

CHAPTER 11

Independence Won

Why It Matters

The Battle of San Jacinto, on April 21, 1836, was a decisive battle in Texas history. By defeating the Mexican forces and capturing Santa Anna, the Texans won their independence from Mexico. Everyone in Texas—Mexicans, Anglo settlers, African Americans, and Native Americans—was affected by the 18-minute battle.

The Impact Today

Texans still celebrate April 21 as San Jacinto Day. There are speeches, parades, and reenactments of the Battle of San Jacinto. The San Jacinto Monument near Houston, built in the 1930s, rises 570 feet over the field of battle. Many of the celebrations take place there.

1836

- ★ March 4, Sam Houston named commander in chief
- ★ March 13, Houston's army began retreat to the Colorado River
- ★ April 18, the Texas army reached Buffalo Bayou
- ★ April 21, Texans defeated Santa Anna at the Battle of San Jacinto



Texas

United States

1836

1838

World

1837

- Charles Dickens began to write *Oliver Twist*

1839

- Charles Goodyear found commercial use for rubber



A defeated Santa Anna surrenders to Sam Houston after the Battle of San Jacinto in this painting by William Henry Huddle.

Sequencing Information Study Foldable

Make this foldable to help you organize data and sequence events that occurred before, during, and after the Battle of San Jacinto.

Step 1 Fold a sheet of paper from side to side, leaving a 2-inch tab uncovered along the side.



Fold it so the left edge lays 2 inches from the right edge.

Step 2 Turn the paper and fold it into thirds.



Step 3 Unfold and cut along the two inside fold lines.



Cut along the two folds on the front flap to make 3 tabs.

Step 4 Label the foldable as shown.

| The Battle of San Jacinto | | |
|---------------------------|----------------|-----------|
| Before | During | After |
| March 1836 | April 21, 1836 | June 1836 |

Reading and Writing As you read the chapter, describe under the appropriate tabs what was happening in Texas before, during, and after the last battle for Texas independence.



1840

1842

1841

- William Henry Harrison, ninth president, died one month after taking office
- First university degrees granted to women

1841

- Ross Sea discovered in Antarctica

1842

- Britain gained control of Hong Kong

TEXAS HISTORY
Online

Chapter Overview

Visit the texans.glencoe.com Web site and click on **Chapter 11—Chapter Overviews** to preview chapter information.

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The Road to San Jacinto

Guide to Reading

Main Idea

Sam Houston ordered the Texas army to retreat, and panic spread as the Mexican troops moved deeper into Texas.

Key Term

massacre

Reading Strategy

Classifying Information Complete a chart like the one shown here, identifying the actions of Houston.

| Houston's Location | Action |
|--------------------|--------|
| Gonzales | |
| Colorado River | |
| Brazos River | |
| Groce's Plantation | |
| Buffalo Bayou | |

Read to Learn

- why Santa Anna stayed in Texas.
- about the Battle of San Jacinto.

Section Theme

Geography and History Houston's decision to retreat gave him valuable time before he met Santa Anna's forces.

Preview of Events

◆ 1836

March 4

Houston is appointed commander in chief of Texas army

March 28

Houston retreats with army to the Brazos River

April 7

Santa Anna's troops reach Brazos River

April 18

Houston and Santa Anna arrive at Buffalo Bayou



Settlers fleeing from Santa Anna's army

A Texas Story

In 1836, General Santa Anna was marching eastward from San Antonio, and settlers were fleeing to safety in Louisiana in what was called the Runaway Scrape. Only such a great danger would have forced Dilue Rose Harris's family to try a difficult river crossing. "The horrors of crossing the Trinity are beyond my power to describe," she wrote. "When the party got to the boat the water broke over the banks and ran around us. We were surrounded by water."

Santa Anna Remains in Texas

The Texas cause seemed hopeless in March of 1836. 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 general was anxious to return to Mexico to take care of other matters. He believed that the Texas rebellion was crushed. His armies, which were now commanded by **General Vicente Filisola** (fee•lee•SOH•lah), could finish the task by occupying the towns in central and East Texas and by arresting **David G. Burnet** and the temporary government. Santa Anna thought this would be simple, and he prepared to return to Mexico.

Not everyone agreed that the campaign was over, however. General Filisola, an Italian with a long record of service in the Mexican army, believed that the Texans would fight more stubbornly as the Mexicans advanced against their homes and land. Santa Anna was persuaded to delay his return to Mexico until after central and East Texas were occupied by Mexican troops.

Houston Builds the Texas Army

Sam Houston also knew that the Texas campaign was not over. Houston attended the Convention of 1836 at Washington-on-the-Brazos. On March 4, the delegates named him commander in chief. He left the convention two days later to join the army at Gonzales.

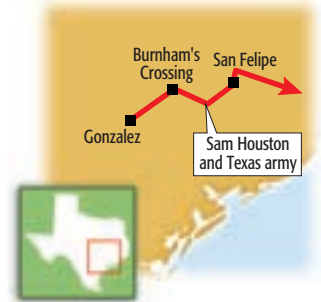
When Sam Houston arrived at Gonzales on March 11, he found more than 370 volunteers. They had gathered mainly in answer to the appeals sent out from the Alamo by William B. Travis. Some of them, such as Edward Burleson, were long-time Texas residents. Others, such as the Kentucky volunteers, commanded by Colonel Sidney Sherman, were new arrivals. All were anxious to fight Santa Anna at San Antonio.

Two days after his arrival at Gonzales, Houston learned that the Alamo had fallen. He faced a difficult decision—fight or flee. His troops numbered fewer than 400, and they were untrained. Houston ordered a retreat eastward toward the Colorado River, hoping to pick up more soldiers. At the same time, he sent orders for Fannin to retreat from Goliad, blow up the garrison there, and join him. Houston needed Fannin's troops.

Houston's Army Retreats

Houston's army began its withdrawal from Gonzales on Sunday, March 13, 1836. A rear guard commanded by Juan Seguín destroyed those provisions that could not be carried. Seguín's unit also helped civilians in the area to escape.

