

USH- Manifest Destiny- Alamo

The Alamo by History.com editors

In December 1835, during Texas' war for independence from Mexico, a group of Texan volunteer soldiers occupied the Alamo, a former Franciscan mission located near the present-day city of San Antonio. On February 23, 1836, a Mexican force numbering in the thousands and led by General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna began a siege of the fort. Though vastly outnumbered, the Alamo's 200 defenders—commanded by James Bowie and William Travis and including the famed frontiersman Davy Crockett—held out courageously for 13 days before the Mexican invaders finally overpowered them. For Texans, the Battle of the Alamo became an enduring symbol of their heroic resistance to oppression and their struggle for independence, which they won later that year.

Early History of the Alamo

Spanish settlers built the Mission San Antonio de Valero, named for St. Anthony of Padua, on the banks of the San Antonio River around 1718. They also established the nearby military garrison of San Antonio de Béxar, which soon became the center of a settlement known as San Fernando de Béxar (later renamed San Antonio). The Mission San Antonio de Valero housed missionaries and their Native American converts for some 70 years until 1793, when Spanish authorities secularized the five missions located in San Antonio and distributed their lands among local residents.

Did you know? Ten years after Texas won its independence and shortly after it was annexed by the United States, U.S. soldiers revived the "Remember the Alamo!" battle cry while fighting against Mexican forces in the Mexican-American War of 1846-1848.

Beginning in the early 1800s, Spanish military troops were stationed in the abandoned chapel of the former mission. Because it stood in a grove of cottonwood trees, the soldiers called their new fort "El Alamo" after the Spanish word for cottonwood and in honor of Alamo de Parras, their hometown in Mexico. Military troops—first Spanish, then rebel and later Mexican—occupied the Alamo during and after Mexico's successful war for independence from Spain in the early 1820s. In the summer of 1821, Stephen Austin arrived in San Antonio along with some 300 U.S. families that the Spanish government had allowed to settle in Texas. The migration of U.S. citizens to Texas increased over the next decades, sparking a revolutionary movement that would erupt into armed conflict by the mid-1830s.

The Battle of the Alamo

In December 1835, in the early stages of Texas' war for independence from Mexico, a group of Texan (or Texian) volunteers led by George Collinsworth and Benjamin Milam overwhelmed the Mexican garrison at the Alamo and captured the fort, seizing control of San Antonio. By mid-February 1836, Colonel James Bowie and Lieutenant Colonel William B. Travis had taken command of Texan forces in San Antonio. Though Sam Houston, the newly appointed commander-in-chief of the Texan forces, argued that San Antonio should be abandoned due to insufficient troop numbers, the Alamo's defenders—led by Bowie and Travis—dug in nonetheless, prepared to defend the fort to the last. These defenders, who despite later reinforcements never numbered more than 200, included Davy Crockett, the famous frontiersman and former congressman from Tennessee, who had arrived in early February.

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On February 23, a Mexican force comprising somewhere between 1,800 and 6,000 men (according to various estimates) and commanded by General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna began a siege of the fort. The Texans held out for 13 days, but on the morning of March 6 Mexican forces broke through a breach in the outer wall of the courtyard and overpowered them. Santa Anna ordered his men to take no prisoners, and only a small handful of the Texans were spared. One of these was Susannah Dickinson, the wife of Captain Almaron Dickinson (who was killed) and her infant daughter Angelina. Santa Anna sent them to Houston's camp in Gonzalez with a warning that a similar fate awaited the rest of the Texans if they continued their revolt. The Mexican forces also suffered heavy casualties in the Battle of the Alamo, losing between 600 and 1,600 men.

Legacy of the Alamo

From March to May, Mexican forces once again occupied the Alamo. For the Texans, the Battle of the Alamo became a symbol of heroic resistance and a rallying cry in their struggle for independence. On April 21, 1836, Sam Houston and some 800 Texans defeated Santa Anna's Mexican force of 1,500 men at San Jacinto (near the site of present-day Houston), shouting "Remember the Alamo!" as they attacked. The victory ensured the success of Texan independence: Santa Anna, who had been taken prisoner, came to terms with Houston to end the war. In May, Mexican troops in San Antonio were ordered to withdraw, and to demolish the Alamo's fortifications as they went.

