

Teaching with Primary Sources Lesson Outline

Grade Level: Middle School (6-8)

Standard(s) or Objectives: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.2: Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of how key events or ideas develop over the course of the text.
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.5: Analyze how a text uses structure to emphasize key points or advance an explanation or analysis.

Library of Congress or Morris Special Collections Resources:



“Houston, Santa Anna, and Cos,” 1836

<https://www.loc.gov/item/2008661295/>

Topic Background:

In 1821, Texas was part of Mexico. The land was cheap, so many Americans settled in Texas. Mexico tried to stop them, but they still came. Slavery was against Mexican law, but Americans brought slaves to Texas. Many American settlers and Tejanos, or Mexicans who lived in Texas, wanted to break away from Mexico. They did not like laws made by Santa Anna, Mexico’s president. The Tejanos and Texans decided to fight for independence. In 1836, Santa Anna took an army to San Antonio to take a fort called the Alamo. Fewer than 200 Texans and Tejanos met him. Most of them died in battle. After this, Texans declared independence and formed the Republic of Texas. Sam Houston led their army in a surprise attack at San Jacinto. They won, and captured Santa Anna. For his freedom, Santa Anna gave Texas its independence.

Excerpted from: https://www.eduplace.com/ss/socsci/books/content/ilessons/51/ils_gr5CA_u5_c11_l3.pdf

Source(s) Used:

An imaginative portrayal (with overt propaganda value) of an event in the Texas war of independence -- the surrender of Mexican commander Santa Anna and his brother-in-law General Martin Perfecto de Cos, to American leader Samuel Houston after the Battle of San Jacinto in late April 1836. Santa Anna (center) bows and offers his sword to Houston, saying, "I consent to remain your prisoner, most excellent sir!! Me no Alamo!!" His subordinate follows suit. Houston, clad in buckskins and holding a musket, says, "You are two bloody villains, and to treat you as you deserve, I ought to have you shot as an example! Remember the Alamo and Fannin!" The print reflects the intensity of anti-Mexican feeling in the United States after Santa Anna's massacre of American defenders at the Alamo mission in February 1836 and the slaughter at Goliad, Texas, a month later of American colonel James Fannin and his surrendered troops.

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Answer Key:

Question 1: A

Question 2: C

“Houston, Santa Anna, and Cos,” 1836



Questions:

- 1) Which statement best reflects the central idea of the political cartoon? (CCSS-RH6-8.2)
 - a. Americans continued to hold anti-Mexican feelings towards Mexican leaders after Texas won independence.
 - b. Sam Houston, American, surrendered to Mexican leaders Santa Anna and Cos after the Battle of San Jacinto.
 - c. Americans won the Texas War of Independence after defeating the Mexican army at San Jacinto.
 - d. Santa Anna and Cos were tried for war crimes committed at the Alamo after their defeat at San Jacinto.

- 2) What do the positions of the bodies in the political cartoon emphasize? (CCSS-RH6-8.5)
 - a. Santa Anna and Cos are in more powerful positions than Sam Houston.
 - b. Sam Houston is kneeling in respect to Santa Anna and Cos.
 - c. Santa Anna and Cos are kneeling in defeat to Sam Houston.
 - d. Sam Houston is threatening violence towards Santa Anna and Cos.