The army crossed the Colorado River at **Burnham's Crossing**, which was flooded by heavy rains. Houston waited there for nine days, drilling his troops while civilians living west of the river crossed over to safety. Houston's forces grew in number as volunteers arrived from the United States. Houston now had nearly 1,400 soldiers under his command, although many of them were untrained and poorly equipped.



Picturing History

Edward Burleson served in many military and political capacities in Texas before joining the volunteers at the Alamo. **Why would volunteers come from outside of Texas to help Texans in their fight for independence?**

Houston was greatly concerned about the fate of Fannin and his unit at Goliad. He sent scouts to find out what had happened to Fannin's army. On March 25, Houston learned that Fannin and his soldiers had been captured and that Santa Anna's army was moving toward the Colorado River. Houston again ordered a retreat, this time to the **Brazos River**. Anger and resentment rose among many of Houston's officers and soldiers. They wanted to fight now. Their homes were being destroyed, and their families were fleeing from Mexican troops. Houston, however, 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. In East Texas, the Texans might get help from the United States.

 **Reading Check** **Evaluating** With more than 1,000 troops, why did Houston retreat to the Brazos River?

Panic Causes the Runaway Scrape

Houston's decision to continue the retreat panicked the families living between the Colorado and Brazos Rivers. They had heard of the Alamo disaster and soon learned of the **massacre** (to kill many at one time) of Fannin's unit. They feared that the Mexican army would harm them, too, after it moved into their area.

Hundreds of families gathered their belongings and headed east toward the **Sabine River**. Many carried everything that could be moved. Women, children, slaves, horses, cattle, and creaking wagons trudged along the muddy roads. Heavy spring rains, lack of food, and sickness made their journey miserable. This event was known as the **Runaway Scrape**.

Noah Smithwick later included an account of farms deserted by frightened Texans in his book *The Evolution of a State, or Recollections of Old Texas Days*:

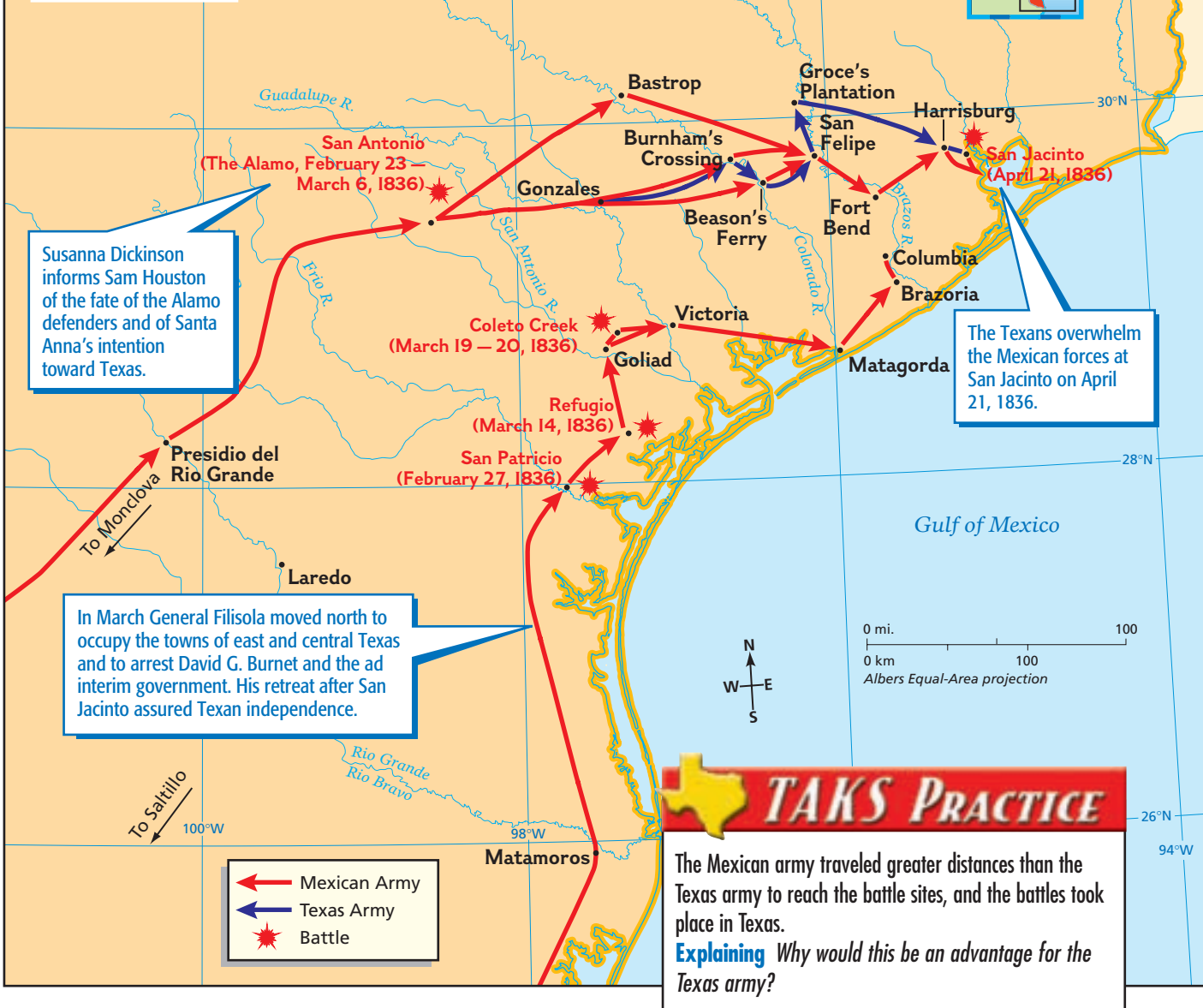
“Houses were standing open, the beds unmade, the breakfast things still on the tables, pans of milk moulding in the dairies. There were cribs full of corn, smoke houses full of bacon, yards full of chickens that ran after us for food, nests of eggs in every fence corner, young corn and garden truck rejoicing in the rain, cattle cropping the luxuriant grass, hogs, fat and lazy, wallowing in the mud, all abandoned. Forlorn dogs roamed around the deserted homes, their doleful howls adding to the general sense of desolation. Hungry cats ran mewling to meet us, rubbing their sides against our legs in token of welcome.”