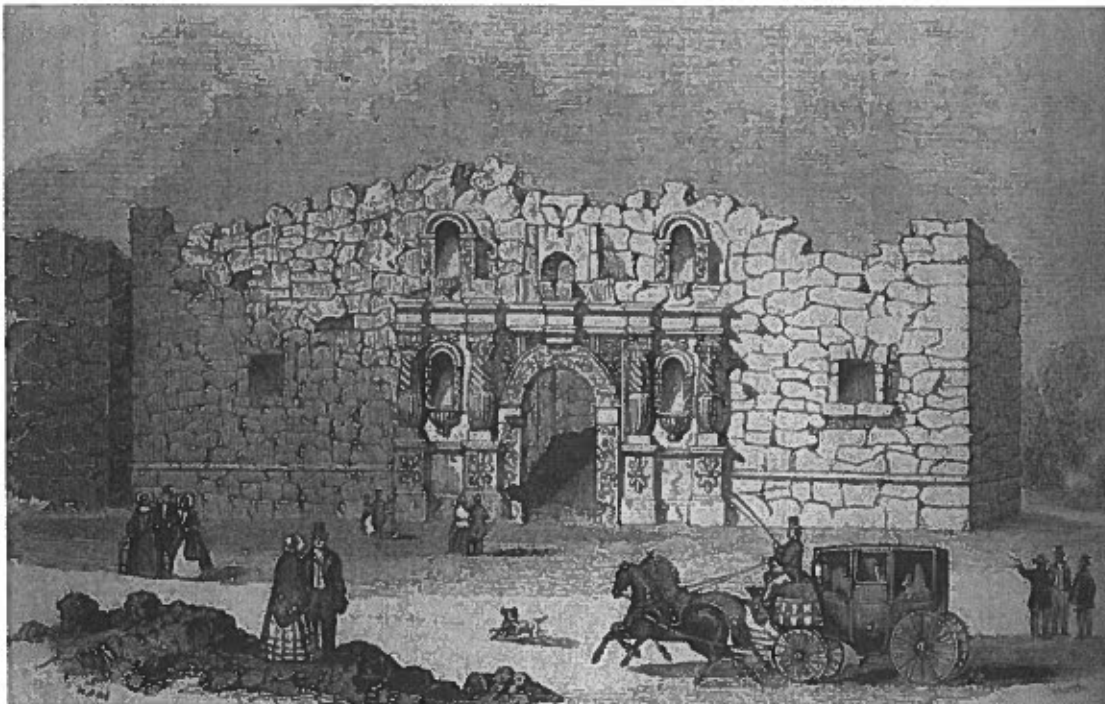
In 1845, the United States annexed Texas. For many years afterward, the U.S. Army quartered troops and stored supplies at the Alamo. In 1883, the state of Texas purchased the Alamo, later acquiring property rights to all the surrounding grounds. The Daughters of the Republic of Texas, a women's organization including descendants of the earliest Texan residents, has managed the Alamo since 1905. Today, more than 2.5 million people a year visit the 4.2-acre site, which includes some original structures dating back to the mission period.

