

## Texas Soldier Caricature

For this activity you are going to put yourself in the shoes of a Texas soldier. As a class we will brainstorm, listing as many emotions, situations, and conditions as we can. We will then use that information to create a Texas soldier **caricature**. A caricature is a picture, description, or imitation of a person or thing in which certain striking characteristics are exaggerated in order to create a comic or grotesque effect. Imagine you are a soldier battling at the Alamo, what would your **morale** be? What kind of supplies do you have? How do you feel? We are going to read the following information together and answer these questions. Once we are done, you are going to draw your caricature. You must be able to show the **emotions** of the character through body language, facial expressions, etc. You can also use thought bubbles, newspapers/pamphlets, signs, and voice bubbles to describe your character's feelings. You will complete this assignment on the blank page attached.

### So... What exactly happened at the Alamo??

On February 23, 1836, the arrival of General Antonio López de Santa Anna's army outside San Antonio nearly caught the Texans by surprise. Undaunted, the Texans and Tejanos prepared to defend the Alamo together. The defenders held out for 13 days against Santa Anna's army. They were desperate for help and supplies. They were angry with Sam Houston for not sending them help. All they could think about was their families at home and their houses burning to the ground.

William B. Travis, the commander of the Alamo sent forth couriers carrying pleas for help to communities in Texas. On the eighth day of the siege, a band of 32 volunteers from Gonzales arrived, bringing the number of defenders to nearly two hundred. Legend holds that with the possibility of additional help fading, Colonel Travis drew a line on the ground and asked any man willing to stay and fight to step over — all except one did.

As the defenders saw it, the Alamo was the key to the defense of Texas, and they were ready to give their lives rather than surrender their position to General Santa

Anna. Despite how untrained and unprepared they were, they were ready to fight for what they believed was right. Among the Alamo's garrison were Jim Bowie, renowned knife fighter, and David Crockett, famed frontiersman and former congressman from Tennessee.

The final assault came before daybreak on the morning of March 6, 1836, as columns of Mexican soldiers emerged from the predawn darkness and headed for the Alamo's walls. Cannon and small arms fire from inside the Alamo beat back several attacks. Regrouping, the Mexicans scaled the walls and rushed into the compound.

## Charles Bledsoe: Survivor of the Battle of the Alamo:

The two bands came together during a running fight of several hours and were pursued by the Mexican forces to the Alamo. With the Mexicans on their heels, the panting men rushed into the Alamo and barricaded the doors. Several were shot down while they were crushing in.

At once the building was surrounded by troops. Mexicans climbed on the old earthen (sic) roof and began to tear holes in it and the Texans fired through the roof into them until blood dripped in and the red stains ran down the walls in streams.

Texans, shot through the head as they tried to fire through the windows, fell back upon their comrades and the building reeked with powder smoke. There was no water, and the men fought with powder-blackened faces and parching tongues from early in the afternoon until dusk.

Outside, through the windows in lulls of the firing, could be seen rows upon rows of dead Mexican soldiers, the wounded crawling off to shelter. Little by little the firing of the Americans ceased, for their powder was giving out, until only an occasional shot was fired through the blood spattered windows. The floor was slippery with blood, and the dead and wounded were so thick on the floor that movement was impossible.

Texas Soldier  
1836