 **Reading Check** **Analyzing** What event began the Runaway Scrape?



Picturing History

Fearing for their lives, many Texas families headed east toward Louisiana. **What were some of the difficulties of moving household goods at that time?**



TAKS PRACTICE

The Mexican army traveled greater distances than the Texas army to reach the battle sites, and the battles took place in Texas.

Explaining Why would this be an advantage for the Texas army?

Houston Trains His Army

On March 29, 1836, Houston's army reached the Brazos River at San Felipe de Austin. Two companies refused to retreat farther, so Houston posted them to guard the river crossing. Then he turned the main body of his army northward along the Brazos River to the plantation of Jared Groce, near present-day Hempstead.

Houston used the two weeks spent at **Groce's Plantation** to train the army in the fundamentals of warfare. Long hours were devoted to drilling and marching. The troops complained. The rain and mud fueled their bad tempers. Some left the army to find their

families and help get them to safety. Many began to talk about choosing a new general. President David G. Burnet, who had moved the government to Harrisburg, sent Houston a letter urging him to attack Santa Anna. Burnet wrote:

“The enemy are laughing you to scorn. You must fight them. You must retreat no farther. The country expects you to fight. The salvation of the country depends on you doing so.”

Despite the pleas of President Burnet, Houston refused to discuss his plans or to move the troops



A Shared Past...

When Sam Houston needed to get his army across the Brazos, a large steamboat at Groce's Landing made the task possible. The *Yellow Stone* had been built in Louisville, Kentucky, in 1831 and was initially used on the upper Missouri River. Its owners sent it to Texas in late 1835. It had an American crew and flew the flag of the United States. It took seven trips, but the Texan army made it safely across the Brazos.



before he was ready. **Hendrick Arnold**, an African American scout under Deaf Smith's command, kept Houston informed about Santa Anna's army. Posing as a runaway slave, Arnold moved through the Mexican army's camps and gathered information.

The Mexican Army Moves East

Meanwhile, the Mexican forces advanced toward the Brazos River. On April 5, 1836, Santa Anna crossed the Colorado River trying to overtake the Texans. He left some slower units behind and reached the Brazos River at San Felipe on April 7. After failing to overcome the two Texas companies defending the river crossing, Santa Anna moved 30 miles down river.

There, Santa Anna learned that President Burnet and his advisers were only 30 miles away at **Harrisburg**. The Mexican leader moved one column of his army toward Harrisburg. He arrived there on April 15, 1836, only to learn that the Texan officials had moved to New Washington on Galveston Bay. Santa Anna's troops set fire to Harrisburg and went to New Washington. The Texas government, however, had fled again, this time to Galveston Island.

As Santa Anna moved to Harrisburg, Houston moved his army toward the San Jacinto River. At Groce's Landing, Houston received two six-pound cannons—named "The Twin Sisters"—a gift from the people of Cincinnati, Ohio.

Many of Houston's troops believed that his strategy was to lead the Mexican army east to the Sabine River. There, Houston might receive aid from **General Edmund P. Gaines** and his American troops. On April 17, however, Houston took the road south to Harrisburg instead of the road east to Louisiana. His soldiers now knew that he meant to fight.

The Texas army reached **Buffalo Bayou** on April 18. Houston learned that the Mexican army was nearby. Santa Anna was moving toward the San Jacinto River. Houston moved his army along the banks of Buffalo Bayou to meet the Mexican troops.

Reading Check Analyzing Why did the Texas government move so often?

SECTION 1 ASSESSMENT

Checking for Understanding

- Using Key Terms** Use the word **massacre** in a sentence about the Alamo or Goliad.
- Reviewing Facts** Describe the events of the Runaway Scrape.

Reviewing Themes

- Geography and History** What gift did Houston receive from the people of Ohio?

Organizing to Learn

- Sequencing** Place the following key events in their proper sequence.



- Sam Houston is made commander of Texas army.
- Harrisburg is set on fire.
- Houston's army arrives at Buffalo Bayou.
- Houston begins army's retreat.

Critical Thinking

- Analyzing** How did Hendrick Arnold help Sam Houston's army? In what other ways are spies valuable and necessary during wartime?



Making Predictions Had Sam Houston not taken the time to train his army, what might the consequences have been upon meeting Santa Anna's army?



Social Studies

TAKS Skillbuilder



Reading a Diagram

Why Learn This Skill?

A diagram is a drawing that shows how something works or how its parts fit together. Diagrams are often used to make complicated information easier to understand.

