

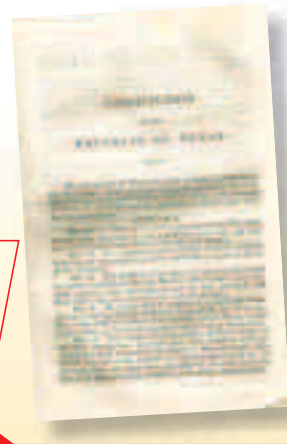
Road to Independence

Why It Matters

The Mexican president Antonio López de Santa Anna responded harshly to tensions in Texas. Delegates to a convention held at Washington-on-the-Brazos believed freedom from Mexico was the only answer to their problems. They wrote a declaration of independence and a constitution for a new government.

The Impact Today

Texans trace the origins of the current constitution back to the one written in 1836. That basic law of the land continues to provide for stable government and protection of the rights of the people.



1835

- ★ The Battle of Gonzales was fought between Mexican troops and Texas colonists
- ★ The Consultation set up a provisional government

1832

1833

1834

1835

1832

- July 4, "America" sung publicly for the first time

1834

- National Republicans changed their name to Whigs



Texas



United States



World

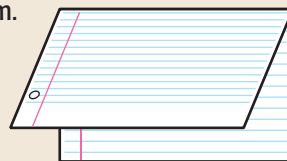


Austin artist Bert Rees completed a mosaic of the Battle of Gonzales in 1959, part of which is shown here. It appears on the front of the Gonzales City Hall.

Identifying Main Ideas Study Foldable

Make this foldable and use it as a journal to help you record information as well as questions and thoughts you have about Texas's journey to independence.

Step 1 Fold a sheet of paper in half from top to bottom.



Step 2 Then fold the paper in half from side to side.



Step 3 Label the foldable as shown.



Reading and Writing As you read the chapter, write journal entries in your foldable from the viewpoint of someone who is personally experiencing the political tensions in Texas at this time. Write descriptive entries about your life as a Texan while Texas struggled for independence.

1836

- ★ The Declaration of Independence from Mexico adopted on March 2
- ★ The Texas Constitution approved on March 16

1836

1837

1838

1839

1838

• Cherokees driven from their homelands onto the Trail of Tears



1839

• Opium War began in China



TEXAS HISTORY Online

Chapter Overview

Visit the texans.glencoe.com Web site and click on **Chapter 9—Chapter Overviews** to preview chapter information.

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Revolution Begins

Guide to Reading

Main Idea

The first shots of the Texas Revolution were fired, and Texans took steps to govern themselves.

Key Terms

committees of correspondence, siege, provisional government, municipality, regular army

Reading Strategy

Organizing Information As you read this section, complete a table like the one shown by filling in the significance of the persons listed.

Person	Significant Actions
General Cós	
Colonel Ugartechea	
Stephen F. Austin	
Sam Houston	

Read to Learn

- which battles began the Texas Revolution.
- what decisions were made at the Consultation of 1835.

Section Theme

Civic Rights and Responsibilities

Texans turned a struggle for state self-government into a war for independence.

Preview of Events

◆ 1835

October 2
Battle of Gonzales

November 3
Consultation begins at San Felipe

November 7
Consultation adopts "Declaration of the People"



Steamboat, c. 1835

A Texas Story

In a letter to his wife Martha, dated December 7, 1835, Micajah Autry wrote: "I have taken passage on the Steam Boat *Pacific* and . . . have met on the same boat a number of acquaintances from Nashville and the District bound for Texas among whom are George C. Childress and his brother. Childress thinks the fighting will be over before we get there and speaks cheerfully of the prospects."

Within three months of Micajah Autry's journey, George Childress would write the Texas Declaration of Independence.


A Mexican Army Arrives in Texas

Tension continued to build in Texas. It seemed to officials both back in the Mexican capital and in Texas that radicals like William B. Travis were becoming disloyal. The small number of soldiers at the forts had

been unable to control the tense situation. More soldiers were needed. The arrival of **General Cós** with additional troops brought the number of Mexican soldiers in San Antonio to 650. Their presence in Texas caused much concern among the settlers. Towns formed committees of safety in case of threat by federal soldiers. Patrols watched the roads to give warnings of approaching troops. Rumors spread through the countryside 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 were formed during the American Revolution—sprang up to keep the colonists informed.


Gonzales—The Lexington of Texas

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 had attempted to take arms and ammunition away from the people. Because of this similarity in the circumstances that touched off the two revolutions, Gonzales is known as the “Lexington of Texas.”



A Shared Past...

The Texan independence fighters must have learned at least one important lesson from the patriots of the American Revolution. Before the days of e-mail and the Internet, getting information from one place to another was a slow process. Setting up a communication network was the first step toward any kind of united political action. The committees of correspondence in both the American and the Texas Revolutions directed much of the early activity of the revolutionaries.



Colonel Ugartechea (oo•gahr•teh•CHAY•ah), the Mexican commander at San Antonio, ordered the people of Gonzales to surrender their small brass cannon. The local official refused and sent runners to the surrounding areas to gather armed men. Colonel Ugartechea then ordered about 100 soldiers to take the cannon by force.

The people buried the cannon in a peach orchard until reinforcements arrived from the countryside. The Texan forces 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



History Through Art

Battle of Gonzales by Bruce Marshall James Tumlinson acquires the cannon from the Mexican government in 1831 (*center back*); after the Battle of Gonzales in 1835, it is buried at Sandies Creek (*center right*); it is unearthed by a flood in 1936 (*bottom right*). **Do you think the artist was successful in his effort to tell the story of the Gonzales cannon? Why or why not?**

the front of the cannon with a white flag that bore the words “Come and Take It.”

