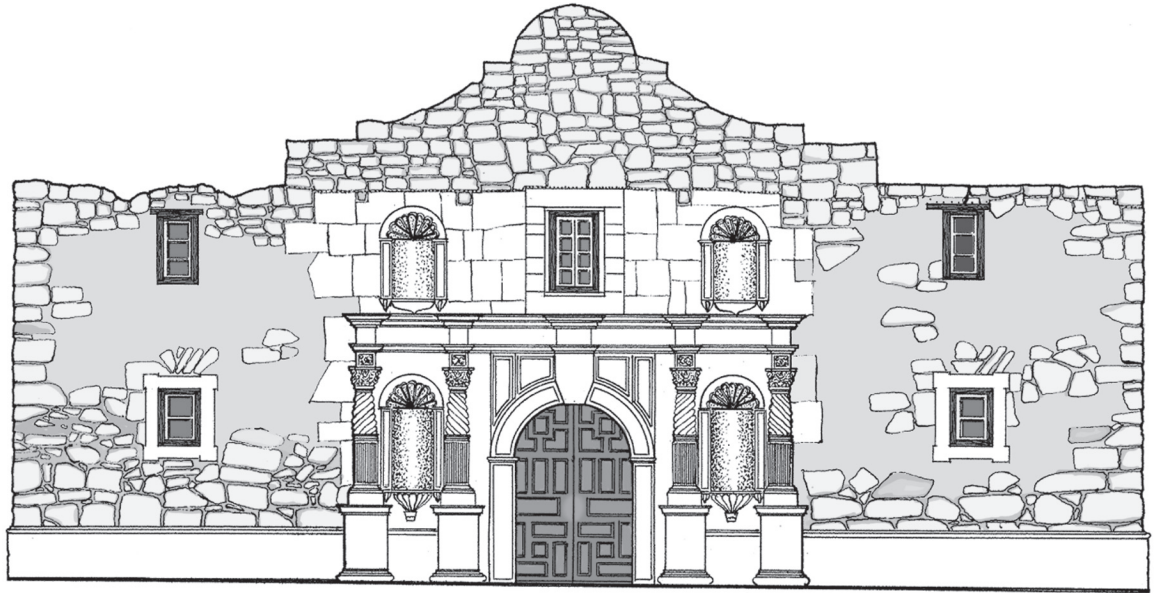


Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# ALAMO



## Assault!

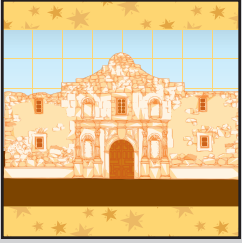
An eerie silence fell over San Antonio de B exar (BAY • har). The night was March 5, 1836. Nearby, those within the Alamo compound tried to rest. They had already endured 12 days and nights of being shelled by artillery. The 182 Texian defenders of the old Spanish mission didn't need to ask what would happen next. They knew they were facing an all-out assault by several thousand Mexican *soldados* (soldiers). They just didn't know when.

## Indelible Memories

Few events have stirred American patriotism more than the storming of the Alamo. You will now learn the details of this 1836 battle between rebellious Texians and the Mexican army. ALAMO will take you back to San Antonio during those fateful days. You will study different aspects of the confrontation outside this small frontier village. You will see the Alamo siege and battle as a noble, heroic stand. Men like David Crockett, Jim Bowie, and William B. Travis sacrificed their lives for honor and Texas liberty. The memories you gain will likely be indelible—you will “Remember the Alamo” for years to come.

## “Elbow Grease”

You will be a member of a contingent (group) in your classroom garrison. Your orders are to learn all that you can about the siege and battle of the Alamo. You will complete a variety of creative activities. Read several short essays and discuss what you learn. Research notable Alamo personalities and dramatize their experiences. So...get involved, volunteer, accept responsibility, and follow the orders of your contingent's “colonel.” Apply your best supply of “elbow grease” (hard work) and creativity to the tasks at hand.



978-1-56004-389-8



## Contingents

While most men in the Alamo were in the Texas Revolutionary Army, many were volunteers who fought within their own contingents (military units). You will be placed in one of the following contingents with 3–4 other students.