Learning the Skill

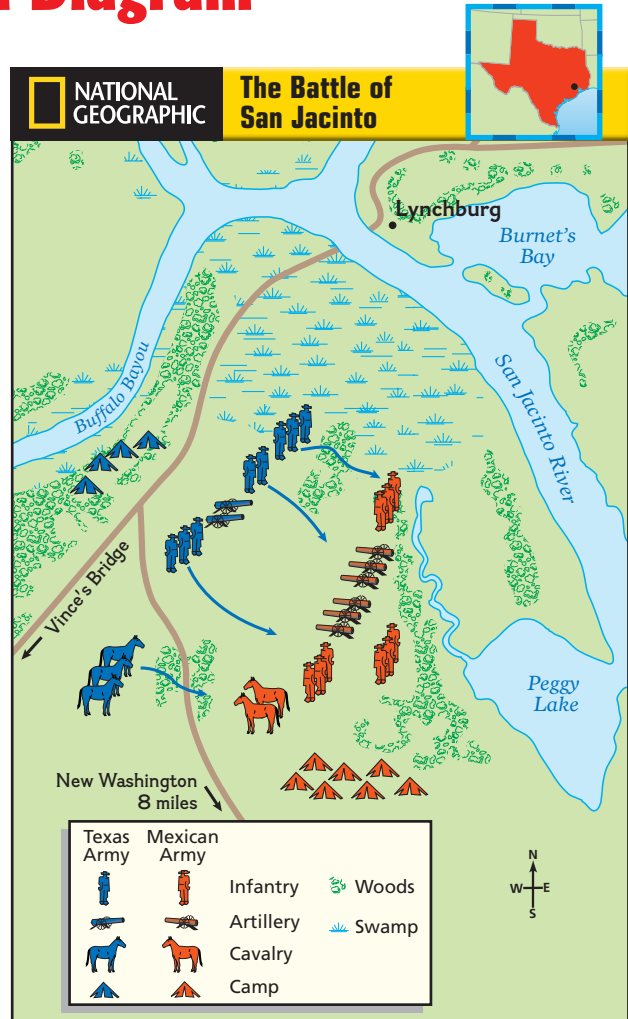
To read a diagram, follow these steps:

- Read the title or caption of the diagram to determine what it represents.
- Read all the labels on the diagram.
- Read the legend and identify the symbols or colors on the diagram.
- Look for numbers, which may show a sequence of steps.
- Look for arrows, which may show the direction of movement.

Practicing the Skill

The diagram at right shows the Battle of San Jacinto. Study this diagram, then answer the questions that follow.

- 1 What is the title of this diagram?
- 2 What bodies of water are shown?
- 3 Where were the Texas soldiers camped?
- 4 How is the town of Lynchburg represented in this diagram?
- 5 What do the blue arrows represent?
- 6 What three types of military units were in Houston's army?



TAKS PRACTICE

Creating a Diagram Choose a region, such as your city, neighborhood, school, or park, to diagram. Show the major population centers, if appropriate. Title and label your diagram. Create a legend. Include arrows. Write three questions about your diagram.



Glencoe's **Skillbuilder Interactive Workbook**, Level 1, provides instruction and practice in key social studies skills.

Victory at San Jacinto

Guide to Reading

Main Idea

The Texas army defeated Santa Anna at the Battle of San Jacinto.

Key Terms

cavalry
flank
infantry

Reading Strategy

Classifying Information Complete a chart summarizing the advantages and disadvantages of the Texan and Mexican armies.

| Situation of | Advantages | Disadvantages |
|--------------|------------|---------------|
| Texans | 1. 2. | 1. 2. |
| Mexicans | 1. 2. | 1. 2. |

Read to Learn

- about the Mexican and the Texan armies at Buffalo Bayou.
- about the Battle of San Jacinto.
- about the Treaties of Velasco.

Section Theme

Geography and History After the victory at San Jacinto, the Treaties of Velasco removed the threat of Mexican invasion.

Preview of Events

◆ 1836

April 20

Skirmish between Texas cavalry and Mexican army

April 21

Battle of San Jacinto

May 14

Treaties of Velasco signed



Spreading the word

A Texas Story



After Sam Houston's victory at San Jacinto, settlers were free to return home. Dilue Rose Harris gave this account: "We had been at Liberty three weeks . . . One Thursday evening we heard a sound like distant thunder. The [shelling of the cannons] lasted only a few minutes, and Father said that the Texans must have been defeated. We left Liberty in half an hour . . . We could see a man on horseback . . . he said 'Turn back! The Texas army has whipped the Mexican army. No danger! No danger! Turn back.'"

The Eve of Battle

On April 20, 1836, the Texan troops camped in a grove of oak trees along the banks of the Buffalo Bayou where it joins the **San Jacinto River**. Buffalo Bayou was at their backs, and the San Jacinto River was

on their left. A wide prairie extended in front of the camp toward **Vince’s Bayou** on their right.

On that same day, Santa Anna’s army moved to a campsite on the edge of the prairie along the San Jacinto River. The Mexican site was about three-quarters of a mile from Houston’s camp. Marshland and swamps extended to the right and rear of the Mexican army. Some of the Mexican officers complained that Santa Anna was in a poor location to fend off a major enemy attack. Nevertheless, Santa Anna was confident that the Texans would not attack but would fight on the defensive, as they had at San Antonio and during their withdrawal from Goliad.

On the afternoon of April 20, a small skirmish occurred between the Texan cavalry and the Mexican army. A private from Georgia named **Mirabeau B. Lamar** so distinguished himself in the fighting that the next day he was placed in command of the entire Texan **cavalry**—the mounted horse soldiers.

San Jacinto Soldiers From Varied Backgrounds

Only one company in General Houston’s army was made up entirely of native Texans. Juan Seguín commanded these 20 to 30 Tejanos. Houston was concerned that Seguín and his troops might be shot by mistake in the coming battle. To protect them, he gave the Tejanos the job of guarding the Texan camp, but Seguín and his men were insulted. **José Antonio Menchaca**, speaking for the soldiers who could not speak English, told Houston they had joined the army to fight and wanted to face the enemy. Houston admired the courage of the Tejanos and made the decision to change his order. Seguín’s men wore pieces of cardboard in their hatbands so the Texans would not mistake them for Mexican troops.

Only 171 soldiers owned land in Texas. Many had come to Texas in the weeks just before the battle. A recruit from the United States, who arrived on the morning of the battle, recorded the nature of Houston’s army:

“We found the Texian force under Gen’l S. Houston encamped in the timber near Lynch’s ferry over the San Jacinto River. A scene singularly wild and picturesque presented itself to our view. Around 20 or 30 campfires stood as many groups of men: English, Irish, Scots, Mexicans, French, Germans, Italians, Poles, Yankees, all unwashed and unshaved, their long hair and beards and mustaches matted, their clothes in tatters and plastered with mud. A more savage looking band could scarcely have been assembled. Yet many were gentlemen, owners of large estates. Some were distinguished for oratory, some in science, some in medicine . . . Their guns were of every size and shape. They numbered less than 800.”

