

## Sam Houston's Story

Sam **Houston** was one of the most important people in Texas history. He was born in **Virginia** on March 2, 1793. When he was a boy his family moved to **Tennessee**. Sam did not like working on the family farm or store, so he ran away to live with the **Cherokee** Indians. Later, Sam returned to his family and opened a new school that cost students eight dollars a semester. Who do you think the teacher was? Sam, of course!

Sam became a soldier and a **lawyer** in Tennessee. He was also elected governor of Tennessee and married a woman named Eliza Allen. When his marriage failed, Sam returned to live with his friends, the Cherokees. While he lived with the Indians, Sam married another woman named Tiana Rogers but this marriage didn't last either. Then Sam was asked to travel to Texas by one of his important friends, the United States President Andrew **Jackson**. Sam was ready for a new adventure!

Sam liked Texas a great deal and he decided to make it his home. At that time Texas was owned by **Mexico** and did not belong to the United States. Sam and other brave men decided to fight Mexico and make Texas free. Sam Houston was made **general** in the Texas army. He was also active in politics and signed the Texas Declaration of Independence on March 2, 1836. Bet Sam was happy--it was his 43rd **birthday**!

When **Santa Anna** heard of the Texan's plans, he led Mexican troops and took over the **Alamo**. Many men were killed and Texans were mad! Sam Houston decided to fight the Mexicans at a place called **San Jacinto** on April 21, 1836. Sam's army won in just 18 minutes! Now Texas was free from Mexico and became the **Republic** of Texas. Who do you think was made **president**? Sam, of course!

Nine years later Texas became the 28th state in the United States. Sam Houston was elected as one of the first **Senators** from Texas and later he became **Governor** of the state.

When Sam was Governor, Texas decided to leave the United States and become part of the **Confederacy**. Sam felt in his heart that this was wrong. He refused to take an Oath (a promise) to the Confederacy and was removed from his office. Sam moved to **Huntsville**, Texas, with his wife, **Margaret**, and their 8 children. Sam died in Huntsville on July 26, 1863 from pneumonia. Today you can visit his homes at the Sam Houston Memorial **Museum**.

Sam Houston is a great **hero** to the people of Texas. He loved Texas and was very proud to live here. Although **Sam** Houston is gone, we can remember him for all the important things he did for Texas.

Can you find the boldface words from Sam Houston's Story in the word maze? You will find words in all different directions. Good Luck!

S	A	N	J	A	C	I	N	T	O	W
G	G	P	R	E	S	I	D	E	N	T
C	O	M	U	S	E	U	M	B	S	E
P	O	V	I	R	G	I	N	I	A	N
Q	U	N	E	B	O	S	H	R	N	N
H	T	S	F	R	X	I	E	T	T	E
O	U	I	E	E	N	F	R	H	A	S
U	M	N	J	N	D	O	O	D	A	S
S	A	D	T	A	A	E	R	A	N	E
T	R	E	M	S	C	T	R	Y	N	E
O	G	P	E	J	V	K	O	A	A	W
N	A	E	X	O	W	I	S	R	C	H
A	R	N	I	P	A	H	L	O	S	Y
L	E	P	C	F	V	A	N	L	N	N
A	T	E	O	S	L	A	W	Y	E	R
M	G	E	N	E	R	A	L	X	T	S
O	M	C	H	E	R	O	K	E	E	A
T	R	E	P	U	B	L	I	C	K	M