

## **The Texas Revolution**

**The Big Idea:** In 1836, Texas gained its independence from Mexico.

### **Main Ideas**

- Many American settlers moved to Texas after Mexico achieved independence from Spain.
- Texans revolted against Mexican rule and established an independent nation.

### **Main Idea 1: Many American settlers moved to Texas after Mexico achieved independence from Spain.**

- **Father Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla**, a Mexican priest, led an unsuccessful revolt against Spain in 1810.
- Mexico gained independence in 1821.
  - The new Mexican government hired **empresarios**, or agents, to bring settlers to Texas.
- **Stephen F. Austin**, an agent, started a colony on the lower Colorado River in 1822.
  - Success attracted more American settlers, who received free land in exchange for obeying Mexican laws.
- Mexico was concerned about the number of Americans and banned further settlement.
- General **Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna** became the ruler of Mexico.

### **Main Idea 2: Texans revolted against Mexican rule and established an independent nation.**

- War began October 1835 in a battle at Gonzales, Texas.
- Texans declared independence on March 2, 1836.
- The Republic of Texas was established.
- Sam Houston was named head of the Texas army.
- Stephen F. Austin went to the United States to seek money and troops.

### **Major Battles**

#### **Battle at the Alamo**

- Texans' actions angered Santa Anna.
- Texas force of fewer than 200, led by Colonel William Travis, occupied **Alamo** mission near San Antonio.
- From February 23 to March 6, 1836, Texans held out against huge Mexican army.
- All defenders killed in Mexican attack on March 6.

#### **Battle of San Jacinto**

- Santa Anna chased Texans under Sam Houston east.
- Texans took stand at San Jacinto River near Galveston Bay.
- Houston's forces attacked on April 21, 1836, and destroyed Mexican army.
- Santa Anna captured at **Battle of San Jacinto** and forced to sign treaty giving Texas independence.

### **An Independent Nation**

-Sam Houston was the hero of the new independent nation of Texas. Houston was elected president; Stephen F. Austin became secretary of state.

-To increase the population, Texas offered land grants to new settlers. Many from nearby southern states brought enslaved Africans with them.

-Most Texans hoped that the United States would annex, or take control of, Texas and make it a state.

-President Jackson recognized Texas as an independent nation, but did not want to upset balance between slave and free states by letting a slave state enter the Union.