Reading Check **Describing** Where did the Texan troops camp on April 20, 1836?

Causes and Effects of the Battle of San Jacinto

Causes

- Santa Anna believes Texans are weak and becomes overconfident.
- Houston takes time to train his army so that they are prepared.
- Memory of defeat at Alamo and Goliad inspires Texans.

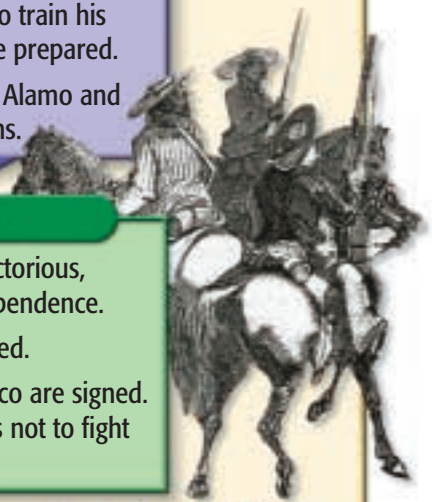
Effects

- Houston’s army is victorious, ensuring Texan independence.
- Santa Anna is captured.
- The Treaties of Velasco are signed. Santa Anna promises not to fight Texans again.

Graphic Organizer Skills

Despite Santa Anna’s promise, the Mexican government did not recognize Texas as an independent nation.

Comparing and Contrasting What were the major advantages of Texas gaining independence from Mexico?



Houston Calls a Council of War

The sun shone brightly on the morning of April 21, 1836, as Houston's soldiers began their daily activities. The Mexican army's flags fluttered in the breeze across the prairie. Santa Anna had about 850 troops with him on April 20. On the morning of April 21, General Martín Perfecto de Cós and about 540 more soldiers joined Santa Anna. Fortunately for the Texans, most recruits in Cós's unit were inexperienced. Santa Anna did not post enough guards around the Mexican camp. Because Cós's men had marched much of the night, Santa Anna allowed them time to eat and rest. After the midday meal, Santa Anna himself retired to his tent.

Meanwhile, in the late morning, Houston ordered his scouts **Erastus "Deaf" Smith** and

Henry Karnes to destroy the bridge across Vince's Bayou to the southwest. Destruction of the bridge would cut off a path of retreat for both the Texan and Mexican armies.

At noon, General Houston called a council of war with his officers to determine whether to fight that day or to wait until dawn. All favored fighting, but disagreement arose over whether to attack directly or to set up a defensive position and wait for the enemy to attack. Houston dismissed his officers without announcing a decision.

"Remember the Alamo"

At 3:30 that afternoon, General Houston ordered his officers to assemble the troops for an immediate attack. The battle line was formed

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

The Battle of San Jacinto

| Texas Army | Mexican Army | |
|------------|--------------|-----------|
| | | Infantry |
| | | Artillery |
| | | Cavalry |

TAKS PRACTICE

Deaf Smith (above) played an important role in the Battle of San Jacinto. Texan and Mexican troops met between Buffalo Bayou and the San Jacinto River. **Comparing and Contrasting** Look at the map and describe which army had the advantage in infantry and artillery.



History Through Art

The Battle of San Jacinto by Henry Arthur McArdle, 1898 This painting hangs in the Senate Chamber in the Texas Capitol. The artist paid great attention to the details of the uniforms, equipment, and likenesses of the people. [Does the painting support the physical description of the battle site given in the text?](#)



with Sidney Sherman's regiment on the far left side, or **flank**, and Edward Burleson's regiment to the immediate right of Sherman. The Twin Sisters were in the center, attended by 30 men under **George W. Hockley's** command. Four **infantry** units (companies of foot soldiers), led by Henry Millard were to the right of Hockley. The cavalry unit commanded by Mirabeau B. Lamar was on the extreme right. His duty was to keep Mexican soldiers from escaping across the prairie.


Houston drew his sword and ordered the troops to advance. With this signal, the Texans moved out of the woods and across the open prairie that separated the two armies. Three fife players and Dick the Drummer, an African American, played a popular tune of the day, "Will You Come to the Bower?" Deaf Smith rode up and announced, "Vince's Bridge is down!" Santa Anna and the Texans were cut off without support.

As the Texans moved across the open prairie, the Mexican camp remained quiet. While many of Santa Anna's soldiers were resting, others were watering their horses in a nearby stream.

Incredibly, the Texans were upon the enemy camp before the Mexicans knew an attack was upon them.

"Remember the Alamo! Remember Goliad!" was the battle cry as the Texans opened fire with rifles and cannons. The Twin Sisters blew a hole in the Mexican fortifications. The Texans stormed through the enemy's lines, seized the Mexican artillery, and engaged in hand-to-hand combat.

The Mexican officers tried to rally their forces. The effort, however, was of little use. Total confusion resulted, and many of the Mexican soldiers attempted to flee from the battle. Some of the Mexican cavalry tried to escape across Vince's Bayou, but they found that the bridge had been destroyed. Others fled onto the prairie but were cut down by Lamar's cavalry. The organized Mexican resistance lasted 18 minutes. The killing continued until dark, however, as the Texans cut down the Mexican soldiers who had fled to the swamps behind Santa Anna's camp.

 **Reading Check** **Examining** Why was Santa Anna not prepared for the Texans?

Mexicans Suffer Heavy Losses

The losses in Houston's army at the **Battle of San Jacinto** were light. Fewer than 10 Texans were killed or fatally wounded in the fighting. Thirty others, including General Houston, were injured. A musket ball had shattered Houston's ankle. The Lorenzo de Zavala home just across Buffalo Bayou was made into a temporary hospital to care for the Texan and Mexican troops.

