



Student Name:

Class Period:

Date:

Meet the Originals

Texas Originals is a radio series about people who made an impact on Texas. You can hear it online and on radio stations around the state. Read or listen to the episode on James Walker Fannin. Then, answer questions about it.

James Walker Fannin 1804–1836

James Fannin led the rebels massacred at Goliad in 1836. His defeat inspired the victory that secured Texas independence.

Fannin moved to Texas in 1834 from Georgia. When the Texas Revolution erupted in 1835, his ambition put him at the center of the action. With Jim Bowie, Fannin fought at the Battle of Concepción and participated in the siege of San Antonio.

Fannin then wanted to take the fight to Mexico by attacking Matamoros. However, when he learned that Santa Anna was preparing a massive invasion, he retired to the presidio at Goliad. There, he led the largest contingent of Texas rebels in the Mexican Army's path.

After the Alamo fell, Houston ordered Fannin to fall back from Goliad to Victoria. But Fannin hesitated, waiting five days to begin his retreat. Mexican forces overtook him at the Battle of Coleto. Though Mexican general José de Urrea sought mercy for his prisoners, Santa Anna stood firm in his orders. On Palm Sunday of 1836, the Mexican Army executed Fannin and more than three hundred of his men.

A few weeks later, when Houston finally engaged Mexican forces at the Battle of San Jacinto, cries of "Remember the Alamo! Remember Goliad!" spurred his men into battle. Victory and Texas independence followed, a legacy of Fannin's sacrifice.

Check for Understanding: Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on James Walker Fannin. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. What was James Fannin's role in the Texas Revolution?
2. Why were Mexican forces able to overtake Fannin and his troops at the Battle of Coleto?

Going Further: Write or discuss your answer to the question below, supporting your answer with evidence from the episode or additional information you have learned in class.

3. **Taking a Position.** After the Battle of Coleto, Santa Anna ordered the execution of Fannin and his men. Do you think if Santa Anna had shown mercy that the outcome of the war might have been different? Why or why not? Explain.