

LINCOLN GEOGRAPHIC

Explorer

The Alamo



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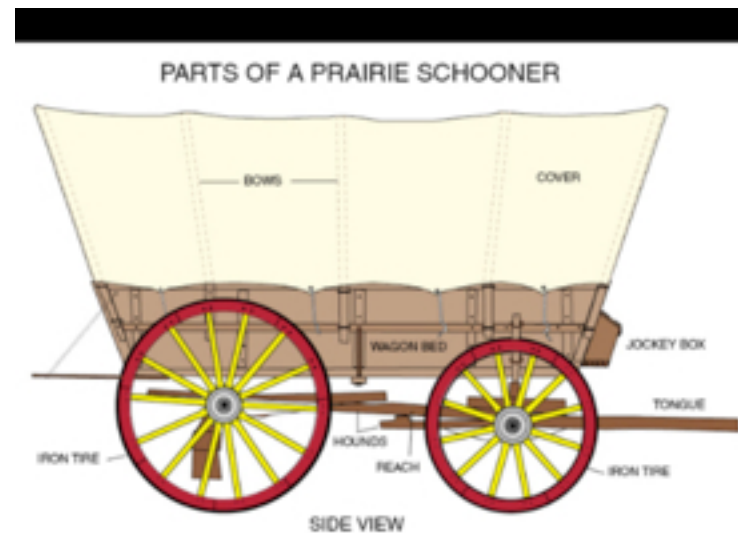
Introduction

Have you ever heard of saying, “Remember the Alamo!” ? Did you know Texas belonged to Mexico in 1836. So how did it become part of the United States? An unexpected battle with 6,000 soldiers and 21 cannons and the only thing left standing was the church.

What was the country like back then?

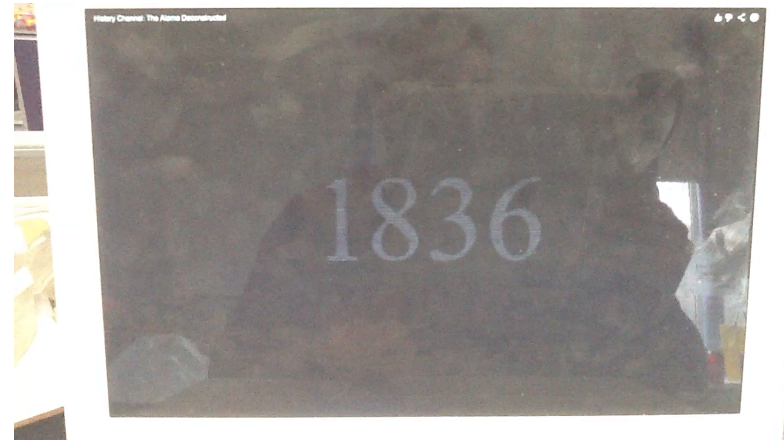
In the 1830's people began to travel west. People wanted the free land. They wanted a new life. If you were going to travel west you would travel on horseback or in wagons. The wagons would be pulled by horses and oxen. You would eat cheese and chili peppers and corn almost every night. One of the very few things people could prepare was beans because you take a lot with you and they wouldn't spoil. Candles are important because you needed to light your store you couldn't light a fire because it could burn it down. You also might have had a rifle for hunting and to defend yourself. If you were traveling in a wagon and you met native americans or another set up people you might need to defend yourself. You might even see a deer or rattlesnake that you might kill. Even kids could carry rifles for hunting. How cool is that? At this time there was very few laws, there were jails and sheriff, but no police force, and no motor

vehicles. This means it was easy to get away. This is what was known as the Wild Wild West.



What was the cause of the battle?

The main reason for the battle was for independence between Mexico and Texas but there are other smaller reasons for the cause of the battle. Mexico claimed Texas in 1500. At this time the United States wanted 12 territories, Texas included, to become states. However the Texans wanted to be independent. They did not want to be part of Mexico. During the war Texas captured San Antonio and the Alamo. Santa Anna was so determined to keep Texas. He said, “you don't have a choice you are apart of Mexico”. To keep the Texans a part of Mexico he sent his army of 6,000 soldiers to fight. But how did the battle start?



How did it start that day?

Have you ever wondered how the battle of the Alamo started? Just after noon on June, 13th 1836 Santa Anna rode up to the Alamo. He cried out for the Texans to force them to surrender but the Texans refused. They responded with a cannon shot ordered by General William Travis. So Santa Anna attacked the Alamo. The Mexican army surrounded the Alamo with the 6,000 soldiers and 21 cannons in the army. It started with a cannon shot, *boom!* Then a gun shot, *pshhhhh*. The first shot was from the Texans but not until after Santa Anna told the Texans to Surrender. The Mexicans raised a blood red flag then the battle began. Read on to find out more of the weapons the Texans and Mexicans used in the battle.

