Civil War People & Events in Texas
Research
Texas Joins the Confederacy

- Texans vote for secession - 46,153 in favor to 14,747 against
- March 2, 1861 - Texas become the 7th state to join the Confederacy
II.

How do Texans help the Confederacy during the Civil War?
Prisoners in Huntsville make 3 million yards of cloth during the war

Iron foundries in Jefferson & Rusk Texas

An iron foundry is a factory that produces metal castings. Metals are cast into shapes by melting them into a liquid, pouring the metal in a mold, and removing the mold material or casting after the metal has solidified as it cools.
• A gunpowder mill near Austin
• A factory in Tyler made cannons & Minie balls (bullets)

Gunpowder, also called black powder, is a mixture of sulfur, charcoal, and potassium nitrate.

The Minié ball, named after its co-developer, Claude Minié, was a conical bullet with three exterior grease-filled grooves and a conical hollow in its base. Its intended purpose was to expand under the pressure and increase muzzle velocity.
Texans supplied cattle, cotton, & food crops to the Confederacy
By the end of 1861, 25,000 Texans volunteered to fight in the army.

By the war's end, approximately 70,000 Texans saw military service during the Civil War by either volunteering or being drafted in the Confederate Army.
Important Texans during the Civil War
John Reagan

- Very active in Texas politics
- Served as a judge & a representative from Texas in the U.S. Congress
- Part of the Texas Secession Convention that voted for Texas to join the Confederacy
- Named Postmaster General for the Confederacy. Part of Jefferson Davis’s Presidential cabinet.
Francis Lubbock

- Former rancher that served in local & state politics.
- Elected Governor of Texas in 1861 as a strong supporter of the Confederacy conscription.
- After his term in 1863 he joins Confederate Army.

9th Governor of Texas; He was the brother of Thomas Lubbock, for whom the City of Lubbock are named.
John Bell Hood

- Reputation for bravery
- Commanded Hood’s Texas Brigade
- Wounded at Gettysburg – permanently disabling 1 arm
- Wounded at a battle in Tennessee in the thigh - leg had to get amputated
Hood’s Texas Brigade

- Robert E. Lee’s finest soldiers

- Distinguished themselves in many battles despite being greatly outnumbered and suffering heavy casualties. By the war’s end, the Texas Brigade had fought in almost every engagement of the Army of Northern Virginia. Of the estimated 5,353 men who enlisted in Hood’s Texas Brigade, only 617 remained to surrender on April 9, 1865, at Appomattox Court House in Virginia. The Texas Brigade, were considered to be the Army of Northern Virginia's shock troops.
Terry’s Texas Rangers

- Organized by B.F. Terry
- Benjamin Franklin Terry, a wealthy sugar planter, recruited for and organized the Rangers in Houston, Texas, in 1861.
- Cavalry unit that fought the most battles in the Civil War.
- In 4 years Terry's Texas Rangers fought in some 275 engagements from Tennessee to Georgia.
What took place in Texas during the Civil War?
Capture of San Antonio

• In 1861 Union forces were stationed in San Antonio.
• Confederates want the Union soldiers out of Texas.
• Benjamin McCulloch was authorized to demand the surrender of all federal military posts in the state. On the morning of February 16, 1861 the U.S. Army in San Antonio found that more than 1,000 Texas troops had surrounded their base in an orderly manner during the night. All weapons were turned over to McCulloch. In return all Union troops were to be allowed to leave the state unharmed.
• Confederate victory.

Benjamin McCulloch
An ironclad is a steam-propelled warship protected by iron or steel armor plates. The ironclad was developed as a result of the vulnerability of wooden warships to explosive or incendiary shells. Both sides will create Iron Clad ships but the North will have more resources to create more than the South.
Cottonclad Ships

- Cottonclads were a classification of steam-powered warships where a wooden ship was protected from enemy fire by bales of cotton lining its sides. This provided some protection from enemy fire, but not to the extent of ironclads. Due to a lack of significant resources these were used mainly by the Confederacy.
• Label the Civil War battlefields in Texas.
• Why do you think there were not as many in Texas as some of the other Southern states?
Battle of Galveston

- Union put a blockade on Texas ports in summer 1862.
- Galveston was very important to Confederacy (major shipping port). It needed to be retaken from Union control.
- General John B. Magruder successfully developed the Confederate plans to retake Galveston from the Union.
- Confederate forces attack Jan. 1, 1863 with 2 steamboats & successfully defeated 6 Union ships with heavy artillery. Galveston will remain in Confederate control the rest of the war.
- Thomas Green commanded one of the Confederate boats & later commanded cavalry units the rest of the war.
• Union planned to invade Texas through Sabine Pass, then march to Houston & retake Galveston
• Davis Guard were stationed at Sabine Pass to defend against the Union
• Confederate victory against the Union helped restore Southern confidence.
Battle of Sabine Pass

- **4,000 infantry**
- **4 gunboats**
- **18 troop transports**

- **45 infantry** (Davis Guard)
- **6 cannons**
- **1 earth fort**

- Davis Guard disabled 2 Union gunboat; 230 were killed; took 350 prisoners; rest of the boats retreated

- Davis Guard shot 107 rounds in 35 min; none were killed
Davis Guards

- All Irish Confederate unit led by Richard Dowling from Houston
- Davis Guard used to practice a lot at shooting their 6 cannons. They placed stakes in the river to act as markers for cannon fire practice. As the Union convoy entered among the stakes, the Confederates opened fire with deadly accuracy and wrought havoc on the Union vessels.

"This was one of the most brilliant & heroic achievements in the history of this war.”
- Jefferson Davis

Richard Dowling- 26 yrs.

The medals were Mexican coins that had been smoothed down & the information carved into them.

Only medals received from the Confederate Government
Richard Dowling Monument

Dedicated
March 17, 1905

The City of Houston’s 1st public monument.

Built before Sam Houston statue (city was named after Houston)

How does the City of Houston feel about Richard Dowling?

What would’ve happened if he lost the Battle of Sabine Pass?
Battle at Palmito Ranch

- Last battle of the Civil War
- Confederates still wanted to fight the Union in Texas
- May 13, 1865. Civil War was officially over in April 9th
- Confederate victory

Approximately 15 miles west of Brownsville, TX
Exit Ticket Writing Assignment

• On a sheet of paper
• Explain how Texas pride would be impacted during & after the Civil War.
• (Include) What did Texans have to be proud about?
• (Include) Were there any battles or individuals that would’ve increased the pride Texans have about their state?

(Must be at least 5 sentences)