The Mexican army, missing the experienced soldiers that had fallen at the Alamo, suffered heavy losses at San Jacinto. In his battle report to President Burnet, General Houston listed 630 Mexicans killed and 730 taken prisoner. Santa Anna was among the prisoners.

Santa Anna had disappeared during the fighting. The next day he was found in the tall grass. Because he was dressed as a common soldier, the Texans did not recognize him at first. On the way to camp, however, his own men singled him out. He was taken to General Houston, who rested under a large oak tree. Through an interpreter, the Mexican president introduced himself as "General Antonio López de Santa Anna . . . a prisoner of war at your disposition."

Comparing Reports

After the Battle of San Jacinto, both Houston and Santa Anna described the encounter. Houston's description of the battle was in a report to President David G. Burnet.

“The conflict lasted about eighteen minutes from the time of close action until we were in possession of the enemy's encampment, taking one piece of cannon (loaded), four stands of

Picturing History

The image at right shows Santa Anna (*standing*) after the Battle of San Jacinto. Below, he is surrendering to Sam Houston. **Why was Santa Anna's capture an important achievement for the Texans?**



colours, all their camp equipage, stores, and baggage. Our cavalry had charged and routed that of the enemy upon the right, and given pursuit to the fugitives, which did not cease until they arrived at the bridge . . .

[A]s to the conduct of those who commanded in the action, . . . our success in the action is conclusive proof of their daring intrepidity and courage; every officer and man proved himself worthy of the cause in which he battled while the triumph received a lustre from the humanity which characterized their conduct after victory.”

Santa Anna's explanation is translated below.

“What was the cause of the fateful defeat of San Jacinto? It was the excessive number of raw recruits in the five hundred men under command of General Cós . . . A cargo of supplies I had ordered not to be brought, . . . capture of an order that was sent to me from Thompson's as well as that of the officer bringing it, . . . fatigue and lack of food . . . [all were] cause[s]. The disdain with which a constantly fleeing enemy was generally viewed by our troops was another cause, for without a close vigilance such as I had emphatically ordered, it permitted the enemy to occupy successfully the woods to the right, as it did in an act of desperation. None of these causes was the result of neglect on my part or of acts immediately emanating from me.”

The capture of Santa Anna was a great achievement for the Texans. It prevented him from rejoining his other troops in Texas, thus leaving them without a high commander. Had he escaped, Santa Anna might have continued the war for some time, which would have resulted in many more deaths. At Houston's request, Santa Anna signed an order instructing General Filisola to withdraw all Mexican troops to south of the Rio Grande.

The Texan Navy Controls the Coast

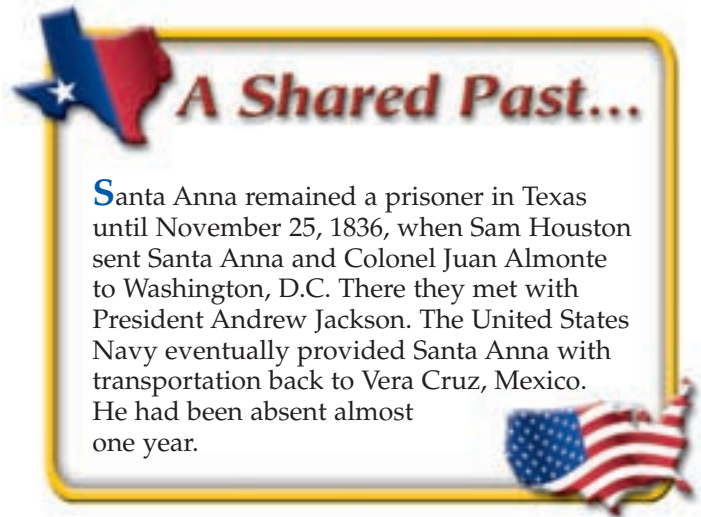
The small Texan navy played an important role in the final days of the revolution. The

navy had only four ships, but they were able to control the coastal waters of Texas. The navy brought necessary supplies to the Texan armies, while cutting off supplies to the Mexican divisions. Several thousand Mexican troops remained



Student Web Activity Visit the texans.glencoe.com Web site and click on **Chapter 11—Student Web Activity** to learn more about the Battle of San Jacinto.

CLICK HERE



in Texas after the Battle of San Jacinto. Due to the navy's effectiveness, they were forced to withdraw because of their shortage of food and ammunition.

Treaties of Velasco

After the Battle of San Jacinto, President Burnet moved the government from Galveston Island to the town of Velasco at the mouth of the Brazos River. The capital of Texas was located at Velasco for several months. Santa Anna was taken there to sign two treaties with the Texas government. Both were signed on May 14, 1836. One treaty was made public. The other was kept secret.

In the public treaty, the Mexican ruler promised to never again fight against the Texans. He also agreed to order all Mexican forces out of Texas immediately. The treaty also provided for an exchange of Texan and Mexican prisoners captured in the fighting. In addition, all property taken by the Mexican forces during the war was to be returned to the rightful owners.

