-day Wyoming. The trail then followed the Columbia River into the Oregon region. The journey covered about 2,000 miles. Settlers had to travel four to six months to make it. Most settlers traveled by wagon train—a group of covered wagons that traveled together. Wagon trains traveled 10 to 15 miles a day on the Plains. Travel was slower in the mountains and across rivers. It might take settlers a week to cross a fast-flowing river.

### **The United States and Britain Both Claim Oregon**

Thousands of Americans settled in Oregon. Soon, a dispute (argument) arose between Britain and the United States. At that time, the Oregon region stretched from the Rockies to the Pacific Ocean and from California to Alaska. Both the United States and Britain claimed the region. They could not agree on a boundary between their territories.

In 1818, the United States and Britain had agreed that people from both nations could settle in the Oregon region. But by 1843, American settlers there greatly outnumbered British settlers. The Americans asked Congress to make Oregon a territory of the United States.

### **The Oregon Treaty**

In the election year of 1844, James Polk was a candidate for President. He claimed that the whole area of the Oregon region belonged to the United States, not Britain. He said that the United States should take that area by force if necessary. Most Americans agreed with Polk. He was elected President.

In 1846, President Polk reached an agreement with Britain. That agreement was called the Oregon Treaty. The treaty divided the Oregon region between Britain and the United States. Britain received the northern part, or land that is now western Canada. The United States received the southern part, land that is now Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and parts of Wyoming and Montana.

1. What did pioneers believe about the Great Plains?
2. How did pioneers get to Oregon?
3. James Polk was elected president because most people agreed with him about what issue?
4. How did the Oregon Treaty divide land between two countries?