

Celia wrote an essay explaining the events of Coletto Creek and the Goliad Massacre. She would like you to help her with revisions to her essay.

Coletto Creek and the Goliad Massacre

1) General Urrea followed his commander's orders quickly and headed straight towards Goliad to capture Fannin's army.

2) Fannin, on the other hand, didn't follow orders at all. 3) Instead of going to Victoria like Houston commanded, he stayed right where he was in Goliad and sent a few soldiers to protect the nearby towns of Refugio and San Patricio.

4) Refugio and San Patricio were easily defeated by Urrea. 5) Fannin received word of the defeats, he finally started to move. 6) SLOWLY. 7) Instead of a quick retreat, he ordered his men to pack every weapon they could find. 8) They heavily loaded down the wagons and began to move towards Victoria. 9) They had barely left Goliad when the Mexican army caught them.

10) As soon as they saw the Mexicans, the Texans began to run. 11) They left behind anything that slowed them down, including most of their carefully packed wagons. 12) They got as far as a little dry creek bed called Coletto Creek.

13) The battle lasted only until sundown. At sunset, Urrea ordered his own forces to camp and rest. 14) There was no hurry to kill the small, surrounded Texas forces.

15) During the night, Fannin encouraged those who had not been wounded to sneak away during the night. 16) The uninjured soldiers held a meeting and voted to stay. 17) Nearly every man had a relative or friend who was injured. 18) They wouldn't leave them behind. 19) They faced death as bravely as those at the Alamo and stayed to die with their friends.

20) The next day, March 20th, Fannin asked to meet with Urrea. 21) Fannin said they would surrender IF they would be kept as prisoner and not executed. 22) If execution was the only option, they would die fighting, killing as many Mexican soldiers as possible. 23) Urrea agreed to take them prisoner, and the Texans were taken back to their own fort, La Bahia, at Goliad.

24) Urrea sent word to Santa Anna of the surrender. 25) Santa Anna was furious that Urrea allowed prisoners. 26) He wanted the Texas rebels killed. 27) Urrea left Goliad to continue to chase down Houston, leaving the prisoners with Colonel Potilla in command. 28) Santa Anna sent a letter back to Potilla insisting the Texans be killed. 29) He probably used a pen to write the message. 30) Urrea sent a letter to Potilla encouraging him to treat the prisoners well, but Potilla was afraid to defy the orders of Santa Anna.

31) On the day of the Goliad Massacre, the Texas soldiers were told they were going home. 32) It was Palm Sunday, March 27, 1836. 33) Those unwounded were marched out of La Bahia. 34) Those troops sang, "Home Sweet Home." 35) About a mile outside the fort, they were stopped and shot by surrounding Mexican guards. 36) In all, 342 men were killed. 37) The injured Texans, including Fannin were hurt too much to march out. 38) They were killed inside the mission after the murder on the road. 39) Hearing the gunfire, he asked a guard a favor. 40) He didn't want his body burned. 41) He paid the guard with his gold pocket watch. 42) However, the guard did not keep his end of the bargain. 43) Instead, Fannin's body was burned with the others.

44) During the chaos of shooting on the road, 28 men escaped by running into the nearby woods. 45) They eventually made their way to Houston and told him what happened. 46) Now it was just Houston's army against ALL of Santa Anna's troops.

47) Santa Anna's plan seemed to be coming together. 48) How could Texas possibly win the war now?

1. Celia wants to add a transition word before sentence 5. Which word would make the best transition?

- A. Once
- B. Yesterday
- C. In addition
- D. However

2. Which sentence is NOT a complete sentence?

- A. Sentence 4
- B. Sentence 6
- C. Sentence 10
- D. Sentence 14

3. Celia doesn't think the word **he** in sentence 39 is clear. What word could she replace it with to make the paragraph more understandable?

- A. Houston
- B. Santa Anna
- C. Fannin
- D. Goliad

4. Celia would like to add the following detail to paragraph 9 (sentences 31-43).

The guard agreed to bury his body.

Where is the best place to add this detail?

- A. After sentence 32
- B. After sentence 35
- C. After sentence 41
- D. After sentence 43

5. Which sentence does not belong in the story?

- A. Sentence 3
- B. Sentence 10
- C. Sentence 29
- D. Sentence 44

6. What is the best way to combine sentences 40 and 41?

- A. He didn't want his body burned, he paid the guard with his gold pocket watch.
- B. He didn't want his body burned, but he paid the guard with his gold pocket watch.
- C. He didn't want his body burned, paid the guard with his gold pocket watch.
- D. He didn't want his body burned, so he paid the guard with his gold pocket watch.

Answer Key:

1. A
2. B
3. C
4. C
5. C
6. D

Sources you might find interesting:

The Death of Fannin (eye-witness account):

<http://www.sonsofdewittcolony.org/goliadspohn.htm>

Coleto Creek:

<https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/qec01>

<https://www.legendsofamerica.com/tx-goliadmassacre/>

Goliad Massacre:

<https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/qeg02>