

The Córdova Rebellion Extension *Grade Level*

Unit 6: The Republic of Texas

Name:

Date:

Period:

Growing Tension in East Texas

During the Texas Revolutionary era, there were many different points of view about Texas independence. Within the Tejano population of Texas, some Tejanos supported Texas independence during the revolution, while others had opposed independence. Some Tejanos who had opposed independence wanted Texas to remain part of Mexico and feared that the rights they had enjoyed under Mexico might not be respected in the new Republic of Texas.

After Texas won its independence in 1836, American immigration into east Texas increased significantly. At times, this brought conflict between the new Anglo arrivals who were seeking to settle in the newly independent republic and members of the local Tejano population who sometimes felt they were being pushed out by newcomers.

In addition to the Anglo and Tejano residents, Texas Indians were a third important group living in east Texas after the war. One tribe in particular, the Cherokee, had been working for a long time to gain titles, or official ownership, of their land. During the Texas Revolution, leaders like Sam Houston had promised the Cherokee tribe titles to their land, but after the war the Republic of Texas government refused to honor the agreement.

Growing tension in east Texas between the new Anglo settlers, some Tejano residents who had opposed independence, and several Indian tribes working toward ownership of their land led to a conflict known as the Córdova Rebellion in August, 1838, led by a Tejano named Vicente Córdova.

What was the Córdova Rebellion, and what was its primary cause? Your answer should be two or three complete sentences in your own words.

The Córdova Rebellion was _____

Its primary cause was _____

The Córdova Rebellion Primary Source #1

The following primary source excerpt was taken from an article in the *Telegraph and Texas Register* of Houston printed on August 25, 1838. The article published an account of events leading to the Córdova Rebellion.

“Since the reception of the following intelligence, a messenger has arrived from Nacogdoches, who states that on the approach of generals Rusk and Douglass with a large division of the militia of that section, the Mexicans and their allies the *Biloxies*¹, fled from their encampment on the Angelina and took refuge in the Cherokee village.”

“They were pursued by Gen. Rusk, who in order to avoid the *effusion*² of blood, and prevent a *precipitate*³ Indian war; halted his division a few miles from the village and sent a messenger to Bowles, the principle chief, requesting him to give them up. - Bowles desired permission to hold a council of his nation, and agreed to send an answer on the following Saturday. No intelligence has been received from them since.”

“We believe that this transaction will be attended with beneficial consequences, as the overwhelming force that will be assembled in that quarter, will impress upon the *deluded*⁴ creatures a full sense of their inferiority, and show them that any further excesses on their part, may lead to their complete *discomfiture*⁵ if not to their extermination.”

1. According to the account published in the newspaper, what happened when the Texan militia arrived near Nacogdoches?
 - Generals Rusk and Douglass ordered their militia to attack the Cherokees.
 - The Mexican and Indian rebels took shelter with the Cherokees.
 - The Texan militia began a siege of the Mexican and Indian rebels.
 - The Mexican and Indian rebels successfully attacked the militia.
2. What was Chief Bowles' response to Rusk's request to hand over the rebels?
 - Chief Bowles immediately turned the rebels over to the militia
 - Chief Bowles helped the rebels escape the militia.
 - Chief Bowles launched an attack against Rusk's militia.
 - Chief Bowles asked for time to hold a meeting, but did not respond after.
3. From whose point of view was this article written? How might this article be different if it were written from a different point of view?

¹ **Biloxies** refers to a tribe of American Indians that migrated into Texas in the early 1800s.

² **Effusion**: (n) spilling of a liquid. The effusion of blood refers to causing bloodshed.

³ **Precipitate**: (adj) Describing something that is hasty or rash, an action made without careful thought.

⁴ **Deluded**: (adj) Believing something that is not true.

⁵ **Discomfiture**: (n) a feeling of unease or embarrassment.

The Córdova Rebellion Primary Source #2

The following primary source excerpt was taken from an article in the Houston *Telegraph and Texas Register* published on September 29, 1838, nearly a month after the article on the previous page. This article gave an account of the events of the rebellion, including the following brief description of the motivations and goals of the rebels.

<p>“On the 10th, the Mexicans sent a letter from their camp to the president at Nacogdoches, signed by Cordova, Norris, Cruz’s, and others, <i>disavowing</i> all <i>allegiance</i> and respect to the constitution and laws of this Republic, and expressing their preference and determination to fight for the Mexican constitution of ‘24.”</p>	<p>Disavowing: Denying Allegiance: Loyalty</p>
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4. The excerpt states that some Mexican rebels were “disavowing all allegiance and respect to the constitution and laws of this republic.” Which statement below best paraphrases the meaning of that statement?
 - a. The rebels were stating that they did not support the Republic of Texas, they were not loyal to the Republic, and would not follow its laws.
 - b. The rebels were stating that they would not agree to negotiations with the Republic of Texas without guarantees of their constitutional rights.
 - c. The rebels were stating that they willingly entered into an allegiance with several east Texas Indian tribes and would fight for their own independence.
 - d. The rebels were stating that they were willing to establish a treaty of commerce and diplomatic relations with the Republic of Texas.
5. What was one goal the rebels had, according to the excerpt?
 - a. They hoped to take over the political leadership of east Texas, specifically the town of Nacogdoches.
 - b. They wanted to return Texas to Mexican control under the Constitution of 1824 before the centralists took over Mexico City.
 - c. They wanted to overthrow the government of the Republic of Texas and annex the territory to the United States.
 - d. They planned to form a confederation with the Indian tribes of east Texas and abolish immigration from the United States.

The Córdova Rebellion Primary Source #3

The following primary source excerpt was taken from an article in the Houston *Telegraph and Texas Register* published on November 3, 1838. The article published a letter from Major General Thomas J. Rusk, who led the Texan militia during the Córdova Rebellion. His letter gave an account of the conflict and its outcome. The rebellion would end shortly after the events described here.

There are several misspellings and grammar errors in the original text. The excerpt is included here with the original errors.

On the day before my arrival at [the Kickapoo town] Major Mabbitt had been attacked by the Indians and Mexicans on his march... – had several men killed and wounded – and killed (as I have since learned;) five of the enemy...

At about sun-down on the 15th, [we] arrived at the Kickapoo Town. I here encamped for the night. About 10 o,clock, the enemy attempted to fire the woods around us, but failed... end at break of day next morning the 16th, a spirited attack was made upon three sides of our camp. The enemy's cavalry were stationed on a hill, out of gun shot evidently with an intention of falling upon us, if we attempted a retreat.

A very brisk fire was kept up on both sides for about fifteen minutes when I ordered a portion of the force to remain and protect the camp, and with the remainder charged the enemy, who precipitately fled, leaving eleven dead on the ground... From the blood upon the ground, they must have suffered severely...We had eleven men severely wounded – none killed, and about twenty five or thirty horses so badly shot as to be unfit for use. Amongst the enemy's dead were found Caddos, Coushatties, Boloxies, one Cherokee, and two Mexicans.

6. Place a check mark next to each item listed below that occurred in this conflict of the Córdova Rebellion as described in the passage above.
 - Sam Houston deployed the army, militia, and rangers with orders to forcefully remove all rebels from the area when he learned of the rebellion.
 - Before Rusk and his men arrived, another militia leader had been attacked by members of Córdova's Rebellion.
 - The rebels tried to set fire to the woods where the militia were camping at night on August 15, 1838.
 - In the morning of August 16, 1838, the rebels attacked three sides of the militia's camp.
 - The fight on August 16 lasted more than 3 hours before the rebels were able to drive the militia out of the area.
 - The militia forced the rebels to retreat with both sides suffering casualties.