- Tennessee Mounted Volunteers
  - Gonzales Mounted Ranging Company
  - Mobile Greys
  - New Orleans Greys
  - Bonham’s Bravados
  - Bowie’s Boys
  - Travis’s Texians
- (The first four listed were real units!)

You will fill one of the following roles:

### **Colonel** (Contingent Leader)

- Lead discussions
- Make sure all contingent members participate equally
- Make sure contingent is accomplishing goals

### **Lieutenant Colonel** (Contingent Second-in-command)

- Make sure team does not disturb others
- Keep any records required
- Take command if Colonel is absent

### **Quartermaster** (Contingent Supply Officer)

- Fetch any necessary supplies
- Act as messenger to the teacher when there are questions

### **Clerk** (Contingent Recorder)

- Collect and turn in all work
- Give help wherever needed

Take your responsibilities seriously. Work together to complete your assigned tasks. Observe the requirements of the **Cooperative Group Work Rubric**.

## GLOSSARY

*Anglos* — Mexican term for English-speaking American immigrant settlers in Texas

*Artillery battery* — a group of large weapons (cannons)

*Bombardment* — an attack with shells and cannon balls from large artillery pieces

*Breach* — a broken place or gap through which storming soldiers enter (as *breach the walls*)

*Canister* — a case of bullets shot from a cannon or artillery piece

*Cavalry* — soldiers (troops) who fight while mounted on horseback

*Claustrophobic* — abnormal fear of being in an enclosed place (as David Crockett expressed to fellow defenders)

*Compound* — a large fenced or walled-in enclosure (The 3.5 acres inside the Alamo walls in 1836 formed a compound.)

*Compromise* — reaching an agreement, with each side giving up something to gain something in return

## GLOSSARY

- Enshrine* — to enclose in a shrine, a place hallowed or venerated because of special associations
- Friendly fire* — when an armed force unintentionally kills its own men
- Garrison* — troops stationed in a fort or town with intentions to occupy or defend it (The Texians inside the Alamo in 1836 formed a garrison.)
- Grapeshot* — smaller balls that scatter when fired from cannon
- Icon* — an image or person that represents or embodies a particular belief, society, or nation
- Immortal* — a person, thing, or idea that lives forever; famous forever
- Infantry* — soldiers (troops) who fight on foot, rather than horseback
- Legacy* — something important handed down to another person or generation
- Magazine* — a storage room or area for arms, ammunition, or explosives
- Martyr* — person of conviction who suffers death rather than give up or compromise personal beliefs; anyone who dies for a cause
- Norte Americano* — term used by Mexicans for an Anglo-American colonist in Texas
- No quarter* — showing no mercy toward an opponent, inflicting pain, punishment, or death
- Palisade* — a fence of pointed stakes put up to defend a position
- Perimeter* — the outer edge or boundary of a fortress (The walls around the Alamo compound formed the perimeter.)
- Plaza* — a large public square or open area in a town or inside a fort; sometimes called a courtyard (the largest open area in the Alamo compound)
- Presidio* — a fort or military building inside protective walls in Mexico or in Mexican territories
- Redoubt* — a smaller temporary fortification usually an extension and supporter of a larger permanent fortress
- Secede* — to withdraw from a union, organization, or country, as Texans sought to do from Mexico in 1835–36
- Siege* — the surrounding and blockading of a town or fortress by armed forces in order to capture or destroy it
- Soldados* — Mexican term for soldiers (the troops besieging the Alamo)
- Tejano* — a person of Mexican ancestry living in Texas
- Texian* — Anglo-Americans and others who fought to defend the Alamo and become independent from Mexico (Later, Anglos born in Texas were called Texans.)
- Thermopylae* — historic battle of 480 B.C.E. in which a smaller Greek force led by 300 Spartans sacrificed themselves to delay the enemy's march (The Alamo is frequently compared to this.)
- Typhoid* — a serious disease from a bacterial infection that attacks the intestines, resulting in high fever and death (Most historians believe that Jim Bowie suffered from typhoid.)
- Unconditional surrender* — giving up to another armed force with no conditions or limitations for doing so