

Texas at War

Identify major Civil War events in Texas and explain why they mattered.

7.5.B “identify significant events concerning Texas and the Civil War such as the Battle of Galveston, the Battle of Sabine Pass, and the Battle of Palmito Ranch; and”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the name of each Texas battle, circle its date, and write 1, 2, and 3 beside the battles in time order. Your marks will help you identify the events and compare their significance.

Three Texas Civil War Battles

- ① When the Civil War began, Texas was part of the Confederacy. Its long coastline and rivers made Texas ports important to both sides. Union ships formed a blockade to limit Confederate trade, while Confederate leaders tried to protect coastal cities and routes. Three battles show how the war reached Texas: the Battle of Galveston, the Battle of Sabine Pass, and the Battle of Palmito Ranch. These events involved different places and dates, but each affected control, defense, or the closing days of the war.
- ② On January 1, 1863, Confederate forces led by General John B. Magruder attacked Union-held Galveston. Using small ships and land troops, the Confederates captured the Union gunboat Harriet Lane and forced other Union vessels away. The Confederates regained the city, although the Union blockade of the Texas coast continued. The Battle of Galveston mattered because it returned an important port city to Confederate control and showed that Confederate forces could challenge the blockade near shore.
- ③ At Sabine Pass on September 8, 1863, Lieutenant Richard “Dick” Dowling and 47 Confederate soldiers at Fort Griffin faced a much larger Union attack. Their artillery fire disabled and helped capture two Union gunboats, stopping the planned invasion through the pass. Nearly two years later, on May 12-13, 1865, Confederate and Union troops fought near Brownsville at Palmito Ranch. Confederate forces won even though General Robert E. Lee had surrendered in April. The Battle of Palmito Ranch is often called the Civil War's last land battle.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What happened at the Battle of Galveston, and why was this event important?

2 How did Dowling's force at Sabine Pass stop the Union attack?

3 Which Texas battle took place after Lee surrendered, and what does that fact show about the Civil War in Texas?

4 List the three battles in chronological order. Then give one detail that makes the last battle different from the first two.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a 60-75 word museum label about Texas and the Civil War. Name all three battles and explain one important fact about each event.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the name of each Texas battle, circle its date, and write 1, 2, and 3 beside the battles in time order. Your marks will help you identify the events and compare their significance. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What happened at the Battle of Galveston, and why was this event important?	Confederate forces regained Galveston from the Union. It returned an important port city to Confederate control.
2	How did Dowling's force at Sabine Pass stop the Union attack?	Their artillery fire disabled and helped capture two Union gunboats, stopping the planned invasion through the pass.
3	Which Texas battle took place after Lee surrendered, and what does that fact show about the Civil War in Texas?	The Battle of Palmito Ranch took place after Lee surrendered. It shows that fighting in Texas continued into May 1865.
4	List the three battles in chronological order. Then give one detail that makes the last battle different from the first two.	Battle of Galveston, Battle of Sabine Pass, Battle of Palmito Ranch. Palmito Ranch occurred after Lee surrendered and is often called the Civil War's last land battle.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Texas saw important Civil War fighting along its coast and border. At Galveston in 1863, Confederate forces regained a key port from the Union. Later that year, Dowling's small force stopped a Union invasion at Sabine Pass. In May 1865, Palmito Ranch showed that fighting in Texas continued after Lee surrendered. Together, these battles reveal why Texas locations remained important during the war's final years.

Accept accurate paraphrases supported by the passage. For Palmito Ranch, accept that it was fought after Lee's April surrender and was often called the last land battle of the Civil War.