The guns used



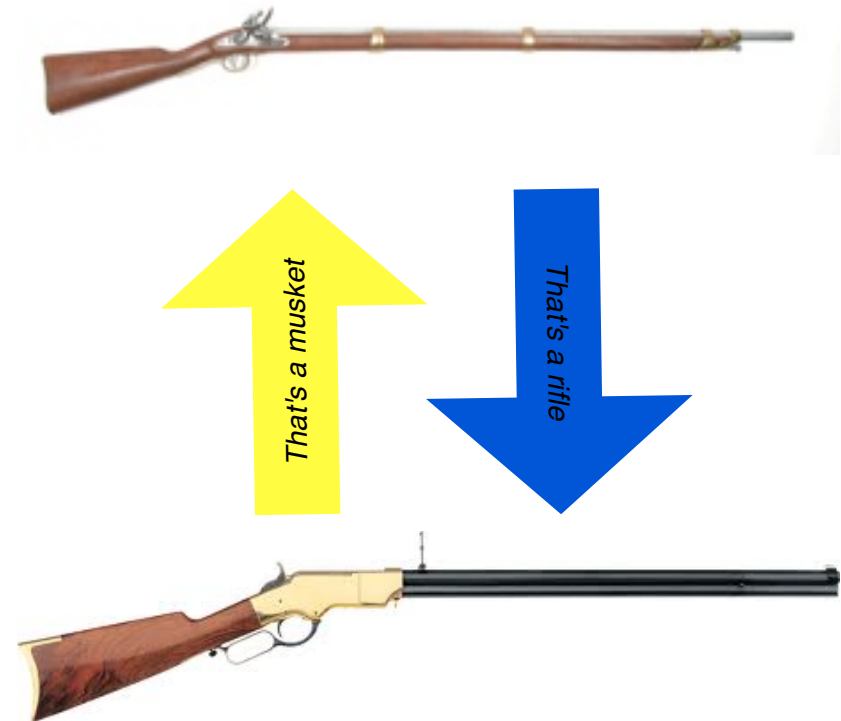
The cannon shot



What type of weapons did they use?

If you were at the battle of the Alamo you would use these weapons. First you might use a musket, rifle or pistol. These are guns that were used in the 1830's. Next you might use a knife, ax, sword or hatchet. These are all weapons that you would use when you were on the battle line when the enemy and you push closer and closer together. Lastly, you might even put a ball in the cannon and watch as it explodes like a bomb coming out. Did you know both sides would take their first shot and then put there **bayonets** on and stab and block people, then lode. Why do you ask? Because they would have to put in the bullet and the powder then take a long piece and push it down and

then finally shoot. This took about 2 minutes. These are the types of weapons that were used in the Battle of the Alamo.



What Happened During the Battle?

Boom...boom the battle has begun. The Texans battled their hardest for 13 days. But on the 13th day...The Mexicans managed to knock down a wall. With one of their cannons. They poured in by the hundreds. The Americans just could not fend them off. There was just too many remember there was only 200 Texans. So the Mexicans killed 198 of the Texans. 2 of the Texans managed to escape. Next they searched the fort for Texans. They found Jim Bowie in bed and they killed him immediately. That was one of the biggest battle in the Texas Revolution.



Who was Davy Crockett?

Have you ever heard of the myth about Davy Crockett? He was said to have eaten: 10 bear steaks, 30 rattlesnake eggs, 40 pans of **grits** and 50 jugs of vinegar just for breakfast. But that was just a myth. Now here are the real facts: First he lived in Nashville, Tennessee. In Tennessee he was famous for: hunting, being a soldier and a lawmaker. Next he went to Texas for adventure. In Texas he joined the army for money. He also killed the first Mexican soldier in the battle of the Alamo with his gun named Old Betsy. He liked Texas so much he said after the war he was going to get some land. Sadly he died in action. So I guess he was not as strong as the the myth said he was.



He was a celebrity for wrestling bears.

Who was Santa Anna?

Imagine a man who would kill a helpless sick man who is asleep. That man is Santa Anna general of the Mexican army. Here are some things about his life. First he was born on Feb, 21 1794 in Mexico. His full name was Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna. Next he supported the mean Emperor Augustin de Iturbide when he was a young military officer. Augustin was the leader of Mexico for the time being. In 1833 he was voted president of Mexico In a democratic election. After he became president Texas wanted freedom but he wanted to keep Texas. He was the leading villain of Texas history. His **ruthlessness** and greed to keep Texas made him the leading villain. He was the general of the Mexican army. Sadly he was so

ruthless that he killed people for the sake of killing.

Surprisingly in 1853 he sold territory to the U.S. Not so sadly he died in 1876. Now you know who Santa Anna was. Do you think you want to invite him over for a sleepover?



Here he is in his general uniform.

Interesting Facts

Do you want to know some interesting facts about the Alamo? If you do here are some of the most interesting facts you ever heard:

- There is an Alamo Bowl in College Football.
- There is an Alamo car rental company.
- The Alamo is a Eighteenth century church.
- There is an Alamo funeral company.
- The Alamo is Spanish for cottonwood.
- It is the shrine of Texas liberty.
- The only thing standing is the church.
- The Alamo is Made of limestone.



Conclusion

Now there is a military fort with one wall knocked down. Dead bodies everywhere with Mexican soldiers patrolling it. But they did not know soon there would be another battle called the Battle of San Jaunito?

Wordwise Glossary

Ruthless- very bad,cruel

Machete- heavy knife used to cut sugar cane and under bush also used as a sword

grits- mush like porridge made of hominy

Bayonets- long sharp knife used to be put on the end of a gun to stop people

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