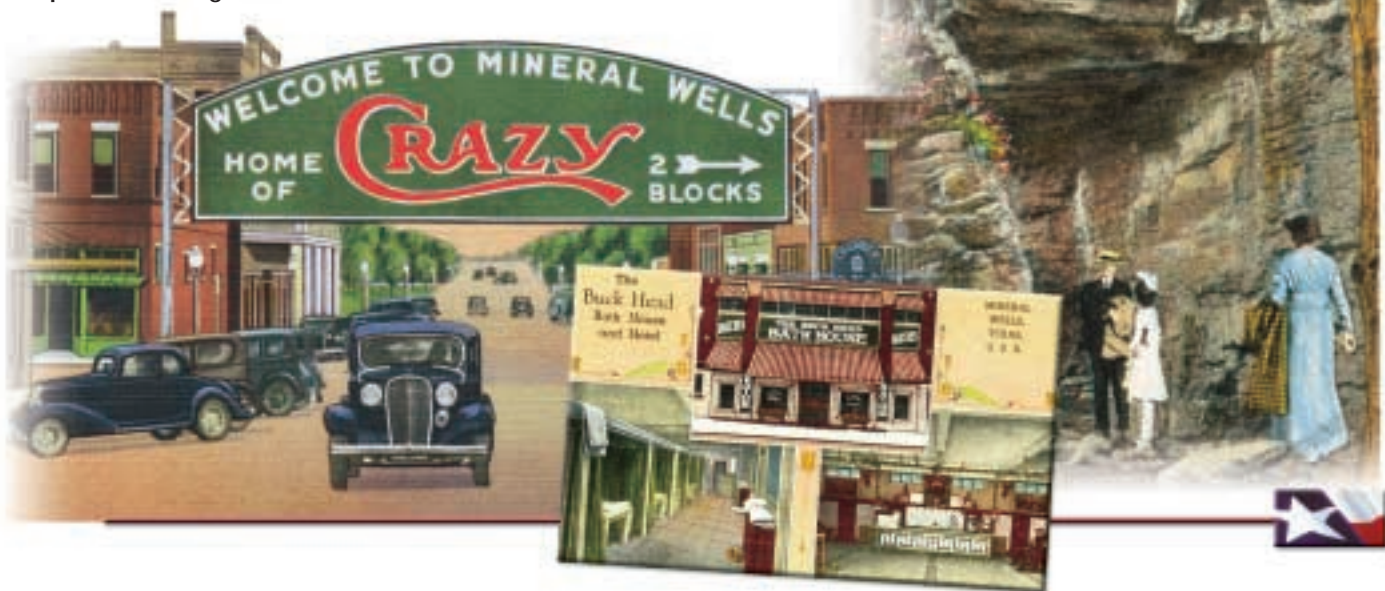
In return for his freedom, Santa Anna privately agreed in the secret treaty to work for Mexican recognition of Texas independence. The secret terms called for the Texas government to release Santa Anna immediately and give him an escort back to Mexico. In return, Santa Anna would also agree to work inside Mexico to get the Texas boundary set at the Rio Grande.

Reading Check Identifying Location Where did President Burnet move the capital after leaving Galveston Island?



★ ONLY in TEXAS

Mineral Wells Is Home to “Crazy Water” (bottom left). The town of Mineral Wells was founded by J.A. Lynch in 1887. Its waters first gained fame as a cure for rheumatism. Mineral Wells became a popular resort with visitors once the Crazy Well was dug in 1885. People would “take the waters” by visiting springs and wells (right), drinking the water, or bathing in it. Bathhouses (bottom center), hotels, drinking fountains, and pavilions throughout the town catered to the bathers and health-seekers.



Many Texans Wanted Revenge

Immediately following the Battle of San Jacinto, many Texans wanted to hang Santa Anna for the deaths at the Alamo and Goliad. But Houston refused to let the soldiers kill the general. Houston explained his reasons later:

“My motive in sparing the life of Santa Anna was to relieve the country of all hostile enemies without further bloodshed, and to secure his acknowledgment of our independence.”

Later, President Burnet also spared the life of Santa Anna. Burnet was determined to carry out the terms of the **Treaties of Velasco**. When Santa Anna, with his secretary and military aide, boarded the ship *Invincible* in June 1836 to return to Mexico, a group of angry Texan army officers prevented the ship from sailing. They

demanded that Santa Anna be turned over to the army for execution.

Burnet stopped the officers from executing Santa Anna, but they prevented Santa Anna from returning home. He was taken from the *Invincible* and held captive. He was finally allowed to leave Texas several months later.

Victory's Consequences

The Battle of San Jacinto was one of the most decisive battles in history. By defeating the Mexican forces and capturing General Santa Anna, the Texans had won their independence from Mexico.

News of the amazing victory soon spread throughout Texas. Houston sent word to those who had fled in the Runaway Scrape that it was now safe to return home. Many found their homes burned and possessions gone. On their way home, the family of Dilue Rose Harris passed by the battlefield. It was a scene of death

and destruction, but Dilue wanted to maintain appearances, as she wrote in the following account two days before her eleventh birthday:

“We crossed the San Jacinto the next morning and stayed until late in the evening on the battle field. Both armies were camped near . . . I had lost my bonnet crossing Trinity Bay and was compelled to wear a table cloth again. It was six weeks since we had left home, and our homes were very much dilapidated. I could not go to see the Mexican prisoners with a table cloth tied on my head for I knew several of the young men.”

Following the battle, Houston went to New Orleans to seek medical treatment for his wounded ankle. Santa Anna’s second in command, Vicente Filisola, led the defeated Mexican army home. Volunteers from the United States arrived to discover that they were too late. The Texans had already won the war.

President David Burnet and **Vice President Lorenzo de Zavala** now faced numerous challenges. The Texans had won the war. They returned to their farms and towns not as Mexican citizens but as citizens of the new Republic of Texas.

Reading Check Identifying Who was president of Texas’s interim government at this time?



Picturing History

The San Jacinto monument is listed in the *Guinness Book of World Records* as the world’s tallest stone column memorial. **Why would some historians rank the Battle of San Jacinto in the top 15 most decisive battles in world history?**

SECTION 2 ASSESSMENT

Checking for Understanding

- Using Key Terms** Use the words **cavalry** and **infantry** to describe a military situation.
- Reviewing Facts** Who made up Houston’s army? Were they all Texans?

Reviewing Themes

- Geography and History** List four reasons that the smaller Texas army defeated Santa Anna’s forces.

Organizing to Learn

- Summarizing** Create a chart like the one shown here. List the key terms of the public and secret Treaties of Velasco signed after the Battle of San Jacinto.

| Public Treaty | Secret Treaty |
|---------------|---------------|
| | |
| | |
| | |

Critical Thinking

- Evaluating** After the Battle of San Jacinto, Santa Anna was captured. What were some reasons why President Burnet did not want to see Santa Anna executed?