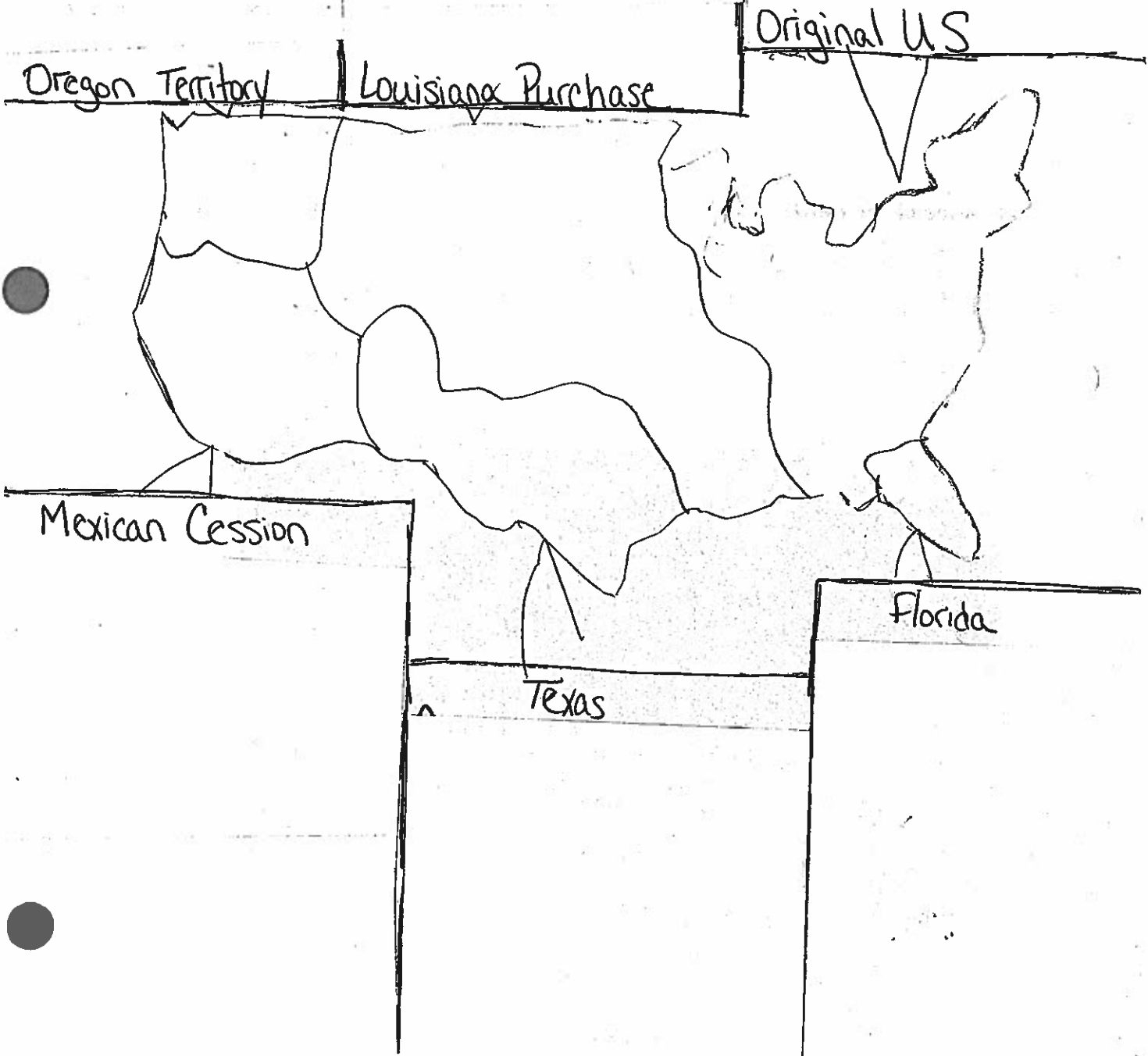
The Alamo – Fought 1836

The Alamo's Defenders:

The Alamo's Attackers:

