Why Revolt?

In the late 1820's, the Mexican government began restricting American immigration and changing the constitution. Immigrants felt the laws were unfair.

Primary Source: Adventures: The Battle of San Jacinto

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Why Revolt?

By 1829, Santa Anna supported the government change to a centralized republic. During the process, Santa Anna kept his centralism secret.

Primary Source: Letter from Santa Anna to Lorenzo de Zavala, July 22, 1829

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Why Revolt?

Since January 1836, Texas settlers had been abandoning their homes, known as the Runaway Scrape, because the Mexican government initiated military reoccupation of the newly settled land.

Primary Source: Adventures: The Battle of San Jacinto
A QUICK REVIEW:

A FEW DAYS BEFORE

A year earlier, Lorenzo de Zavala had been elected to represent Texas in the Congress. How do you think Zavala felt when Santa Anna burned the town?

Santa Anna led 700 men to Harrisburg on his way to the coast, burning the town. Richardson, Geo F.. [Harrisburg Election] October 8th, 1835, Letter, (http://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth33920x0), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, http://texashistory.unt.edu; crediting Texas State Library and Archives Commission, Austin, Texas.

Ziegler, Jesse A. When Texas was Young. (1930.)
Houston's men, on April 17th, came to a fork in the road. One road led to Louisiana and the other road led to Harrisburg on the edge of the coast. They took the road to Harrisburg.

On the 18th, Houston learned that Santa Anna's nearby forces had just crossed the bridge over Vince's Bayou. On the 19th, Houston crossed Buffalo Bayou just outside of Harrisburg and captured one of Santa Anna's supply boats. On the 20th, the Texas army was the first to move onto the battlefield.

What geographical features helped the Texans win the Battle of San Jacinto?
The Texians took control of Lynch's Ferry and settled into a dense grove of oak trees between the Harrisburg-Lynchburg road and Buffalo Bayou. Anyone going to the ferry had to pass close to the woods.

As they approached the Texas army hidden in the trees they started firing at the Texas camp with a cannon. The Mexican army arrived on the same day around noon along the New Washington-Lynchburg road.

Sidney Sherman, commander of the Second Regiment, attempted to capture the gun.
Slide 16

Do you see the marsh?

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Slide 17

THE BATTLE OF SAN JACINTO:
APRIL 21, 1836

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Slide 18

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9 a.m.
Number of Soldiers Before Battle

On the morning of April 21st, General Houston held a council of war. He was advised to wait until Santa Anna made a move but decided to attack first.

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3:30 PM
General Sam Houston ordered his men to cross through knee-high grass, approximately one mile toward the Mexican positions. The Second Regiment, under the command of Sidney Sherman, moved through the trees and the battle started when they arrived at the Mexican infantry.

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4:30 PM
Mexican Colonel Pedro Delgado, in his account of the battle, noted: "No important incident took place until 4:30 p.m. At this fatal moment, the bugler on our right signaled the advance of the enemy upon that wing."

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A Texan account of the battle
The amount of soldiers that the Texans won was enormous. It included several hundred men and women, from frontier homes, and hundreds more without much war experience. Houston himself led the charge, and the success of the Texans was due to their bravery and determination.

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**Slide 22**

The Battle Flag captured from Santa Anna

**Slide 23**

A Mexican account of the battle

**Slide 24**

Santa Anna was captured and brought into the Texian camp.
Reluctantly, Santa Anna agreed to the terms of a treaty. It meant that all Mexican soldiers had to leave Texas.
As I have notified Your Excellency in the official communiqué of today, withdraw the troops through Bejar and Victoria, I ask Y. E. that you order the Division commanders that in said retreat, no harm be done to the property of the inhabitants of this Country, hoping that this disposition will be followed precisely.

God and Liberty.

Field of San Jacinto, April 22, 1836.

Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna

Translation of Santa Anna’s Letter 22 April, 1836

Lorenzo de Zavala’s letter to his son reporting that he will escort Santa Anna to Veracruz as a service to Texas.

May 28, 1836

"I think it is the best service I can do for Texas and one of the biggest sacrifices of my life."

Lorenzo de Zavala

The result?
The Republic of Texas!

And…
Effects of the Battle

For Texas,
their victory led to annexation into the United States and the United States' war with Mexico.

For Mexico,
the defeat meant the loss of nearly a million square miles of territory. Did you know that Texas, New Mexico, Nevada, Arizona, California, Utah and parts of Montana, Arizona, Colorado, and Wyoming would be in Mexico as a result of the Battle of San Jacinto? Almost a third of what is now the United States of America changed ownership.

Land Grants were rewarded to those who fought at San Jacinto.

Do you have a family member with stories to tell?