

TITLE OF STORY



A History/Literature Unit Study

INTRODUCTION

This history/literature study guide is created for parents of homeschoolers 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

Vocabulary Skills

Interpretation Skills

Sequencing

Encyclopedia Skills

Creative Writing

Science Activity

Report Writing

Map Skills

Comprehension Skills

Cause and Effect Skills

Dictionary Skills

Poetry Skills

Drawing

Craft Activity

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. For other study guides contact us at:

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THE ALAMO

“Remember the Alamo!” These are words that ring out from history even today. What is the Alamo though? Many people visit the Alamo in San Antonio, Texas. 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 the 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 though. 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.

Even though there were many hardships more families still came to Texas. Most of them were from America and soon the Americans began to outnumber the amount of Mexican families. The Mexican government tried to pass laws to regulate how many Americans could come to live in Texas.

The settlers were not happy about these laws and wanted to establish their own Government, free from the Mexican rulers. The Texans started to fight against the Mexican Government which was ruled by a man named “Santa Anna.”

Santa Anna became furious when he heard that his troops were being beaten by the Texans. He ordered up 5000 soldiers to march to Texas and crush the Texans into obedience. Texas called for volunteers to come and help them fight. Not many came though.

In 1836, the Texas volunteers attacked a small group of Mexican troops who were hiding in the Alamo. After clearing the troops out of the Alamo they decided to stay there since the fort walls were so thick and secure. They knew that the fort lay between Santa Anna’s army and the larger Texas cities. They hoped to get more volunteers to join them and fight Santa Anna before he attacked any other cities.

Daily Journal Questions

HERE ARE JOURNAL QUESTIONS FOR EACH DAY. ANSWER THEM ON A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER OR IN A JOURNAL.

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.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.

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

1. NOUNS are a person, place or thing. Circle them above.
2. VERBS are doing words. Use one of the nouns above in a sentence with a verb of your choice.

3. You can change the meaning of some words by changing the ending. Change the end of Negotiate and regulate by dropping the "e" and adding "ion."

4. ANTONYMS are words that mean the opposite. For example good/bad white/black. Write the antonym for the underlined word.

The men were forced to fight at the Alamo. _____

5. SYNONYMS are words that have the same or almost the same meaning as another word. Write the synonym for the underlined word.

The settlers had a lot of stock. _____

6. In two sentences, using words from the list, write out the main idea of the story.

7. Proper names should always be capitalized. Fix the sentences below by adding capitals where they belong and proper punctuation such as periods, commas and questions marks.

davy crockett fought bravely at the alamo

when did sam houston and his men finally beat santa annas army.

8. Re-write this sentence correctly to make it plural.

One volunteer stepped over the line.

Comprehension

In this section you will answer true or false, multiple choice, fill in the blank, questions and answers, fact or opinion, and predict the outcome questions.

1. True or False: Write T or F

- 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: Circle the correct letter.

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.

