

T · E · X · A · S DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

In March 1836 Texas was a state in Mexico. Many of the settlers in Texas were from the U.S. They came to Texas to own their own land. Mexico had a different government from the U.S. It did not allow some of the rights that the U.S. allowed, such as freedom of religion. This made the settlers dissatisfied with the Mexican government.

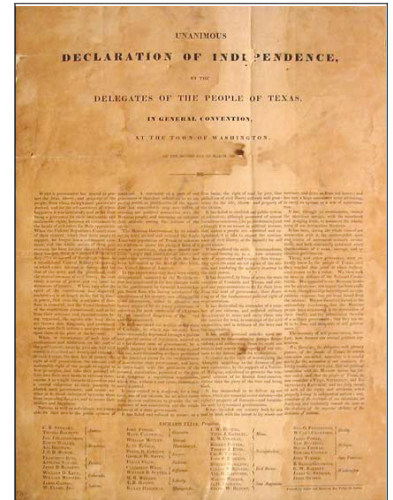
After the Mexican president, Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, disbanded the state legislature and state militia, the conflict between the Texans and the Mexican government got worse. In 1835 Santa Anna sent troops into Texas. In October, the Texan army, made up of volunteers and the militia, met at the Battle of Gonzales. The Texans won the battle and the Mexican army retreated to San Antonio. The Texas Revolution had begun.



Reproduction of the cabin where the delegates met.

On March 1, 1836 elected delegates from around Texas met in Washington-on-the-Brazos to decide the goal of the Revolution. Some wanted to stay a part of Mexico, but have greater freedom. Others wanted to be an independent country. The next day, on March 2, 1836, the delegates approved the Texas Declaration of Independence. Fifty-nine men signed the document.

Texas would win its independence by defeating Santa Anna's army at the Battle of San Jacinto on April 21, 1836. Texas remained an independent country for over 10 years. It became a U.S. state on February 19, 1846.



Printed version of the Texas Declaration of Independence

QUICK QUIZ

What country did Texas belong to before 1836?

What battle started the Texas Revolution?

When was the Texas Declaration of Independence signed?

What battle won Texas its independence?

SECRET CODE WORD

Use the secret code to find a word about the Texas Declaration of Independence. Write the letter in the blank that matches the number from the code.

4 5 12 5 7 1 20 5

SECRET CODE

1 = A	7 = G	13 = M	19 = S	25 = Y
2 = B	8 = H	14 = N	20 = T	26 = Z
3 = C	9 = I	15 = O	21 = U	
4 = D	10 = J	16 = P	22 = V	
5 = E	11 = K	17 = Q	23 = W	
6 = F	12 = L	18 = R	24 = X	