



A PICTURE BOOK OF SAM HOUSTON

GRADES
PREK-3

by David A. Adler and Michael S. Adler
illustrated by Matt Collins

About the Book

This addition to the Adler Picture Book Biography series explores the life of Sam Houston—

teacher, lawyer, war hero, statesman—who is best known for defeating the Mexican Army and establishing Texas as an independent nation.

Sam Houston was elected governor of Tennessee, served two terms as the president of the Republic of Texas, and helped Texas to become the twenty-eighth state. Includes source notes, selected bibliography, important dates, and recommended websites.

978-0-8234-2369-9 / Nonfiction Picture Book Biography

SUGGESTED CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

Literature/Language Arts

Biographies—Students may be interested in reading other picture book biographies by David A. Adler or those written in collaboration with Michael S. Adler and can find them in their school or public library. They may also want to read biographies of other noted people mentioned in the Sam Houston book: Colonel William B. Travis, Davy Crockett, Jim Bowie, Andrew Jackson, and Antonio López de Santa Anna.

Autobiography vs. Biography—Students should learn the difference between these two terms: a **biography** is written about someone other than the author and an **autobiography** is written by a person about his or her own life. David A. Adler's autobiography can be found on his website.

Life Events—Students can make a chronological list of the important events in Sam Houston's life. They can then make a list of the important events in their own lives and use the list to write their own autobiography. Students may want to illustrate each important event to create a picture book autobiography. They can then share these orally with the class.

Bibliographies—In the “Source Notes” at the end of the book, the author presents a list of the other books he used for his research, and cites exactly where he found specific quotes. Students can select three books on a particular subject in which they are interested and then create a bibliography using the format shown: Author's last name, first name. *Title of book in italics or underlined.* City: Publisher, © (year).

Heroes—Sam Houston is a Texas hero. Some people believe that heroes are people who exhibit courage. Students can list examples of times in Sam's life when he showed courage. They can also talk or write about other qualities they think heroes possess and include a discussion of which of these qualities they think Sam possessed also.

Geography

Students can locate the places mentioned in the book that were important in Sam Houston's life: Houston, Huntsville, San Antonio, and the San Jacinto River in Texas; Rockbridge County, Virginia; and Maryville and Nashville in Tennessee. Using an atlas of the United States, they can locate these sites, and then trace the path of Sam Houston's life.

Research

Students can use books, encyclopedias, or online resources to find out additional facts and information about many of the people and events mentioned in the book: the Alamo, the Cherokees in Tennessee in 1809, the Tennessee

Regulars in the War of 1812, and the process by which Texas became the twenty-eighth state. They can also do research on their own state to determine how and when it achieved statehood, and where it ranks among the fifty states. (See “Online Resources” below.)

Online Resources

These sources are in addition to the excellent sources that are listed at the end of the book.

Sam Houston

- ❖ www.shsu.edu/~simm_www/History/ presents a detailed chronology of events in the life of Sam Houston.
- ❖ <http://tslacconservation.wordpress.com/2012/02/03/sam-houston-andrew-jackson-and-thomas-jefferson/> discusses how a conservator at the Texas State Library and Archives Commission preserved the important 1823 letter from Andrew Jackson that introduced Sam Houston to Thomas Jefferson around the time when Houston was elected to Congress. It includes photos of the letter.
- ❖ www.searchquotes.com/quotes/author/Sam_Houston/ presents several famous quotes by Sam Houston beyond those that are mentioned in the book.

The Alamo—www.thealamo.org/resources/4thGrade.pdf and <http://tinyurl.com/7q2q5tt> present a wealth of photos and other documents related to this Texas landmark.

Statehood—www.50states.com/statehood.htm presents brief facts on how each of the U.S. states was admitted to the Union, along with the date and the rank among the fifty states.

Prepared by Sandy Schuckett, school library consultant

Bonus Educator’s Guide

An Educator’s Guide to the David A. Adler Picture Book Biographies

In the space of a single bookshelf, educators can bring an entire American history curriculum into the classroom with David A. Adler’s Picture Book Biographies. For an extensive educator’s guide, visit the Holiday House website at www.holidayhouse.com/docs/Adler%20Web-An%20Educator's%20Guide.pdf.

About the Authors and the Illustrator

David A. Adler has written more than a hundred books for children. A former teacher, he lives with his family in New York State. Visit David online at www.davidaadler.com.

Michael S. Adler is fascinated by early American history. *A Picture Book of Samuel Adams*, which he coauthored with his father, was named a Bank Street Best Children’s Book of the Year. He lives with his wife in the Bronx, New York.

Matt Collins has illustrated numerous picture books for children, including *A Picture Book of Harry Houdini*. Visit him online at www.mattcollins.com.