When the Mexican troops arrived at Gonzales, they faced 160 armed Texans commanded by **Colonel John H. Moore**. The fighting at Gonzales started in the early morning. After the brief struggle, the Mexican leaders ordered their troops to withdraw toward San Antonio. One Mexican soldier was killed. No Texans died in the confrontation.

Although the Battle of Gonzales was brief and casualties were light, news of the clash quickly spread throughout Texas. Many colonists who previously had been indifferent about the prospect of fighting were now enthusiastic. At San Antonio, General Cós regarded the actions at Gonzales as the outbreak of war.

On to San Antonio

On October 9th—one week after the fighting at Gonzales—a force of about 120 Texans took the garrison at Goliad by surprise. They



battled for about thirty minutes before capturing the presidio. The surrender of the Mexican troops and the victories at Gonzales and Goliad convinced many Texans that Mexican troops could be defeated easily. The only large Mexican force remaining in Texas was the army commanded by General Cós at San Antonio. Texans began gathering around Gonzales for the march against Cós. The cry was now “On to San Antonio!”

Stephen F. Austin was called upon to take command of the 300 Texans assembled at Gonzales. Known as the **Army of the People**, Austin’s troops started their march. As they advanced, more volunteers joined, until nearly 400 made up the ranks. Cós commanded about 750 troops. After some brief fighting around San Antonio, the Texans decided to make camp and lay **siege** to (set up a military blockade around) the city. They had no heavy artillery and wished to avoid an all-out attack on the Mexican defensive positions. The Texans hoped Cós would run out of supplies and quickly be forced to surrender.

✓ Reading Check Describing Which two battles made the colonists believe the Mexicans could be easily defeated?



People of Texas

Juan Nepomuceno Seguín 1806-1890

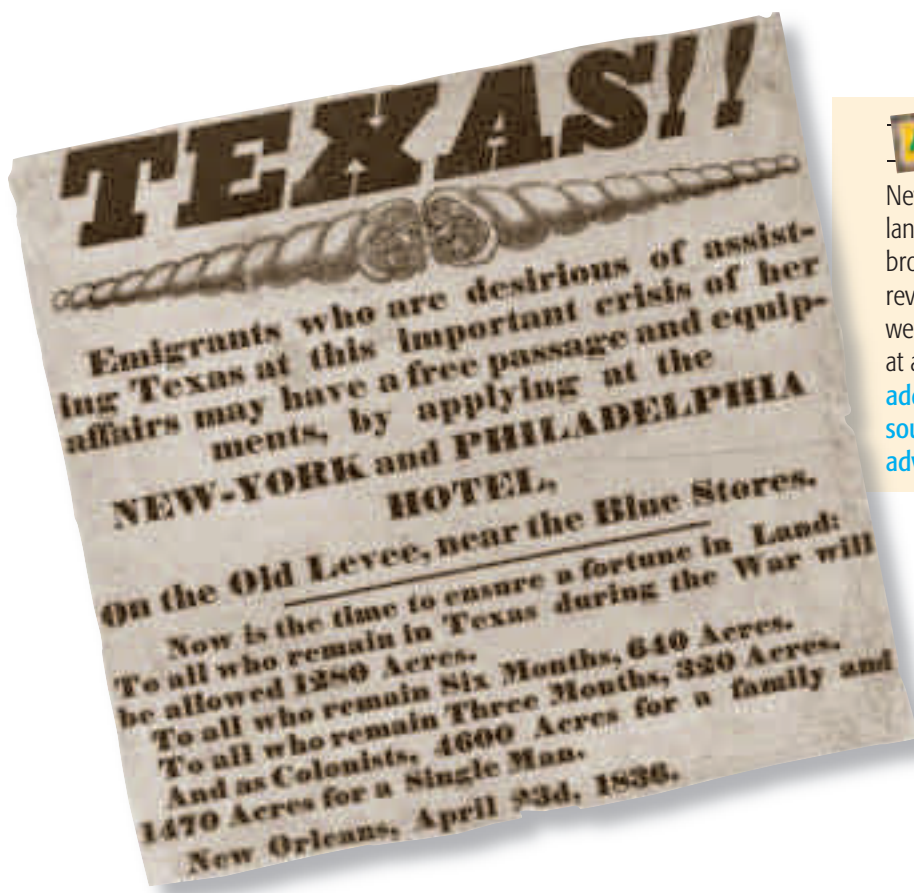


Juan Seguín fought in the Texas Revolution and became a captain in the army. He survived the Battle of the Alamo because he was away searching for reinforcements. He made his way to East Texas where Sam Houston was

putting together an army, but it was too late—the Alamo had fallen. He fought with Houston at the Battle of San Jacinto and helped defeat Santa Anna’s army.

Seguín served in the Texas Senate and as a high official in San Antonio. He

helped defeat a Mexican expedition against San Antonio but was later accused of treason. Born and raised in San Antonio, he was finally forced to leave Texas because he felt like a “foreigner” in his native land.



Picturing History

Newspaper advertisements offering free land in exchange for military service brought many people to Texas during the revolution. These courageous newcomers were willing to risk everything for a chance at a better life after the war. Notice the address of the hotel given in the primary source. How does this differ from advertisements you might see today?

