

Objective sight words (motto, scout, politician, legislature, autobiography, narrative, Bowie knife, folk hero, feud, incident, pneumonia, confined); concepts (the destiny of three influential men in the history of Texas; facts and opinions)



Statue of David Crockett

Vocabulary

motto	Bowie knife
scout	folk hero
politician	feud
legislature	incident
autobiography	pneumonia
narrative	confined

Facts and Opinions Men of Destiny

By: Sue Peterson

“Be sure you are right. Then, go ahead.” This was the motto of **David (Davy) Crockett**. Born in 1786, Crockett loved hunting and the outdoors. He taught himself how to read and write and to do math.

Crockett married Mary Finely and became a farmer. He moved his family to Tennessee and later joined the United States army as a soldier and fought several battles against

the Native American Indians. Crockett served as a scout and a hunter for the army.

His first wife died and he remarried. Crockett became a politician and he was elected to the legislature and later to Congress. He gave short speeches and included stories that poor settlers could understand and appreciate. Crockett acted as their spokesman and proposed bills to reduce taxes, to settle land disputes, and to protect general economic interests.

Crockett disagreed with President Andrew Jackson on many issues, especially removing Native American Indians from their land. He published an autobiography about himself called *A Narrative of the Life of David Crockett of the State of Tennessee*.

Other people wrote books about Davy Crockett's life as a frontiersman and this fame made him a national hero. Davy Crockett moved to Texas in 1835, and he was killed in the battle of the Alamo in San Antonio in 1836.

James Bowie is famous for the "Bowie knife" and is remembered also for being a true folk



A Bowie knife

hero in early Texas. Bowie always carried a knife since he was involved in a famous feud against a sheriff in Mississippi when Bowie was 31-years-old.

The design of the hunting knife changed throughout the years, and today it has a blade a little longer than 8 inches and it is 1¼ inches wide, with a curved point and a cross-guard to protect the user's hand.

This incident and the fact that Bowie would always carry a hunting knife made Bowie a folk hero and soon he was seen as a superb knife fighter across the South. Bowie continued to use his knife to protect himself.

Bowie was born in Kentucky in 1796. He moved to Missouri, and then to Louisiana and later to Mississippi. Finally, Bowie moved to Texas in 1828.

Bowie took part in several adventures and he was friends with many Indians in his search for silver and gold in Texas. Some people say he found the San Saba Mines, also known as the Bowie Mines, near the center of the state.

In the Texas Revolution, Bowie was a leader. He was a commander for the volunteer force to fight against the

Mexicans in the hope of gaining independence. Bowie contacted pneumonia and he was confined to a cot at the time of his death in March of 1836, at the Battle of the Alamo.

Stephen Austin was born in 1793, and he is known as an American leader of colonization in Texas.

Because of the strong role he played in colonization, he is also known as “The Father of Texas”. Austin grew up in Missouri and studied at a university in Kentucky, served in the Missouri legislature, and studied law.



Statue of Stephen F. Austin

When his father died, Austin took over to lead 300 families to Texas in 1822. This was the beginning of colonizing the land between the Brazos and Colorado Rivers, which was then the Mexican Tejas. He also helped the new colonists and the people of the Mexican Government talk to each other. Through these discussions, Austin helped colonization work. He helped design a legal system and wrote policies for immigration.

Austin served time in prison for his strong beliefs of independence, and upon being dismissed from prison in 1835 he continued to oppose the government of Santa Anna.

These were strong factors which led to the Texas Revolution. Austin served as Secretary of State of the Republic of Texas.

The capital of Texas, Austin County, Austin Bayou, Stephen F. Austin State University, Austin College, as well as a number of public schools in Texas are named in his honor. Maybe you know of a school that is named for Stephen Austin.

Stephen Austin's role in Texas will always be remembered.

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**Fact or Opinion?** Facts are true and opinions are what you believe to be true. Therefore, opinions are not necessarily true. After reading the information about three men of destiny and what they did in their lives to help shape Texas, see if you can pick the **3** true statements and the **3** opinions from the following sentences:

1. **Davy Crockett was active both in the frontier and also in politics.**
2. Davy Crockett was the best frontiersman fighter.
3. **The Bowie knife is named after James Bowie.**
4. The Bowie knife is the strongest knife in the world.

5. **Stephen Austin was not a native of Texas, but he was known as “The Father of Texas”.**
6. Stephen Austin only did what his father always told him.

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Did you decide which statements are **facts** and which are **opinions**? Remember, facts are things that are true and opinions are how you feel or what you think about something.

(See if you got them correct. The 3 facts are in **bold** print. The 3 opinions are not bolded.)



Practice

Multiple-Choice Questions (Put an X in front of the correct answer.)

1. How would you describe an “autobiography”, a type of book that Crockett wrote?
 - a. a book about the outdoors
 - b. a book about politics
 - c. a book written by you that is about yourself
 - d. a book written about someone else
2. From the reading, what is **most likely** the definition of a “folk hero”?
 - a. someone who has won something
 - b. someone admired for doing something to help others
 - c. someone that most people have not heard about
 - d. someone who is known for ignoring people
3. What is the **main** difference between a fact and an opinion?
 - a. a fact is true and an opinion is a belief
 - b. an opinion is true and a fact is a belief
 - c. a fact is supported by opinions
 - d. an opinion is supported by facts

Definitions (Write the meaning of each word as it is used in the text.)

1. motto

2. scout

3. politician

Extended Response (Answer in complete sentences.)

1. Explain the importance of the **three** main characters described in the story.

2. Why do you think the author combined these **3** main characters in one reading selection?

3. Write **one** opinion and **one** fact about your favorite sport. Label the fact F and the opinion O. Put the letter in front of each type of sentence.

Answer Sheet

Answers for Matching, Multiple-Choice Questions and Extended Response

Facts and Opinions – Men of Destiny

Multiple-Choice Questions

1. c
2. b
3. a

Extended Response (Accept reasonable answers.)

1. See text for more information about the 3 men listed in the text and their importance.
2. The three men mentioned helped shape Texas. Students should know of their contribution.
3. The student must write one opinion and one fact about a favorite sport. The fact is labeled with an “F” and the opinion with an “O”