TAKS PRACTICE

Describing List the reasons that Santa Anna gave for his defeat at the Battle of San Jacinto.



Chapter Summary

Independence Won

March 1836

- Santa Anna moves his troops through central Texas toward East Texas.

- ★ Sam Houston is appointed commander in chief at the Convention of 1836.

- Houston goes to Gonzales and begins his retreat toward the Colorado River.

- ★ Runaway Scrape begins on a large scale.

- Houston retreats toward the Brazos River.
- Runaway Scrape intensifies.

April 1836

- Houston trains his army at Groce's Plantation.

- Santa Anna crosses the Brazos River and sets fire to Harrisburg.

- The Texas army and the Mexican army reach Buffalo Bayou.

- ★ The Texas army defeats the Mexican army at the Battle of San Jacinto on April 21.

Reviewing Key Terms

Number your paper from 1 to 4. Write four sentences using the vocabulary words listed below.

1. cavalry
2. massacre
3. infantry
4. flank

Reviewing Key Facts

5. Why did General Filisola believe Santa Anna should delay his return to Mexico?
6. After being named to what position did Houston immediately leave the Convention of 1836?
7. Where did Houston's volunteers come from?
8. Why did Houston order a retreat from the Brazos River?
9. What was the Runaway Scrape?
10. What prevented Santa Anna's army from crossing the Brazos River at San Felipe de Austin?
11. What name did the Texas soldiers give to the cannons used at the Battle of San Jacinto?
12. Why did Houston decide to take the road south to Harrisburg instead of the road east to Louisiana?
13. Why was the Battle of San Jacinto important?
14. What happened to Santa Anna on the ship *Invincible*?
15. Why did Houston retreat twice from the Mexican army and how did his troops benefit?
16. Why did Houston's troops spend almost two weeks at Groce's Plantation? How did the troops react when Houston ordered this delay?

Critical Thinking

17. **Drawing Conclusions** Explain why 1836 was a significant year in Texas history.
18. **Determining Cause and Effect** Explain the effect of the destruction of the bridge across Vince's Bayou.
19. **Making Comparisons** Draw a chart like the one below. Compare the losses of the Mexican army to those of the Texas army at San Jacinto.

| Mexican Losses | Texan Losses |
|----------------|--------------|
| | |
| | |
| | |





Self-Check Quiz

Visit the texans.glencoe.com Web site and click on **Chapter 11—Self-Check Quizzes** to prepare for the chapter test.



CLICK HERE



Geography and History Activity

20. Refer back to the map on page 249. For each of the following locations, create a symbol that represents an event or activity at the location. Next to the symbol, describe the meaning of the symbol.

- Gonzales
- Burnham’s Crossing
- Groce’s Plantation
- San Jacinto

Cooperative Learning Activity

21. **Writing a Newspaper** Organize into five groups and make a newspaper covering the events of the Texas Revolution. The first group will act as journalists, writing about the military and political events. The second group will write an opinion page. The third group will write classified advertisements of the period. The fourth group will create the society page. The fifth group will draw illustrations for the articles.



Portfolio/TAKS Writing Activity

28. **Supporting a Point of View** Pretend you are an individual who left during the Runaway Scrape but just heard about Houston’s victory at the Battle of San Jacinto. Write a letter to Sam Houston in which you evaluate his decisions. Explain how you felt about moving out of your home and how you feel about the victory.

The Alamo, February and March 1836



Practicing Skills

Reading a Diagram Diagrams often make complicated information easier to understand. Study the diagram of the Alamo above, then answer the questions that follow.

- 22. What does the color blue represent in this diagram?
- 23. Where was the 18-pounder placed?
- 24. Where did the officers sleep and eat?
- 25. How far did reinforcements from Gonzales have to come?

The Princeton Review
TAKS PRACTICE

Which of the following is an *opinion* stated in this quote about the Battle of San Jacinto?

Robert Hancock Hunter, a soldier who fought with Sam Houston at the Battle of San Jacinto, later recalled, “Santa Anna said that it was not a battle, [instead] he called it a massacre. Plague on him. What did he call the Alamo?”

- A Santa Anna believed that the Battle of San Jacinto was a turning point.
- B Robert Hancock Hunter believed that Texans had been massacred at Goliad.
- C Robert Hancock Hunter believed that Mexican and Texan prisoners of war should be exchanged.
- D Santa Anna believed that his troops had been cornered and unfairly cut down.

Test-Taking Tip:

Read test questions and answer choices carefully. This question asks you to identify an opinion *stated in the quotation* about the Battle of San Jacinto. Read the quotation carefully to find a personal judgment about the fight at San Jacinto.

THE STORY OF TEXAS

THE BOB BULLOCK
Texas State
History Museum



Museum Tour **3**

Building the Lone Star Identity Independence

T*he first shots of the Revolution* were heard at Gonzales as the war began over one small cannon. Mexican soldiers had arrived in 1835 to reclaim the cannon that had earlier been loaned to the settlers. They were met with a defiant “Come and Take It.”

◀ **Citizen Soldiers** The Texan defenders were not professional soldiers like those in the Mexican army. Here, John Henry Moore and neighbors fire on Mexican troops sent to bring back the cannon.

Visit The Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum in Austin to see artifacts and exhibits such as these about Texas history and heritage.

◀ **CONTENTS** ▶

Military Dress This coat belonged to an officer in Santa Anna's army. He wore it during the storming of the Alamo. Spurs, like the one shown below, were worn by Mexican officers who rode horses into battle. ▼



▲ **Flags and Standards** This is one of the flags carried by the Mexican cavalry. Armies often carried personal standards, or banners, for identification. This one is quite different from the "homemade" flag of the Texas volunteers from Gonzales.



▲ **Artifacts** Officers in the Mexican army were allowed some luxuries. Shown is one of General Santa Anna's sleeping caps and a glass bottle for serving beverages. The contents of Santa Anna's personal chest were divided among the victorious Texas officers after the Battle of San Jacinto.