Peace Party Prevails at the Consultation

While the Texan troops camped near San Antonio, other Texans met in **San Felipe** at a **Consultation** on November 3, 1835. Originally, the meeting had been scheduled to take place in Washington-on-the-Brazos on October 15, but it was delayed because of the events at Gonzales and Goliad. The meeting was moved to San Felipe because the town had a printing press.

Fifty-eight delegates representing 14 towns or districts attended the Consultation. **War Party** delegates favored an immediate declaration of independence from Mexico. They believed that the fighting had shown that Texas could no longer live peaceably under Mexico's rule. **Peace Party** delegates also agreed that Texans should oppose Santa Anna, but they objected to an immediate declaration of independence. They wanted the Consultation to declare that Texas was fighting for the Mexican Constitution of 1824, which Santa Anna had overthrown. The Peace Party hoped to win Mexican support with this argument.

On November 6, delegates of the Consultation voted. A motion calling for immediate independence was defeated. Fourteen delegates voted for independence, while 33 members voted against the proposal.

On the following day, the Consultation adopted a statement known as the "Declaration of the People of Texas in General Convention Assembled." In this declaration, printed in both Spanish and English, the Texans declared themselves to be loyal citizens of Mexico. They pledged to support the Mexican Constitution of 1824 and declared that they had taken up arms only to defend themselves and to oppose the rule of Santa Anna. The declaration stated that Texas was no longer bound by the compact of union but that Texans offered their support to such members of the Mexican confederacy as would take up arms against military dictatorship. They urged all Mexican citizens, both in Texas and elsewhere, to join their struggle for democratic government. They also offered land to volunteers who would help them.

 **Reading Check Summarizing** What was stated in the Declaration of the People drafted at the Consultation?

TEXAS TODAY

Since 1957 the citizens of Gonzales have gathered to celebrate their Texas heritage in a three-day “Come and Take It” festival each October. It is here that the first Texas Army of Volunteers gathered, fired the first shot of the Texas Revolution, and became the Alamo’s only reinforcements.

A Provisional Government Begins

After adopting the Declaration of the People, the Consultation created a **provisional government**, or temporary government, for Texas. It consisted of a governor, a lieutenant governor, and a general council with one representative from each of the locally governed areas known as **municipalities**. The powers of the governor and council were defined only vaguely, however. That vagueness would eventually lead to conflict.

The Consultation chose **Henry Smith** of Brazoria as governor and **James W. Robinson** of Nacogdoches as lieutenant governor. Smith and Robinson both were members of the War Party and supported Texas independence, but most of

the members chosen for the council supported the Peace Party. Quarrels continued between the two sides because of their different beliefs.

The Consultation adopted a plan for the creation of a **regular army** of full-time, paid soldiers. **Sam Houston** was chosen to be the commander of the regular army, but he was not given authority over the volunteer army still camped at San Antonio. Born in Virginia, Sam Houston had moved to Tennessee while a young man. He lived with nearby Cherokees for three years, learning their language and customs. After serving in the War of 1812, Houston entered politics as a district attorney and was later a United States congressman and governor of Tennessee. He moved westward in 1829 and lived for several years among the Cherokees again, this time in Indian Territory. He began visiting Texas in 1832, and by 1835 had permanently moved to Texas.

The Consultation named Stephen F. Austin, William H. Wharton, and Branch T. Archer as commissioners to represent Texas in the United States. They were told to obtain troops, supplies, and money to finance the expected war and to aid in the struggle against Santa Anna.

 **Reading Check Identifying** Who was chosen as governor of the new provisional government?

SECTION 1 ASSESSMENT

Checking for Understanding

- Using Key Terms** Pretend you are a soldier in Texas. Write a letter to your family using these words: **siege**, **provisional government**, **municipalities**, and **regular army**.
- Reviewing Facts** What were the political goals of the Peace Party and War Party?

Reviewing Themes

- Civic Rights and Responsibilities** Why is Gonzales known as the “Lexington of Texas”?

Organizing to Learn

- Searching for Facts** Draw a chart like the one shown below. Use the information in this section to answer the following questions about the Consultation of November 1835.

Where was the Consultation held?	
Who attended?	
Why did they meet?	
What did they decide?	

Critical Thinking

- Making Comparisons** Name advantages and disadvantages of the provisional government’s structure.
- Identifying Leadership Qualities** How would Sam Houston’s background help him as a leader?

TAKS PRACTICE

Summarizing Describe the steps leading up to the Battle of Gonzales. What effect did the battle have on the fight for independence?

Technology TAKS Skillbuilder



Evaluating a Web Site

Why Learn This Skill?

The Internet has become a valuable research tool. It is convenient to use, and the information contained on the Internet is plentiful. However, it is up to the user to distinguish between quality information and inaccurate or incomplete information, just as you would with printed material.

Learning the Skill

On a reliable Web site, the author and publisher or sponsor should be clearly indicated. The information on the site should be current, and the site should be easy to navigate.

To evaluate a Web site, ask yourself the following questions:

- Is more than one source used for background information within the site?
- Does the site contain a bibliography?
- Are the links within the site up to date?
- Is the author clearly identified?
- Does the site explore the topic in depth?
- Does the site contain links to other useful resources?
- Is the information easy to access?
- Is the design appealing?

Practicing the Skill

Visit the Web site featured on this page and answer the following questions.

Lone Star Junction (www.lsjunction.com)

- 1 Who is the author and sponsor of the Web site?
- 2 What links does the site contain?



