TEXAS REVOLUTION
The War Begins!

By 1835, many Texans were upset with the Mexican government because of Santa Anna’s actions.

Fearing trouble, Mexican general Domingo de Ugartechea, ordered the people of Gonzales to return a canon that had been given to DeWitt four years ago to aid in the raids of Native Americans.

The people refused to hand it over and Ugartechea then sent troops to take it by force.
Battle of Gonzales

★ The Texans flew a flag that said “COME AND TAKE IT” to taunt the Mexican troops.
★ On October 2, 1835, the Battle of Gonzalez broke out
★ Though losses were minimal, this battle marked a clear break between Mexican government & TX settlers and displayed the defiance
Meanwhile in other parts of TX...

★ Texans were calling for **reinforcements** in nearby towns to **resist the Mexican demands** & because of that their **militia grew** almost twice as big as the Mexican army

★ After Gonzales, the presidio of Goliad was captured on Oct. 10

★ Motivated by their Victory at Gonzales, Texans began planning to **drive Cos out** of San Antonio.
March to San Antonio

- Austin set up camp on the outskirts of San Antonio, where he found support from the city’s Tejanos to join the Texas army, including Juan Seguin, son of Erasmo.
- However, the army needed training and better equipment so Austin’s military strategy was to fix that.
- Austin sent James ‘Jim’ Bowie to find a closer location to keep a better eye on Cos.
- On October 28, Cos sent an army to ambush Bowie’s troops near Mission Concepcion but the Texans won the resulting battle because they were in a good defensive position & better weapons.
- The wins in these small conflicts, boosted the confidence of the Texan army leading them to believe they could beat Mexico.
The Grass Fight

- After the battle, Austin moved headquarters where the Texas army could lay siege to San Antonio.
- Because the Mexican army was well supplied, the siege had little effect and the army grew discouraged.
- When Austin moved up ranks, Edward Burleson took command of the army.
- On November 26, Erastus ‘Deaf’ Smith, one of Burleson’s scouts reported that a large group of Mexican soldiers with pack animals were headed to San Antonio.
- The Texans believed that they were carrying silver so they went to go seize it.
- After an easy defeat, the Texans found only grass to feed the horses.
- This incident showed that the siege was working since they needed food for their starving animals.
Capture of San Antonio

★ The siege and lack of supplies had the Mexican soldiers worn out
★ After Texans learned this, Colonel Ben Millan, shouted to the troops “Who will go with old Ben Milam into San Antonio?”
★ This got the Texans to rise up and get organized to fight
★ On December 5, 1835, The Texans attacked early in the morning
★ Although Milan was killed on the 3rd day of fighting, the battle was turning in the Texan’s favor.
★ On Dec. 9, Mexican forces were pushed out of the center, and the following day, Cos surrendered and agreed to move troops out of Texas.
The Consultation

★ On November 4, 1835 the Consultation began to discuss Texan’s plans for dealing with Mexico.
★ One side wanted Texas’ independence from Mexico, the other wanted to remain loyal to Mexico.
★ The Declaration of November 7, 1835 was issued to justify the fighting against Mexico.
★ They stated that they were defending their rights under the Constitution of 1824 and if they failed to restore it, Texas would declare independence from Mexico.
Provisional Government

- The Consultation created a **temporary government**
- Henry Smith was elected governor, & they also established a professional army that had Sam Houston as the commander in chief.
- **Conflict broke out** among members of the provisional government such as
  - Military Strategy
  - Did not have clear goals
  - No good leadership
  - Conflicts within the general council
  - Disagreements between pro-war and pro-peace groups
The Mexican Army advances...

