

Texas Flags

People think that Texas has had six flags over it because six countries ruled the land. But, Texas actually had two other flags. This is a “Secret” that only people who study the Texas Revolution know about.

The six flags of the countries that ruled Texas are: 1. Spain, 2. France, 3. Mexico, 4. Texas, 5. The Confederate States of America, and 6. The United States of America. Actually, the United States flag has flown over Texas twice-- before and after Texas joined the Confederacy.

The two “Secret” flags of the Texas Revolution were the “Goliad Flag” and the “Gonzales Flag.” Both of these flags were flown in Texas in 1835 when the Texans were fighting a war of independence with Mexico.

The Gonzales flag was raised in October of 1835. It had a picture of a cannon that belonged to Mexico. Above the picture of the cannon were the words, “Come and Take it!” The flag had meaning because the Texans refused to return a cannon that belonged to Mexico.

The Goliad Flag was flown over Texas in December of 1835. It had an arm that had been cut off holding a bloody sword. It was a message to Mexico, and its dictator Santa Anna, that a Texan would rather lose an arm than to live under Mexican rule.

The purpose of these special flags was to encourage the people in Texas to fight against the much larger and better trained armies of Mexico. Do you think that these flags showed the fighting spirit of these Texans?

Objective 1:

Context Clues.

In this selection, the word “Refused” means --

- A Said, “Yes.”
- B Said, “No.”
- C Went along with it.
- D Agreed with them.

Prefixes/Suffixes.

In this passage, the word “Encourage” means --

- A To give them a heart.
- B To make them want to fight.
- C To tell them to run away.
- D To make them mad.

Specialized/Technical Terms.

In this selection, “Cannon” means --

- A A machine that makes puffed wheat.
- B A kind of church song.
- C A large gun used by armies.
- D A beautiful actress names Diana.

Objective 2:

Fact/Details.

How many countries ruled Texas lands?

- A 4
- B 6
- C 8
- D Not given

Sequential Order.

What happened right after the Gonzales flag was flown?

- A The Mexicans made a better flag for themselves.
- B The Texans “Thumbed their noses at the Mexicans.
- C The Texans raised the Goliad flag two months later.
- D Both their mothers called them for dinner.

Objective 3:**Main Idea.**

What is the main idea of this selection?

- A Texas only had six flags.
- B Texas had two special flags.
- C Texas had six flags, and two special flags.
- D Texas has had eight flags.

Best Summary.

Which of the following is the best summary of the passage?

- A Texas has had too many flags.
- B Texans are proud of all the flags they have had.
- C There are two more special flags besides the six that are well know in Texas.
- D Mexico was jealous that Texas had so many flags, so they went to war.

Objective 4:**Identify Causes of Event or Actions.**

A new ruling country causes the Texas flag to change because

- A New rulers like different colors.
- B The ruling country wants to fly its flag.
- C They are tired of the old flag.
- D They want everyone to salute.

Predict Future Outcomes.

Which of the following is likely to happen?

- A Texas will fly the Mexican flag again.
- B Texas will change its flag next year.
- C Texas will still fly the United States flag.
- D Texans will forget about all these flags.

Drawing Logical Conclusions.

Without “Flags” people would probably need--

- A Ribbons.
- B Statues.
- C Cannons.
- D Countries.

Understand the Feelings and Emotions of the Characters.

The Texans who flew the Gonzales Flag probably felt --

- A Angry.
- B Nervous.
- C Silly.
- D Scared.

Objective 6:**Distinguish between Fact and Nonfact.**

Which of the following is a FACT found in this passage?

- A Texas was once the ruler of Mexico.
- B Texas never liked Mexico.
- C Texas was once ruled by Spain.
- D Texas is lucky to have so many flags.