- 3 What sources were used for the information contained on the site?
- 4 Does the site explore the topic in depth? Why or why not?
- 5 Is the design of the site appealing? Why or why not?

TAKS PRACTICE

Evaluating a Web Site Go to a Web site that you visit regularly or choose a Web site that you want to learn more about. Answer the following questions about the Web site.

1. Name each of the links.
2. Choose one of the links and describe its contents.
3. Is the information from that link reliable? Why or why not?
4. Is the information from that link detailed? Why or why not?

The Capture of San Antonio

Guide to Reading

Main Idea

Texans won a victory at San Antonio, but the provisional government failed.

Key Terms

veto
override

Reading Strategy

Classifying Information As you read this section, complete a chart like the one shown here outlining the importance of the following dates.

Date	Importance
December 5, 1835	
December 9, 1835	
March 1836	

Read to Learn

- what military events occurred in the winter of 1835–1836.
- what problems were caused by the provisional government.

Section Theme

Culture and Traditions People of many ethnicities joined together in the fight for Texas independence.

Preview of Events

◆ 1835

◆ 1836

November 25

Austin leaves for U.S. to seek aid

November 26

Grass Fight outside San Antonio

December 5

Attack on San Antonio begins

A Texas Story



New Orleans dock

Adventurous Americans had a lively interest in Texan affairs and searched for news of the latest events. In 1835, Micajah Autry wrote, "Major Arnold from Tennessee and myself left the rest of the company . . . and went down to Orleans for the purpose of learning the true state of things in Texas . . . The result was that the war is still going favourably . . . It is thought that Santa Anna will make [an invasion] . . . in the Spring but there will be soldiers enough of the real grit in Texas by that time to overrun all Mexico."

The Grass Fight

Stephen F. Austin left his command at San Antonio for the United States on November 25, 1835, to plead for aid. **Edward Burleson** of Mina (MEE•nah), present-day Bastrop, was chosen to command the volunteer army.

Soon after Burleson became commander of the volunteers, one of the army scouts, **Erastus "Deaf" Smith**, reported that a Mexican cavalry and mule train were heading toward San Antonio. The Texans believed that the mules were carrying bags of silver to pay Cós's soldiers at San Antonio. A group of Texans went to intercept the "silver train." The Texans fought with the Mexican troops and captured some of the mules. The Texans were disappointed to discover that the mules were carrying only grass for Cós's cavalry horses. This skirmish came to be known as the "**Grass Fight**."

Except for the Grass Fight, there was little military activity around San Antonio in October and November 1835. The Texan volunteers grew restless, discouraged, and hungry. Winter was approaching, and most of the soldiers had no coats. Many of the original volunteers returned to their homes in late November. In early December, the siege was called off and the baggage wagons were loaded.

The Assault on San Antonio

As Burleson prepared to leave the camp near San Antonio, he received information that Cós's army was weak and could not win against a major attack. By this time, news of the war had spread, and hundreds of volunteers were arriving in Texas from the United States.

Ben Milam, an empresario, had helped in the capture of Goliad and marched with the army towards San Antonio. When he learned that a majority of the army had decided not to attack, Milam was convinced that this would be disastrous for the cause of independence. He knew a



November 26, 1835, was the occasion of the Grass Fight between Mexican and Texan forces outside San Antonio.

Predicting Consequences *What is the approximate distance between San Antonio and Gonzales?*

victory would encourage Texans to continue the fight. He then made his famous plea: "Who will go with old Ben Milam into San Antonio?" The 47-year-old leader gathered about 300 volunteers to follow him to the old Spanish capital. Milam divided his force into two columns, leading one himself and designating **Frank W. Johnson** to lead the other. Johnson, a close friend of Stephen F. Austin, was in favor of going to war with Mexico and complete independence for Texas.



Picturing History

Ben Milam (*left*) was killed when the Texas forces laid siege to the Mexican troops at the Battle of San Antonio. **Who assumed command after Milam's death?**

The assault began on December 5 and lasted for four days. Milam's troops had the advantage because the Mexican army was equipped for fighting only on open battlefields. On the third day of the battle (also called the **Siege of Béxar**), Milam was killed, and Johnson took full command. During the fighting, the Mexican forces were driven toward the center of town and took refuge in the abandoned mission known as the **Alamo**. Cós asked for surrender terms on December 9 and promised he would never again fight against the colonists or the Constitution of 1824. He and his soldiers were allowed to return to Mexico a few days later.

The capture of San Antonio was a significant victory. A volunteer army of about 400 Texans had defeated a force of nearly 1,000 Mexican troops.

Two Texans were killed, and 21 were wounded. About 150 Mexican soldiers were killed, wounded, or captured.

The Texas army now held both Goliad and the Alamo. Texas soil was cleared of Mexican troops. Believing that the war was over, the Texan volunteers began returning to their homes.

✓ Reading Check Explaining What did Cós promise according to the surrender terms?

