

Turning Points Texas

Trace how major decisions and battles shaped the Texas Revolution.

7.3.C “explain the issues surrounding significant events of the Texas Revolution, including the Battle of Gonzales; the siege of the Alamo, William B...”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each decision or event that changed the revolution. Circle words or phrases that tell an effect or result.

Decisions, Sacrifice, and Victory

- ① Texas colonists and Mexican officials clashed in 1835 over power, laws, and military control. At Gonzales, Mexican troops demanded back a small cannon that officials had loaned to settlers. The settlers refused, and fighting on October 2 became the Battle of Gonzales. This first armed clash encouraged more Texans to resist. In February 1836, Mexican president Antonio López de Santa Anna’s army surrounded the Alamo in San Antonio. Inside, defenders faced a choice: leave, surrender, or hold the former mission against a much larger force.
- ② Commander William B. Travis wrote his “To the People of Texas and All Americans in the World” letter on February 24. He asked for help and explained that the defenders would not surrender. His message made their desperate situation known, but help did not arrive in time. On March 6, Mexican forces captured the Alamo, and nearly all of its defenders died. Those defenders included Tejanos, or Texans of Mexican heritage, along with immigrants and Anglo settlers. Their sacrifice became a powerful symbol, while others debated whether holding the Alamo had delayed Santa Anna’s army.
- ③ While the siege continued, delegates met at Washington-on-the-Brazos for the Constitutional Convention of 1836. They declared independence from Mexico and wrote a constitution for the Republic of Texas. Meanwhile, James Fannin surrendered about 300 Texian soldiers near Goliad after his force was surrounded. Mexican troops later executed the prisoners, increasing anger against Santa Anna. On April 21, Sam Houston’s army attacked Santa Anna’s camp at San Jacinto. The surprise victory led to Santa Anna’s capture and helped secure Texas independence.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What issue led to the Battle of Gonzales, and what effect did the settlers' refusal have?

2 What did Travis seek in his letter, and what happened before help arrived?

3 How did the Constitutional Convention address a different need than the defenders at the Alamo did?

4 How did the Goliad executions and the Battle of San Jacinto each affect the Texas Revolution?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly four sentences explaining how at least three named events changed the Texas Revolution. Include a cause or effect for each event you use.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each decision or event that changed the revolution. Circle words or phrases that tell an effect or result. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What issue led to the Battle of Gonzales, and what effect did the settlers' refusal have?	Mexican troops demanded the settlers' cannon. The settlers refused, and the first armed clash encouraged more Texans to resist.
2	What did Travis seek in his letter, and what happened before help arrived?	Travis asked for help and announced that the defenders would not surrender. Mexican forces captured the Alamo before help arrived.
3	How did the Constitutional Convention address a different need than the defenders at the Alamo did?	The convention created a declaration of independence and a constitution for a new republic. The Alamo defenders were resisting Santa Anna's army in battle.
4	How did the Goliad executions and the Battle of San Jacinto each affect the Texas Revolution?	The executions increased anger against Santa Anna. The San Jacinto victory captured Santa Anna and helped secure Texas independence.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The revolution changed from a local clash into a fight for independence. At Gonzales, the settlers' refusal to return the cannon encouraged further resistance. The fall of the Alamo and the executions after Fannin's surrender increased opposition to Santa Anna. At San Jacinto, Houston's surprise attack captured Santa Anna and helped secure independence.

Accept accurate paraphrases that connect each event to an issue, decision, or result stated in the passage. For Part 3, accept varied claims if the response has exactly four sentences, names at least three events, and accurately explains a cause or effect for each.