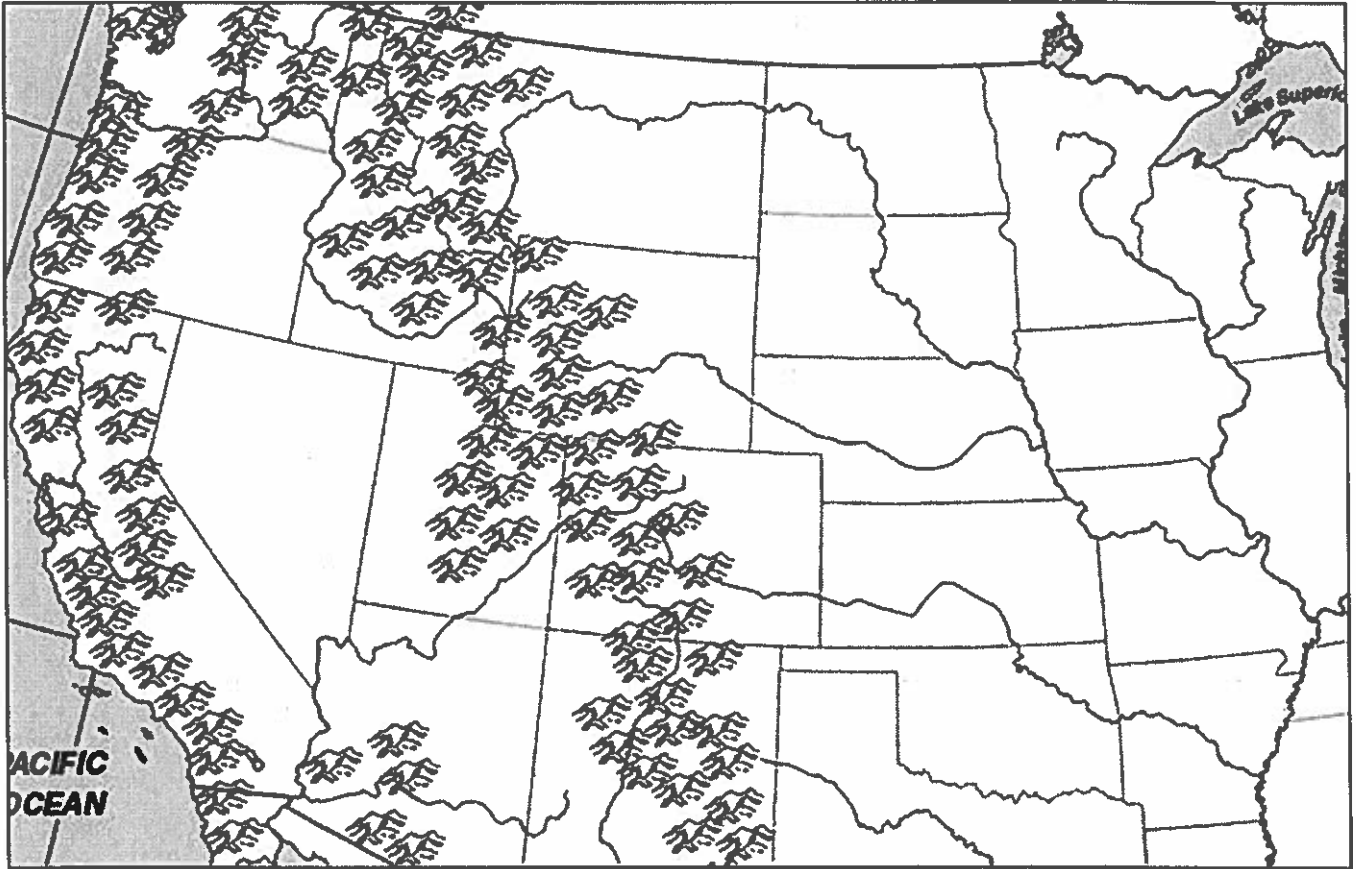
Results of the Battle:





The Oregon Trail –

Locate St. Louis. With a pencil, draw the most popular route to Oregon. Why is that the best route?



WHO:

WHAT:

WHEN:

WHERE:

WHY:

HOW:

_____ was the city that most people started their journey west from.

Some important supplies to gather were:

The journey was made more dangerous because of:



John Gast, American Progress, 1872.
Chromolithograph published by George A. Crofutt.
Source: Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress.

Railroads:

Cowboys:

Native Americans:

49ers:

Farmers:

The Homestead Act

What is the Homestead Act?