Tejanos and African Americans Join the Fight

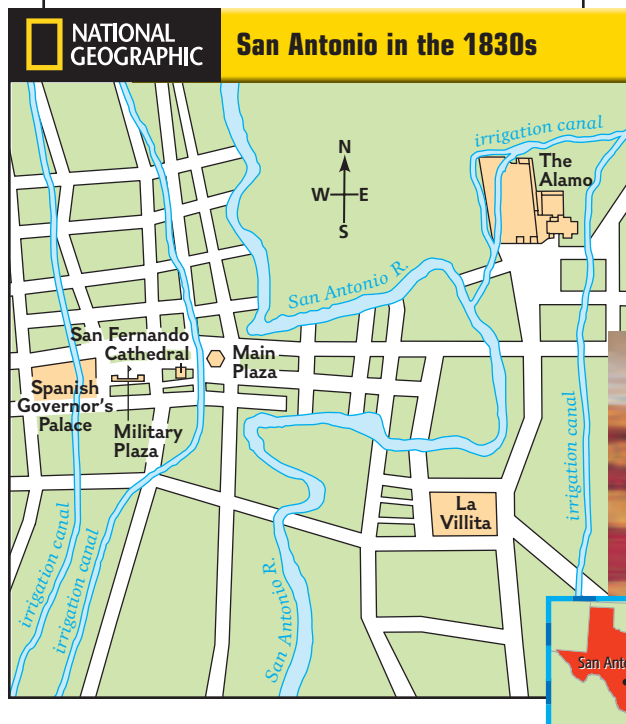
The Siege of Béxar had divided the Tejanos of San Antonio. Most stayed neutral, but some helped Cós. The Texas army at San Antonio included more than 100 Tejanos. Many of them served in a scouting company, commanded by **Captain Juan N. Seguín**. Born in San Antonio, Seguín was a supporter of the Texas movement for independence. As Cós began his invasion of Texas, Seguín recruited volunteers from Mexican ranches along the San Antonio River. Plácido Benavides of Victoria brought 30 Mexican ranchers to join the fight. Manuel Flores of San Antonio volunteered to serve under Seguín, his brother-in-law.

Hendrick Arnold, a free African American, guided Milam's column in the battle. As did Flores, Arnold later served in the Battle of San Jacinto. Another free African American, Greenbury Logan, was the third Texan wounded at San Antonio, suffering a wound to his right arm that crippled him for life.

TAKS PRACTICE

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." Two free African Americans, Hendrick Arnold and Greenbury Logan, fought valiantly in San Antonio.

Describing What advantage did the Texans hold in the assault on San Antonio?





People of Texas

David G. Burnet 1788-1870



Born in New Jersey, Burnet was raised by a brother after his parents died. A lawyer, he moved to Galveston in 1831.

His political career began in 1833 as a member of the convention that drafted a proposed constitution for Texas as a state. At the

Convention of 1836, which declared Texas's independence, Burnet was elected ad interim (temporary) president of the Republic of Texas. In spite of angering many Texans during his term, he was later elected vice president under Mirabeau Lamar.

When Texas became a state, Burnet was appointed its first secretary of state. After the Civil War, he was chosen to represent Texas in the U.S. Senate, but because Texas did not meet Republican Reconstruction requirements, he was unable to serve.

The Provisional Government

While the fighting was raging at San Antonio, the provisional government carried on the work of the Permanent Council, a group formed before the Consultation met. The Permanent Council had created a post office and had made plans for a navy and an army. It also appealed to U.S. citizens for more men, money, and supplies.

Governor Henry Smith of the provisional government and members of the general council quarreled frequently. In December the council voted to hold a convention of the people in March 1836. Governor Smith **vetoed**, or rejected,

the proposal. The general council then **overrode**, or passed the proposal over, his veto.

Another disagreement concerned a proposed expedition to capture the Mexican town of Matamoros (mah•tah•MOH•rohs). The council approved the plan, but again the governor opposed it. Neither side would cooperate with the other. The result was a near breakdown of government. In early 1836, when Texas should have been making preparations to fight Santa Anna, little was being accomplished.

✓ Reading Check Examining Why was there a near complete breakdown in Texas government?

SECTION 2 ASSESSMENT

Checking for Understanding

- Using Key Terms** What is a synonym for **veto**? What is a synonym for **override**?
- Reviewing Facts** What did Texans find on the Mexican silver train?

Reviewing Themes

- Culture and Traditions** How many Tejanos were in the Texas army at San Antonio?

Organizing to Learn

- Categorizing** Draw a chart and describe the actions each individual took during the siege of San Antonio in 1835.

Person	Action
Milam	
Johnson	
Cós	
Seguín	

Critical Thinking

- Contrasting** In 2 or 3 sentences, compare how the volunteers probably felt after the Grass Fight and after the capture of San Antonio.

TAKS PRACTICE

Determining Cause and Effect
What were some of the reasons that caused the near breakdown of the provisional government?

The Convention of 1836

Guide to Reading

Main Idea

Texans declared their independence and set up their government as Santa Anna's forces defeated Texans at the Alamo and in South Texas.

Key Terms

petition, executive, legislative, judicial, civil rights, ad interim

Reading Strategy

Organizing Information As you read, complete a chart like the one shown here listing three grievances that led to Texas's Declaration of Independence from Mexico.

Grievances
1.
2.
3.

Read to Learn

- what the Texas Declaration of Independence from Mexico stated.
- what provisions the Texas Constitution included.

Section Theme

Civic Rights and Responsibilities
The Texas constitution provided for representative government.

Preview of Events

◆ 1836

◆ 1837

March 2

Texas Declaration of Independence adopted

March 16

Texas constitution approved



Texas cannon

A Texas Story

Texas immigrant and new patriot Micajah Autry wrote to his wife in the spring of 1835. "I have little doubt but that the army will receive ample supplies . . . as the people of Texas have formed themselves into something like a government which will give them credit in Orleans . . . I am determined to provide a home . . . or perish." Autry died at the Alamo defending the land he had lived in for only two months.

