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Date _____



The Alamo

Today we're going to talk about the Alamo...in just a minute.

It all started in 1821 when Mexico won independence from Spain. At that time, Texas was a Mexican state called Tejas. Tejas was mainly populated by Tejanos, people of Mexican descent, and Texians, Americans who had moved to Tejas for land and opportunities and eventually grew to outnumber the Tejanos. In 1833, Antonio López de Santa Anna became president. He soon nullified the Mexican constitution and declared himself president for life, sparking cries for resistance and revolution. Some hoped to form an independent Texan republic, and others wanted to join the United States.

In December 1835, about 200 Texian and Tejano volunteers took over the Alamo, an old Spanish missionary in San Antonio. Two months later, Santa Anna and about 1,500 Mexican troops surrounded the Alamo, beginning a siege that lasted 13 days. The Mexican army brutally killed all but a few of the Alamo defenders.

The Texians' defeat at the Alamo unified them against the Mexican government. At the Battle of San Jacinto in April 1836, General Sam Houston led the Texians to victory against Santa Anna's troops and captured Santa Anna. And that's how the battle cry "Remember the Alamo" helped establish the Republic of Texas.

What symbolic meaning does the Battle of the Alamo have in Texas history?