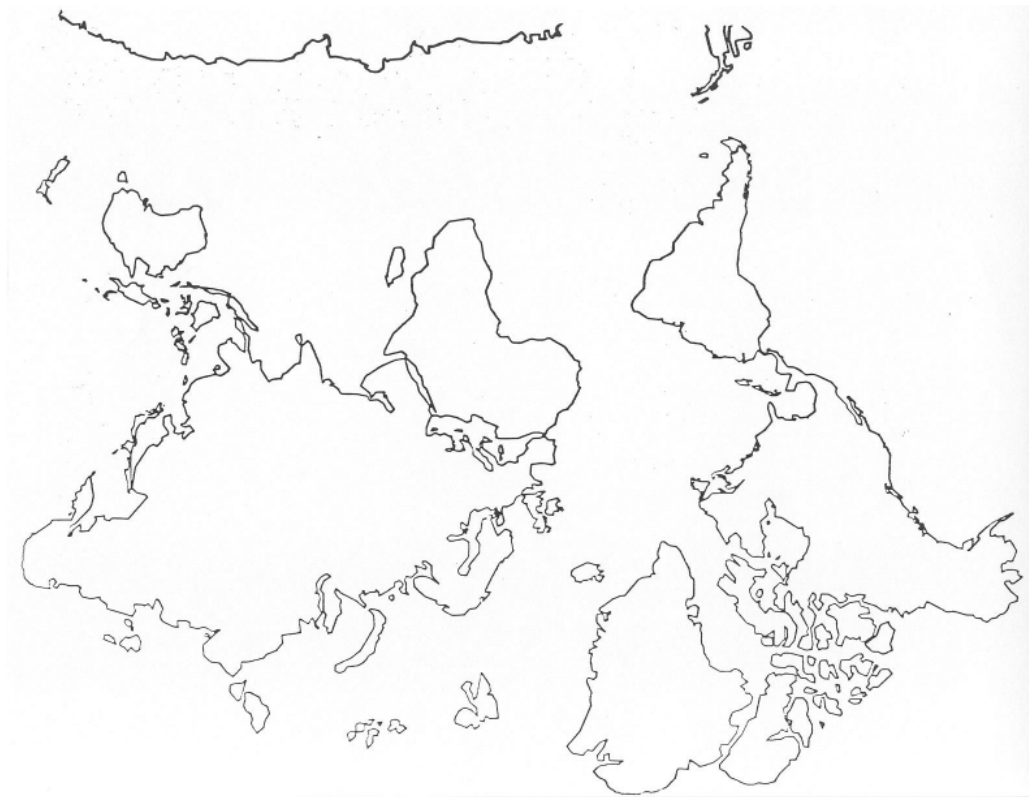
The battle:

- a. lasted 2 days
- b. lasted 13 days
- c. was long
- d. all of the above

Map Skills

1. Outline the United States with a crayon.
2. Find where Texas would be and color the area yellow.
3. Place an X where San Antonio would be.
4. What direction did Santa Anna's army travel from Mexico to San Antonio? _____
5. If Davy Crockett came from the North East to help at the Alamo, what direction did he travel to get to San Antonio. _____
6. Texas became part of the United States of America ten years after the battle of the Alamo. What states in the United States touch Texas' borders?

7. Color Mexico blue.



Interpretation Skills

The following quotes are from the story. In a sentence interpret why this quote was said or what it actually means.

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.

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.

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. _____

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.

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.

3. In the library, use the computer or card catalogue to find other books about **DAVY CROCKETT**. Write the titles of the books on the back of this page

Dictionary Skills

1. Write the page number from the dictionary where you would find these words.

Fort _____

Bulge _____

2. What are the Guide words on the page where you find these words.

Cattle _____

Adobe _____

3. What is the root word of Regulation? _____

4. Find the definition in the dictionary for these words and write them.

Volunteer: _____

Independent: _____

5. The word _____ has several meanings. Write two of them.

6. Where would you find the word "Massacre" in the dictionary?

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:

Prayer at the Alamo
In this rock of protection
I must pray for
Help that will come
To save us today.

Creative Writing

History has been passed down through story telling and by songs.

Write a song, using rhyming words to tell the story of the Battle of the Alamo.

Write your Prayer Poem and a Song about the Alamo on a separate sheet of paper.

Drawing Activity

Look at a picture of the front of the Alamo. Draw your own copy of it.

Use different tones of grey color it in.

Craft Activity

STRONG FORT WALLS

Supplies needed for Playdough

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 playdough.
2. Build four walls out of playdough to represent the walls of the fort.
3. Try to build a front wall to look like the front of the Alamo.

Science Activity

CONCEPT: Making invisible ink to send 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.

Reporting Writing Activity

Copy this report form on another paper. You may have to get other information and books about the Alamo to complete the report. You can also expand the report to suit the age of each child's writing ability.

A Day at the Alamo

In this report I will tell about the Battle at the Alamo. I will tell when it happened, what it was like, who was there and what effect it had on our country. The following paragraphs will discuss each of these concepts in detail.

You ask what the Alamo was? Let me tell you. The Battle for the Alamo occurred

Some of the people who were at the Alamo were

Because of the Battle of the Alamo