Santa Anna Crosses Into Texas

In December 1835, the council—over the veto of Governor Smith—called for a new convention, to be held in March 1836. Texans hoped that Santa Anna would make no real movements toward Texas until after the convention. They were disappointed to learn that the Mexican president

was marching toward Texas with a large army. In early February, Santa Anna crossed the Rio Grande. His army arrived in San Antonio on February 23. The Texans still remaining in San Antonio moved into the Alamo. As they were making the Alamo stronger, other Texans were traveling to Washington-on-the-Brazos.

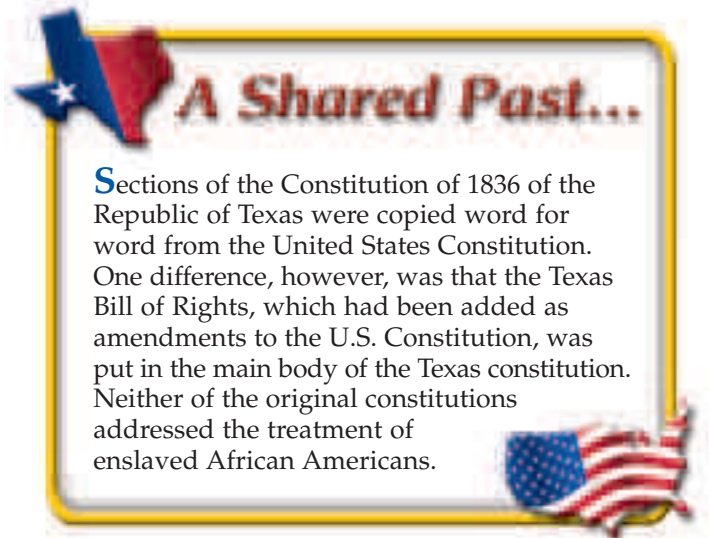
The Convention Declares Independence

Many Texans were looking forward to the new convention. During the last week of February, elected delegates began arriving at Washington-on-the-Brazos. The town consisted of a few poorly constructed cabins, and tree stumps were still standing in the main street. There was no library, no printing press, and no convention hall. The delegates, who were all male, met in near-freezing weather, in an unfinished building. They hung cloth over the open windows in an attempt to keep out the biting north winds.

The Convention of 1836 began its work on March 1, 1836, with 59 delegates. Only 2 of the members, **José Antonio Navarro** and **José Francisco Ruíz**, were native Texans. At least 3 other native-born Texans—Gaspar Flores, Erasmo Seguín, and José María Carbajal—were elected as delegates but did not attend. Forty-five of the delegates were natives of southern states of the United States. Seven had been born in northern states. There was one member from Mexico, one from England, one from Scotland, one from Ireland, and one from Canada.

The first work of the convention was to elect Richard Ellis as chairman and H.S. Kimble as secretary of the meeting. A motion

was then passed that a committee be created to write a declaration of independence from Mexico. It is generally agreed that the declaration presented the next morning was written by **George C. Childress**, a recent arrival from Tennessee.



The Texas Declaration of Independence was similar to the U.S. Declaration of Independence written 60 years earlier. The Texas Declaration stated that the government of Santa Anna had violated the liberties guaranteed under the Mexican Constitution of 1824. The declaration charged that Texans had been deprived of freedom of religion, the right to trial by jury, the right to bear arms, and the right to **petition**, or request something from, the government. It stated that Mexico had failed to provide a system of public education. Because the Mexican government had sent a large army, the declaration also noted that the Texans' protests against these policies were met with force. Because of these grievances, the declaration proclaimed the following:

“The people of Texas, in solemn convention assembled, appealing to a candid world for the necessities of our condition, do hereby resolve and declare that our political connection with the Mexican nation has forever ended; and that the people of Texas do now constitute a free, sovereign, and independent republic.”

The Declaration of Independence was adopted by unanimous vote of the Convention on March 2, 1836, and the delegates who were present signed the document. March 2 is celebrated as Texas Independence Day.

Reading Check Summarizing What grievances did the Texas Declaration of Independence address?

TEXAS
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Student Web Activity Visit the texans.glencoe.com Web site and click on **Chapter 9—Student Web Activity** to learn more about the Texas Convention of 1836.

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CONTENTS



History Through Art

Reading of the Texas Declaration of Independence by Charles and Fanny Normann This document was adopted unanimously by the delegates of the Convention of 1836. **Who are some of the individuals who would have been present at the reading?**

The Delegates Write a Constitution

After the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, the convention turned to writing a constitution for the new republic. For two weeks, the delegates debated and discussed various provisions of this document. The delegates were anxious to finish the Texas constitution quickly. Santa Anna's presence in Texas meant a possible attack by Mexican troops. On March 16, the document was completed and approved.

There were similarities between the Constitution of Texas and that of the United States. Provisions were made for three branches of government: the **executive** (chief governing officer), **legislative** (lawmaking), and **judicial** (court) branches. The chief executive, or president, was given a great amount of power to carry out the duties of the office entrusted to him.

The Texas constitution contained a Bill of Rights, guaranteeing freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of religion, trial by jury, and other basic **civil rights**, or guaranteed freedoms. Some of the parts of the constitution were based on practices common in Spanish-Mexican law courts. These included recognizing that property was jointly owned by husbands and wives and measures to help people in debt. Some provisions were unique to Texas at the time. Ministers and priests were barred from holding public office—a strict interpretation of the principle of the separation of church and state.

