

Name: _____

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AUSTIN'S ARREST IN MEXICO

Stephen F. Austin was selected to travel to Mexico City to present the resolutions (decisions) made at the Convention of 1833 to the Mexican officials. Upon arriving, Stephen F. Austin was forced to wait four months before he was able to meet with the new president, Santa Anna.

Growing impatient, Austin decided to write the settlers a letter suggesting they establish a new government that would make Texas a separate state from Coahuila but still be part of Mexico. This was viewed as an act of treason by the Mexican government.

Eventually Austin met with Santa Anna. During their meeting, Santa Anna agreed to allow people from the United States to immigrate to Mexican Texas. He also agreed to create fairer taxes on goods from the U.S. However, Santa Anna rejected separate statehood for Texas. This did not please Austin.

Mexican officials arrested Austin on his way back home in December of 1833. The Mexican government had intercepted the letter that encouraged settlers to create their own separate state. Mexican officials viewed this act as treason and threw Austin in jail. Austin spent one year in jail and was not allowed to return home until the summer of 1835. During this time Austin became very ill.

The arrest of Stephen F. Austin caused the colonists to take one step closer to war with Mexico and Texas independence.

1. Why did Austin go to Mexico City?
2. Why did Austin suggest in his letter?
3. What did Santa Anna **not** agree to at the meeting with Austin?
4. Why was Austin thrown in jail in Mexico?
5. What was the significance of the arrest of Austin?