

CONCEPTS / VOCABULARY AS RELATED TO SAM HOUSTON MEMORIAL MUSEUM

Please feel free to amend these according to your grade level

- **Margaret Houston**--Sam's third wife and mother to his eight children. Married 23 years.
- **Eliza Houston**--Margaret's personal slave who did the cooking and helped raise the children.
- **Joshua Houston**--Sam's personal slave who was both a wheelwright and blacksmith.
- **Nancy Lea**--Margaret's mother who lived in Independence, Texas, and visited the Houston's often.
- **Woodland Home**--Sam's first home in Huntsville, Texas. Lived there 11 years.
- **Steamboat House**--Sam's second home in Huntsville, Texas (rented). Place of his death and his funeral.
- **Lawyer**--Sam was a lawyer and practiced both in Tennessee and Texas. This background helped him tremendously while he was a politician.
- **Alamo**--Sam issued orders to remove cannons and blow up The Alamo. Defenders choose to stay.
- **Santa Anna**--Mexican dictator who led his troops to destroy The Alamo. Sam's troops captured him at the battle of San Jacinto.
- **San Jacinto**--Famous battle in which Sam led the Texas revolutionary army to win Texas' independence from Mexico. This was the battle where Santa Anna was captured.
- **Independence**--Sam helped Texas become independent from Mexico and signed the Declaration of Independence at Washington-on-the-Brazos on his 43rd birthday. Also, the name of the town where Sam and Margaret lived. This town is the location of Margaret's grave as well as her mother's and Eliza's.
- **Republic of Texas**--The time when Texas was an independent country 1836-1845. Sam was the first and third president of the Republic.
- **Annexation**--In 1845, Texas was officially made the 28th state of the United States. Sam was instrumental in making Texas a part of the United States.

- **Senator**--Sam served as one of Texas' first senators from 1848-1859 with Thomas J. Rusk.
- **Compromise of 1850**--A political decision which affected Sam Houston and Texas. This created the northern border of the state at 36 degrees 30 minutes between the 100th and 103rd meridians and the southern border at the Rio Grande. As a result, Texas lost 1/3 of its land and was paid 10 million dollars by the United States government.
- **Kansas-Nebraska Act**--A controversial bill which created 2 provinces from Indian land. This included a provision for 'popular sovereignty' in which new territories could decide whether to be a free or slave state. Sam Houston voted against this act for many reasons including it repealed the earlier Compromise of 1820.
- **Governor**--Sam served as Texas' governor from 1859-1861--lived in Austin. Sam was deposed as governor when he refused to take the Oath of Allegiance to the Confederacy.
- **Deposed**--Removed from office.
- **Secession**--In 1861, Texas choose to break away from the United States and become part of the Confederate States of America. Sam was highly opposed to this.
- **Confederacy**--The 11 southern states that seceded from the United States.
- **Union**--The United States. Sam believed in the preservation of the Union at all costs.
- **Slavery**--Sam did own slaves while living in Texas.
- **Replica**--An object which has been made to look like another, namely an antique. At the Museum we have a few objects which are replicas.
- **Artifact**--An object that is considered to be old and representative of a particular time period. At the Museum we have artifacts belonging to Sam Houston and of the 19th century.
- **Honor**--A quality that defined a person in the 19th century. An "honorable" person upheld qualities of duty, bravery, honesty, truthfulness, integrity, and respect. Sam Houston was (and still is) considered by many to be a man of honor.
- **Daguerreotype**--The first practical type of photography invented in 1839. The image was made on a sheet of silver-plated copper. The model had to sit still for a long time which is why people are not smiling and look stiff. There are many daguerreotypes of Sam Houston and his family at the Museum.