- Written by _____ in _____

Reasons for the Homestead Act:

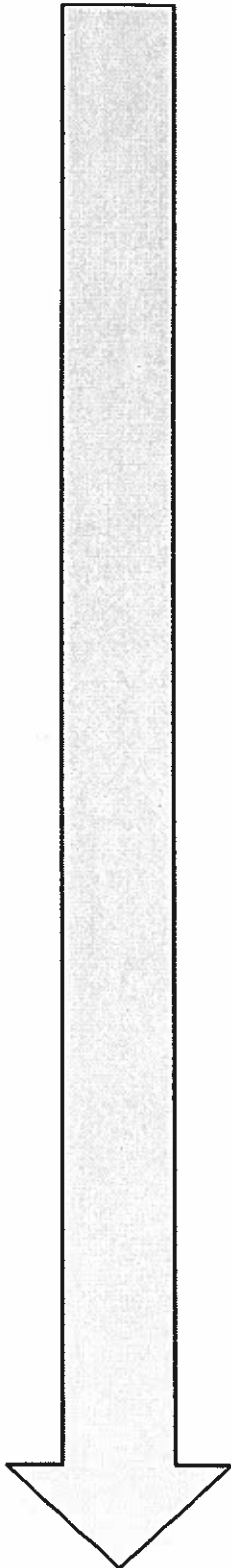
Opposition to the Act:

What the Homestead Act did:

Effect of the Homestead Act:

Indian Wars Timeline

As settlers moved West, they often came into conflict with Native Americans.



Indian Removal Notes

A. Early History

- First contact between southeastern Indians and Europeans was in 1540 (Expedition of Hernando de Soto)
- There were ten million Native Americans before the white settlers arrived
- Homelands were gradually taken and cultures were dramatically altered
- Jefferson wanted the Natives to be civilized, convert Christianity and become farmers
- National Policy to move Indians west of the Mississippi developed after the Louisiana Territory purchase from the French in 1803
- Natives were driven from their homes, herded into internment camps and forced into strange lands
- In 1825 the US Government adopted a removal policy
- By 1840 all the eastern tribes had been subdued, annihilated or forcibly removed
- Over 300 years 90% of the ten million Indians were killed

B. Relations with Government

- Land was being taken away from the Cherokees during the first two decades of the 1800's
- In the 1700's, Indians started moving west to Arkansas to seek refuge from white settlers
- In 1802 Georgia was the last of the original colonies to cede its western lands to the Federal Government
- When Georgia became a colony it wanted ALL land, including Native American land
- Beginning in 1791 the Native Americans began to make treaties with Georgia which recognized them as their own nation
- Situations with states rights started arguments between the Indian Tribes and the US Government
- 1819 Cherokee National Council notified the Federal Government it would no longer give-up land
- Tribal Government was headquartered in Tahlequah, it consisted of a principal chief, an elected legislature, and a supreme court
- In 1829 Georgia passed a law pronouncing all laws of the Cherokee nation to be null and void after June 1st, 1830
- Eastern lands were sold for 5 million dollars
- Gold was discovered on Cherokee land in 1829
- 1830 Worcester vs. Georgia, law required all white residents to pledge an oath to the state
- 1830 Congress passed the Indian Removal Act which directed the executive branch to negotiate for Indian lands

- Treaty of Echota – some Indians signed to move

C. Round Up

- President Martin Van Buren ordered the Treaty of New Echota in 1838
- One group of Cherokees did not leave the mountains of North Carolina because they had traced their origins to a 1819 treaty which gave them the right to land and American citizenship
- In 1838 US Troops moved Indians west to Internment Camps
- During the roundup Cherokees were treated cruelly by the US Troops
- The internment camps contained more than 4,800 Cherokees
- 31 forts were used for the roundup
- Mortality rates for the entire removal and its aftermath totaled near 8,000
- Road conditions, illness, and the distress of winter made death a daily occurrence

D. Aftermath

- 1930 Depression made the difficult times increase
- By the 1970's the Cherokees had lost over 19 million acres of land
- Problems quickly developed in the new territory among the Indians
- Cherokees proceeded to adapt their new homeland and reestablish their own government similar to the US Government
- Cherokees established a bilingual school system and missionary
- Trail of Tears was wanted as a historic trail to maintain cultural identity
- At the start of the Civil War numerous Cherokees began to side with the Confederacy