

The Highlights of Homeschooling
History Literature Unit Study
Sample

Created by Teresa Ives Lilly
Sold by www.hshighlights.com



Although this sample shows the alamo all the history units are similiar

INTRODUCTION

This history/literature study guide is created to use in three week sessions. Each unit contains a historical story, a daily journal question and one other daily activity.

These activities are:

Bible Verse Activities	Map Skills
Vocabulary Skills	Comprehension Skills
Interpretation Skills	Cause and Effect Skills
Sequencing	Encyclopedia Skills
Poetry Skills	Creative Writing
Drawing	Science Activity
Craft Activity	Report Writing

We suggest the student read the story in it's completion before beginning the study guide. One skill area a day will allow the unit to be completed in three weeks. Your children can learn History and Literature skills at the same time. Look ahead, because you may need to collect some items for the Science or Art projects.

THE ALAMO

“Remember the Alamo!” These are words that ring out from history even today. What is the Alamo? Many people visit the Alamo in San Antonio, Texas. But do they really know what the importance of the Alamo was?

For over three hundred years, Spain had governed the people of Mexico. By 1800 none of the Mexicans had any interest in belonging to Spain. They wanted to be independent. So the Mexican and Spanish Government met to negotiate and in 1821 they formed the Republic of Mexico, free from Spain. Texas was not part of the United States then. It was included in the area ruled by the Mexican Government.

Most of the main areas in Texas that were developed had missions in them. One of the most famous missions was called San Antonio De Valero. This became known as “The Alamo Mission” because of the Poplar trees that grew around it. “ALAMO” means poplar in Spanish.

The mission was built like a fort, with heavy walls made of adobe, surrounding it. The fort was built to protect the mission from Indian attacks. The Mexican government had written a constitution much like the Americans’. Citizens were free and could vote for their own leaders. The government offered free land to colonists from the United States to come and settle the land.

The first three hundred families came with Stephen Austin, a man who was a very famous lawyer. The people struggled. The land was sandy and not many crops would grow there. They did develop a good cattle business though. Many families were attacked by the Karankawas Indians.

Daily Journal Questions

Here are journal questions for each day.
Write the answers on another paper or in a journal book.

1. What famous historical sight have you ever seen?
2. If you had been at the Alamo, would you have crossed over the line?
3. Do you think you would have liked to have been one of the first Texans and why?
4. If you were being persecuted for being an American would you fight for your country?
5. Do you see yourself as a leader? Why?
6. Tell about a time when you had to make a very hard choice that could have affected your life.
7. Do you believe that freedom is a strong enough reason to fight a war?
8. Would you rather travel in the United States or Mexico?
9. Have you ever been in a situation where two groups wanted to fight over one thing? Tell about it.
10. If you had been one of the first people to settle in Texas, would you have stayed? Why?
11. What is the most interesting trip you have ever taken?
12. Why do you think the men were willing to stay and fight at the Alamo?
13. Do you think the men at the Alamo were Christians?
14. What do you think was the most important thing about the Alamo?
15. Why was it so important that the Texans set up their own government?

Bible Verse Activity

The fact that the men who fought at the Alamo were willing to give up their lives tells us that they loved the concept of freedom. How does the Bible explain love?

“ This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brother.”

1 John 3:16.

Copy the Bible verse here in your best handwriting.

You can see how God loves the world by reading John 3:16. What did God do to show us how much he loved us?

Vocabulary

independent negotiate Missions adobe cattle regulate
volunteer fort scout bugle treaty massacre

Write each word and it's definition:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

11. _____

12. _____

Word Search

N E T A L U G E R V
E E R S I T V T M O
X I G C C M X I N L
E N U O A O S N G U
L T V O T S U F Y N
T B R Y I I S T C T
T A D O B E A A K E
A O N L F E V T M E
C S P C R V U W E R
C N T T E L G U B X

ADOBE BUGLE CATTLE
FORT MASSACRE MISSIONS
NEGOTIATE REGULATE SCOUT
TREATY VOLUNTEER

Comprehension

1. True or False: Write T if statement is true; write F if it is false.

- a. _____ Davy Crockett was the leader at the Alamo.
- b. _____ All the men at the Alamo stepped over the line.
- c. _____ Santa Anna wanted to make the Texans behave.
- d. _____ Jim Bowie was a famous lawyer.
- e. _____ Texans wanted to have their own government.