- **Davy Crockett**, a frontiersman from Tennessee, volunteered to join the Texas army at the Alamo.
- At the same time Santa Anna was leading troops to Texas to punish Texans for their rebellion.
- Texas army was unprepared for an advance by Mexican troops, and were easily defeated and imprisoned.
- Houston recommended that the Alamo be destroyed but Henry Smith (governor) argued that it was important to defend it and they had access to weapons left by Cos.
The Siege of the Alamo

★ As Mexican forces approached San Antonio, Texans built up the fortifications around the Alamo, an old mission and placed cannons in strategic spots along the walls. However, they needed more troops to defend such a large area.
★ 1,000 soldiers would’ve been able to defend it properly but Texas had 150 soldiers.
★ Once Santa Anna’s reached the city, he demanded the Texas rebels surrender
★ The Texans shot a cannon at the Mexican army
★ Santa Anna then flew a large blood-red flag saying “NO QUARTER”
★ On Feb. 24, 1836 Mexican forces began firing, & Travis wrote a battle cry which stated “VICTORY OR DEATH”
The Fall of the Alamo

★ Juan Seguin acted as Travis’s messenger and got his letter delivered.

★ On March 6, Texans were awaken by Mexican soldiers as they were shouting and playing a song that meant no mercy would be shown.

★ Mexican soldiers forced themselves onto the Alamo, then they captured a cannon and opened fire at them.

★ After the smoke cleared out, the main defenders (along with almost everyone else) of the Alamo died, Bowie, Crockett, Travis.
Remember the Alamo!

★ Santa Anna believed that this would convince Texans to surrender but instead, became a symbol that they must fight at any cost!
★ “REMEMBER THE ALAMO” became a rallying cry for the Texan army.
The Convention of 1836

★ On March 2, 1836 the convention delegates acted quickly to declare independence from Mexico and adopted the Texas Declaration of Independence.
★ Written mostly by George C. Childress, it listed the complaints Texans had against Santa Anna’s government.
★ Since they denied the rights guaranteed under the Constitution of 1824, Texans couldn't tolerate being part of Mexico.
The Constitution of 1836

★ The Constitution of 1836:
  ○ Modeled U.S. Constitution
  ○ 3 branches of Government
  ○ Republic-styled government
  ○ Based on idea of Popular Sovereignty
★ Included a Bill of Rights
★ Allowed slavery
★ Texans created a temporary government (ad interim)
  ○ David G. Burnet was President
  ○ Lorenzo de Zavala was V.P.
Runaway Scrape

- During Convention of 1836, delegates had given Houston full control of army.
- After Houston sent out his scouts, the Texans heard for the first time the details of the defenders' last stand at the Alamo.
- The news of the fall of the Alamo and word that Santa Anna was making his way through Texas with a bigger army, prompted many Texas settlers to flee east and abandon their settlements. This movement was known as the Runaway Scrape.
General Jose de Urrea was traveling up the coastline, attacking settlements on his path. After defeating Texans at the Battle of Refugio, he turned his attention to Goliad where James Fannin had an army. On March 19, the Texans found themselves surrounded by Mexican troops, Fannin then chose to stand & fight. At the Battle of Coleto, Texans were heavily outnumbered and wounded so Fannin decided to surrender & were imprisoned. Urrea planned to keep the Texans as prisoners of war but Santa Anna demanded that anyone that opposed the government must be executed. On March 27, Mexican soldiers shot more than 400 Texans & executed all of Fannin’s troops. This was known as the Goliad Massacre.
Battle of San Jacinto

★ Houston’s army moved to San Jacinto river and camped in a woody area, while Santa Anna camped in vulnerable spot.
★ After debating, Houston decided to **attack** on the afternoon of **April 21, 1836**
★ The Mexican soldiers were not anticipating the attack and were **caught by surprise**
★ Battle cries of REMEMBER THE ALAMO & REMEMBER GOLIAD were heard by the Mexicans
★ The **Battle of San Jacinto** lasted **18 minutes**
★ 630 mexican soldiers killed, 9 TX Troops died
Texas wins Independence!

The victory at San Jacinto marked...
- the end of the Revolution
- Texas’s Independence
- Republic of TX was born