



The Alamo Printable Reading Comprehension

Word Count: 278 | Lexile 1000

In 1836, during the Texas Revolution, a small mission in San Antonio became the site of one of the most famous battles in American history: the Battle of the Alamo. The Alamo, originally built as a Spanish mission, had fallen into disrepair, but it soon became a fortress for Texian rebels seeking independence from Mexico.

In late February, Mexican General Antonio López de Santa Anna arrived with thousands of troops to crush the rebellion. Inside the Alamo, fewer than 200 Texian defenders, including well-known figures like William B. Travis, James Bowie, and Davy Crockett, prepared for a siege. Despite being heavily outnumbered, they refused to surrender. For 13 days, the defenders held off the Mexican army, enduring constant bombardment.

On March 6, Santa Anna ordered a full assault. Mexican forces stormed the mission and, after intense fighting, all of the Texian defenders were killed. Although it was a crushing defeat, the bravery of the defenders inspired others. "Remember the Alamo!" became a rallying cry for Texian forces. Weeks later, they won a decisive victory at the Battle of San Jacinto, securing Texas independence.

The Alamo remains a powerful symbol of sacrifice and resistance. To many, it represents the courage to fight for freedom against overwhelming odds. Today, it stands as both a historic site and a reminder that even in loss, determination can inspire future victories.

Word Count: 278

- 1. Why did the Texian defenders choose to hold the Alamo, even though they were outnumbered?**
 - A. They had plenty of reinforcements on the way
 - B. They believed Santa Anna's army was weak
 - C. They valued the cause of independence and refused to surrender
 - D. They wanted to abandon San Antonio

2. **What does the phrase “Remember the Alamo!” suggest about the importance of the battle?**

- A. It reminded Texans to rebuild the mission after the war
- B. It turned the loss into a symbol that motivated future victories
- C. It meant that the defenders were forgotten
- D. It suggested Santa Anna’s leadership was admired

3. **Which of the following best explains why the Alamo is remembered today?**

- A. It was the last battle of the Texas Revolution
- B. The Texans won a major victory at the mission
- C. The mission later became a Spanish church
- D. The courage of the defenders became a lasting symbol of resistance

4. **What can the outcome of the Alamo teach us about the role of sacrifice in history?**

- A. Sacrifice, even in defeat, can inspire others to achieve success
- B. Sacrifice always leads to immediate victory
- C. Sacrifice is meaningless if a battle is lost
- D. Sacrifice should be avoided in difficult struggles

5. **Why might some people view the Alamo as more than just a military event?**

- A. Because it marked the final defeat of Mexico
- B. Because it represents ideas of courage, freedom, and identity
- C. Because it was the first battle in world history
- D. Because it was located in a large city

6. **Which detail from the passage best shows that the defenders fought despite impossible odds?**

- A. The Alamo was originally built as a Spanish mission
- B. Fewer than 200 defenders faced thousands of Mexican troops
- C. The defenders were led by William B. Travis
- D. The Battle of San Jacinto secured independence

7. **How does the passage connect the defeat at the Alamo to later success at San Jacinto?**

- A. It explains that the defenders secretly survived and fought again
- B. It shows that Santa Anna abandoned his campaign after the Alamo
- C. It states that the loss inspired Texans to rally and win independence
- D. It suggests the Alamo was never truly important to the revolution

Answer Key

1. C

2. B

3. D

4. A

5. B

6. B

7. C