The Texas constitution made slavery legal. The legislature was forbidden to free slaves in Texas or to prevent their importation from the United States. Free African Americans were not permitted to live in the Republic of Texas without congressional permission. African

Americans who fought for Texas independence found themselves in a strange position. They were unable to live freely in the state that they, as free people, had helped liberate.

The Ad Interim Government Takes Control

With Mexican troops in Texas, it was impossible to hold general elections to approve the constitution and to vote for a leader of the new republic. It became necessary to set up a government. The convention's last act was to select officers for an **ad interim**, or temporary, government. (See table on page 218.) These officers were to serve until regular elections could be held. **David G. Burnet**, an early pioneer in Texas and formerly an empresario, was chosen as the ad interim president. 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.

Reading Check **Identifying** Who was the president of the ad interim government?

A Convention Diary

Colonel William F. Gray, a visitor at the convention, kept a diary of the proceedings. Entries from Gray's diary provide a vivid picture of the delegates, their work, and their feelings.

Sunday, February 28, 1836

This evening a number of members arrived, among them Lorenzo de Zavala, the most interesting man in Texas. He is a native of Yucatán; was Governor of the State of Mexico five years, minister of the fiscal department, and ambassador to France from the Republic of Mexico, which post he renounced when Santa Anna proved [disloyal] to the liberal cause . . . He now lives on his estate on Buffalo Bayou, near Galveston Bay. He is a fine writer and a Republican; a fine statesman . . . [He] has published a volume of travels in the United States, printed in Paris in the Spanish language.

Monday, February 29, 1836

A warm day, threatening rain from the south. Many other members are coming in and it is



History Through Art

Delegates Voting on the 1836 Constitution by Bruce Marshall

News of the fall of the Alamo reached Washington-on-the-Brazos shortly before the convention adjourned. As Santa Anna was rumored to be on the way, delegates left quickly. The new government moved to Harrisburg, near present-day Houston. **What mood does the artist convey in this painting of the adjournment of the Convention of 1836?**

now evident that a quorum will be formed tomorrow. Gen'l Houston's arrival has created more sensation than that of any other man. He is evidently the people's man, and seems to take pains to ingratiate himself with everybody . . .

Wednesday, March 2, 1836

The morning clear cold, but the cold somewhat moderated . . .

Mr. Childress from the committee reported a Declaration of Independence, which he read. 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 Sam Houston . . .

A committee of one member from each municipality was appointed to draft a constitution. They subdivided themselves into three committees, on the executive, legislative, and judicial branches; Zavala chairman on the executive.

An express was this evening received from Col. Travis, stating that on the 25th a

demonstration was made on the Alamo by a party of Mexicans of about 300 . . . It is believed the Alamo is safe.

Sunday, March 6, 1836

This morning, while at breakfast, a dispatch was received from Travis, dated Alamo, March 3, 1836. The members of the Convention and the citizens all crowded into the Convention room to hear it read . . .

A great many persons are . . . preparing to start to the [scenes of fighting]. In the afternoon Houston left, accompanied by his staff . . . The town has been [in a bustle all day], but is now quiet enough.

Wednesday, March 16, 1836

. . . [After supper the delegates met again and] proceeded to business. The constitution not being quite ready, they adjourned until 10 o'clock. They met at that hour and went to work. At 12 [a.m.] the constitution was finally adopted. A [law] organizing a provisional government was then adopted, consisting of president and vice-president . . . with most of the powers conferred by the Constitution on the president and congress.

. . . an election was held [immediately]. David G. Burnet and Samuel P. Carson were nominated for president. Burnet was elected by a majority of seven. Lorenzo de Zavala was then nominated for vice president by Robert Potter; no opposition. He was elected by a unanimous vote . . .

Frequent alarms were brought in during the night. Spies and patrols were ordered out; much excitement.

Santa Anna Advances

On March 17 the convention adjourned. Two days earlier, reports had been received that the Alamo had fallen. A messenger arrived on March 17 and reported that Santa Anna's army

Ad Interim Government Officers

President	David G. Burnet
Vice President	Lorenzo de Zavala
Secretary of State	Samuel P. Carson
Secretary of Treasury	Bailey Hardeman
Secretary of War	Thomas J. Rusk
Secretary of Navy	Robert Potter
Attorney General	David Thomas
Commander of the Army	Sam Houston



Making Inferences With the threat of Mexican troops in Texas making elections impossible, the first officials to serve under the new constitution were elected by the members of the Convention of 1836, rather than by the general public. *How does the list of government offices reflect the fact that Texans believed their new state to be in danger?*

People of Texas

George C. Childress 1804-1841



Childress was born in Nashville, Tennessee, where he also practiced law and edited the *Nashville Banner*. He made his first trip to Texas in 1834 to visit his uncle, but after raising money and volunteers in Tennessee for the Texas

army, he decided to move to Texas permanently.

Childress was an elected representative of Milam Municipality at the Convention of 1836. He introduced a resolution authorizing a committee of five members to draft a declaration of

independence. He was appointed chairman of the committee and is recognized as the primary author of the declaration. Following the convention, Childress was sent to Washington, D.C., as a diplomatic agent of the Republic of Texas.

was marching toward Washington-on-the-Brazos. William F. Gray wrote in his diary that, after the convention adjourned, the members scattered “in all directions, with haste and in confusion.” General panic seemed to spread throughout central Texas.