2. Multiple Choice: Write ABCD in the space for the best answer.

_____ The attack on the Alamo began in:

- A. 1806
- B. 1835
- C. 1936
- D. none of the above

_____ During the attack:

- A. Santa Anna's men all died.
- B. Santa Anna's men never quit fighting.
- C. Santa Anna's men all lived.
- D. all of the above.

_____ The battle:

- A. lasted 2 days
- B. lasted 13 days
- C. was long
- D. all of the above

_____ Davy Crockett:

- A. was a famous frontiersman
- B. came to fight at the Alamo
- C. stepped over the line
- D. all of the above

_____ Jim Bowie:

- A. had his bed carried over the line
- B. was too sick to care
- C. was the only one who did not step over the line
- D. was sent to another fort for help

6. Predict the Outcome: Write your answers in a full sentence.

If no men had stepped over the line what would have happened?

If more volunteers had come what could have happened?

If Santa Anna had defeated the Texans, what impact would that have on the United States today?

Interpretation Skills

1. "Texas called for volunteers to come and help them fight."

2. "When Santa Anna and his troops arrived at the Alamo, there were not enough men to fight the Mexican Army."

3. "Travis drew a line in the dirt and told them to come over the line..."

4. "He didn't know the Americans would fight for Texas freedom as hard as the colonists had fought the American Revolutionary War."

5. "Remember the Alamo!"

Cause and Effect

Answer the questions by telling what caused the event.

1. Davy Crockett went to Texas because

2. Santa Anna went to Texas with troops because

3. Travis drew a line in the dirt because

4. All the men except one stepped over the line because

5. Even though Jim Bowie was sick he had his bed taken over the line because

Put the beginning effect that caused the event

1. _____ SO
all the men at the Alamo were tired.

2. _____ SO
they sent for more volunteers.

3. _____ SO
Sam Houston's troop beat Santa Anna's army.

4. _____ SO
Texas is a state today.

Sequence of Events

1. Put these sentences in order from number 1 to 10 as they occurred in the story.

_____ Mexico was ruled by Spain.

_____ Texans started fighting the Mexican government.

_____ Mexico got it's freedom from Spain.

_____ Santa Anna gathered his troop of 5000 and headed to Texas.

_____ The Mexican government tried to stop more settlers from coming to Texas.

_____ The volunteers sent for more help and only 32 more men came.

_____ Volunteers gathered in the Alamo.

_____ All the volunteers were killed at the Alamo.

_____ Santa Anna attacked the Alamo.

_____ Texas joined the United States.

Drawing Activity

Look at a picture of the front of the Alamo. Draw your own copy of it. Use different tones of GRAY color it in.

Encyclopedia Skills

1. Look up the following word in the Encyclopedia. Read the information and write a short paragraph to explain the concept.

ALAMO

2. Look up the word **BUGLE** in the Encyclopedia. Write any information you find about it.

In the library, use the computer or card catalogue to find other books about **DAVY CROCKET**. Write the titles of the books on the following lines.

Poetry Form Skills

PRAYER POETRY:

Prayer poems are written from a person's point of view that is being effected by a situation. It is usually a request that is being effected by a situation. It is usually a request asked in a descriptive and colorful manner. Once you write one, look it over and see if you can change your words for more picturesque words. It does not have to rhyme.

The beginning:

(Title) who the prayer is about.

The Middle:

a description of where the person is.

The End:

the request.

How to:

William Travis' Prayer at the Alamo

In this rock of protection

I must pray

for

Help that will come

To save us today.

Now Write Your Own:



Science Activity

ONCEPT: Making invisible ink to sent secret messages.

ITEMS NEEDED:

a calligraphy pen with a clean tip
paper
candle
vinegar or lemon juice

TO DO:

1. Pour a little of the vinegar or lemon juice into a cup.
2. Dunk the tip of the clean pen into the juice.
3. Write the message on the paper.
4. Let the message dry.
5. Now light the candle and hold the paper up close to it, the message will appear.

TO DISCUSS:

During the Battle of the Alamo messages were sent out for help. Perhaps some of the messages were sent in secret codes.

Craft Activity

STRONG FORT WALLS

SUPPLIES NEEDED FOR PLAY-DOUGH:

- 1 cup flour
- 1 cup water
- 1/2 cup salt
- 2 tablespoons cream of tartar
- 1 tablespoon cooking oil

TO DO:

1. Mix all ingredients and stir over low heat until the mixture forms a ball and clings to the spoon. You may think you've ruined your pan, but it will clean up easily. Wait for it to cool then roll it like play-dough.
2. Build FOUR walls out of play-dough to represent the walls of the fort.
3. Try to build a front wall to look like the front of the Alamo.