The Road to San Jacinto
Santa Anna Remains in Texas

– The Texan defeats at the Alamo and in South Texas allowed Santa Anna to move into Central Texas unopposed

– Santa Anna wanted to leave Texas and let General Vicente Filisola finish the war.
General Vicente Filisola

- Santa Anna was convinced the Texians were beaten
- Filisola realized the task of defeating the men with Houston would not be easy.
- He convinced Santa Anna to stay.
Houston’s Army Retreats

– The Runaway Scrape - Process of retreating and training that Sam Houston used at the end of the war.

– With 400 Troops, Houston retreated East toward the Colorado River, hoping to pick up additional men

– The army grew to nearly 1,000 volunteers as it moved East

– Houston learned that Fannin and his soldiers had been captured
Texan attitudes

– Houston’s soldiers became resentful because their homes were being destroyed and they wanted to fight the Mexican soldiers
– Houston believed that his forces were still too weak and needed more time to train.
Panic Causes Runaway Scrape

– Fearing the Mexican army would move in and harm them, hundreds of Texas families moved east
– Heavy rains and sickness made the journey miserable
Scouts!
Juan Seguin

• Helps Texas civilians escape
• destroys heavy supplies Texans cannot carry
• protect Texas Army during retreat.
Hendrick Arnold

– Being an African-American, Arnold posed as a “runaway slave” and moved through the Mexican army camps gathering information for Houston
Deaf Smith

- infiltrates camps in disguise as a Mexican
- He too sends information on Santa Anna
The Mexican Army Follows Houston

On April 5, Santa Anna crossed the Colorado River and tried to overtake the Texans.
Houston continued to move

– Houston moved Southeast toward the San Jacinto River
– On April 11, 1836 He received a gift from the people of Cincinnati, Ohio.
- Two cannons called the “Twin Sisters”
- Having lost the Texas artillery at the Alamo, Goliad and during the runaway scrape, this could not have come at a better time
What was Houston doing?

- Many Texans felt Houston was heading to Louisiana-running for safety to the USA
• Others thought he might get military aid from General Edmund P. Gaines commander of US Army in Louisiana
• Instead, Houston continued to move south to Harrisburg and prepared to fight.
Battle of San Jacinto

After gathering supplies and training his troops during the Runaway Scrape, Houston marched his troops down Buffalo Bayou towards Santa Anna’s camp. Houston found that Santa Anna camped out in the open in a vulnerable spot, and camped his men in a spot that was partially hidden in a grove of trees.
The day before the battle, there were several small fights. In one of the fights, a private named Mirabeau B. Lamar saved the lives of two Texans and was promoted to Colonel and put in charge of the cavalry.
Before the battle, Houston sent Deaf Smith on a special mission to destroy the bridge at Vince's Bayou.

This effectively destroyed the retreat route for both the Mexican army as well as his Texans.
On April 21, 1836 Houston ordered his army to attack the exhausted Mexican soldiers as they took their afternoon siestas.
Taken by surprise, 630 Mexican soldiers were killed and 730 captured in 18 minutes of fighting.
The next day, Santa Anna was captured while hiding in the nearby marshes.

Texas Independence was secured.