President Burnet and his cabinet immediately left Washington-on-the-Brazos and 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, 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 Check Explaining** Why was the ad interim government forced to flee so many times?

SECTION 3 ASSESSMENT

Checking for Understanding

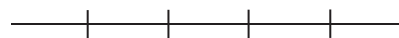
- Using Key Terms** Define *petition*, *executive*, *legislative*, *judicial*, *civil rights*, and *ad interim*.
- Reviewing Facts** Who were the two native Texans that attended the Convention of 1836?

Reviewing Themes

- Civic Rights and Responsibilities** What were some of the key points of the Texas Declaration of Independence adopted by the Convention of 1836?

Organizing to Learn

- Sequencing** Create a time line and arrange the following events in the correct sequence.



- Declaration of Independence was unanimously adopted.
- Lorenzo de Zavala was elected vice president.
- Convention receives a dispatch about the Alamo from Travis.
- General Houston arrived at the convention.

Critical Thinking

- Making Comparisons** Use the information in this section to name and describe some of the similarities between the Texas Constitution of 1836 and the United States Constitution.



Drawing Inferences What did the Texas constitution say about African Americans? Knowing this information, how do you think the African Americans felt about their position in the area?

Chapter Summary

Road to Independence

1835

- ★ Texas colonists and Mexican troops fight at Gonzales on October 2.
- Texans form the Consultation in San Felipe on November 3 to discuss Santa Anna's rule.
- The Consultation discusses independence, adopts the Declaration of the People, forms a provisional government, and establishes a regular army.

- ★ Texans capture the Alamo from Mexican forces on December 9.
- The general council of the provisional government calls for a new convention to be held in March 1836.

1836

- ★ Santa Anna arrives with Mexican troops in San Antonio on February 23.
- The convention begins in Washington-on-the-Brazos on March 1.
- ★ The convention adopts a Declaration of Independence from Mexico on March 2.
- ★ The convention approves the Texas Constitution on March 16 and selects temporary officers for the government.
- The convention adjourns on March 17.
- Santa Anna's army advances toward Harrisburg.

Reviewing Key Terms

Number your paper from 1 to 8. Next to each number, write the term from the list below that best completes the sentence.

siege	regular army	petition
executive	municipality	legislative
ad interim	veto	

1. The president decided to _____ the new land bill.
2. The _____ branch of government made new laws.
3. The Texans chose to lay _____ to the city of San Antonio.
4. The new constitution established a strong _____ branch, with a president elected to a two-year term of office.
5. The citizens of the _____ voted to elect a new city council.
6. Sam Houston was chosen as commander of the _____.
7. Texans wanted the right to _____ their government if they believed they had a grievance against it.
8. Officers of the government were appointed on an _____ basis until elections could be held.

Reviewing Key Facts

9. List three ways in which Texans tried to protect themselves against the arrival of General Cós and his troops in 1835.
10. Name two African Americans and two Tejanos who fought for Texas independence.
11. Explain why the capture of San Antonio was an important victory for Texas.
12. Cite reasons why Texas was almost without a government during the early months of 1836.
13. Describe the document read and adopted by the Convention of 1836 on March 2.
14. Identify the author of the Texas Declaration of Independence.

Critical Thinking

15. **Making Inferences** What did the Battle of Gonzales demonstrate about Texas colonists?
16. **Analyzing Information** Why could it be said that during 1835 Texans were talking peacefully but acting warlike?



Geography and History Activity

17. Study the map above. In two or three sentences describe the relative location of San Antonio. Why were so many battles fought near this important city?

Practicing Skills

Evaluating a Web Site A Web site can provide information about a variety of topics. However, it is important to consider the accuracy of the source and content. Visit the official Web site of the State of Texas (www.state.tx.us) and answer the following questions.

18. Are the links up to date and current?
 19. Do the links provide useful and accurate information?
 20. Is the design appealing?
 21. Is the information easy to access? Is it properly labeled?
- You might also want to compare the State of Texas Web site with another state's Web site.



Building Technology Skills

22. **Recognizing People** Visit the Web site www.lsjunction.com and click on "People" under the Archives section. Examine the list that appears. How many of the individuals do you know something about? Record what you know, and then click on each individual's name to learn more.



Self-Check Quiz

Visit the texans.glencoe.com Web site and click on Chapter 9—Self-Check Quizzes to prepare for the chapter test.

CLICK HERE



Portfolio/TAKS Writing Activity

23. **Writing Letters With a Point of View** Imagine that you are a delegate to the Convention of 1836. Write a letter describing the actions at the Convention. Explain how you would have voted on key issues.

Cooperative Learning Activity

24. **Debating Issues** Read the following debate position statement: *The Texas Revolution could not have been avoided.* Form two teams of two members each. Team A will argue for the statement; Team B will argue against the statement. The first speaker on Team A will make a three-minute speech for the statement. A speaker from Team B will make a three-minute speech against it. The second speaker from Team A will answer the arguments of Team B. The second speaker from Team B will answer the arguments of Team A.



Use information from this chapter to answer the question below.

The Texas Constitution stated that

- A San Antonio would become the temporary capital of the Republic of Texas.
- B Sam Houston was to be the first president of the Republic of Texas.
- C free African Americans had to petition the legislature to remain in Texas.
- D all citizens of Texas became citizens of the United States.

Test-Taking Tip:

A statement can be incorrect because just one or two words make it incorrect. In order to spot the details that make the statement incorrect, read slowly and then ask yourself if the statement is true.