In November 1835, a young man named John C. Logan left his home in Kentucky and set out for Texas. Logan was seeking adventure as a volunteer soldier in the fight for Texas independence and an opportunity to improve his fortunes. As Logan and other volunteers made their way south, Texas settlers were on the verge of full-scale revolution against the government of Mexico.

In the months following his arrival in Texas, Logan would travel the length of the settled areas. His letters to friends and relatives back home reflected his thoughts and feelings about Texas as he and the other soldiers prepared to meet the Mexican army. Logan also experienced the hardships of a common soldier and would ultimately meet his fate at Goliad, one of 342 men massacred on orders from Santa Anna. His story would have ended there had his personal letters not been discovered at the Texas General Land Office.

Using Logan’s letters and other primary source documents from the General Land Office Archives, students will learn about the last months of Logan’s life and his enduring legacy as a true Texas hero.

The following activities were created to introduce students to the life and times of John C. Logan. Each lesson was created as a “stand alone” activity but the teacher may want to incorporate all five lessons as a unit.

**UNIT OVERVIEW**

- **PART I: OPPORTUNITY** — Analyze a primary source parallel using Logan’s December 1835 letter.
- **PART II: THE FINEST COUNTRY** — Create a timeline of Logan’s journey through Texas based on information from his letters.
- **PART III: SOME HARD TIMES** — Describe how Logan’s life changed in the two months between December 1835 and February 1836.
- **PART IV: 24TH FEBY 1836** — Compare Logan’s letter to the more famous letter written on the same day.
- **PART V: IF I SHOULD FALL IN BATTLE** — Learn how the government of Texas kept its promise to Logan and his heirs.
I again take this opertunity of of writing a few lines to you to let you know that I am still in the land of the living & in good health & I sincerely whope that thes few lines may find you & all your fathers family & all my relations in the same ...”

— John C. Logan, 1835

The letter used in this lesson was written by a volunteer soldier from Kentucky named John C. Logan. Logan came to Texas in late 1835 to fight for Texas independence from Mexico. In this letter, he shares his travel experiences and personal observations of revolutionary Texas with his family back in Kentucky.

GOALS
★ Read and analyze John C. Logan’s December 19, 1835 letter.
★ Describe Logan’s life as a volunteer soldier.
★ Determine how Logan’s experiences add to our understanding of the Texas Revolution.

TEKS
SOCIAL STUDIES, HISTORY 7.3
(C) Explain the issues surrounding significant events of the Texas Revolution.

SOCIAL STUDIES, GEOGRAPHY 7.21
(B) Analyze information by sequencing, categorizing, identifying cause-and-effect relationships, comparing, contrasting, finding the main idea, summarizing, making generalizations and predictions, and drawing inferences and conclusions.
(D) Identify points of view from the historical context surrounding an event and the frame of reference that influenced the participants.

SOCIAL STUDIES SKILLS 7.22
(D) Create written, oral, and visual presentations of social studies information.
**ACTIVITY STEPS**

1. Using a projector, display a copy of Logan’s original letter to the class. Ask students what they can learn about Logan and his time based on a visual analysis of the letter. Have your students share and discuss their observations.

2. Next, briefly explain Logan’s background to the students. (Please refer to the Unit Introduction). Tell them they will read and analyze Logan’s December 1835 letter to learn what it was like to be a soldier during the early days of the Texas Revolution.

3. Divide the class into pairs and distribute a transcript of the letter and a copy of the Document Analysis questions to each student. The Document Analysis questions are divided into two sections.

   - Transcripts of John C. Logan’s December 1835 and February 1836 letters
   - Castañeda map of Texas 1820 – 1836
   - John C. Logan and the Texas Revolution timeline

4. In pairs, the students will read the transcript of the letter. When they have finished reading have the students alternate finding the answers to the questions for Section I only. One student will take the even numbered questions; the other student, the odd numbered questions. When all 10 questions have been answered, the students should share their findings with their partner and verify or modify their answers accordingly. When students have finished Section I, discuss answers as a class.

5. Next, students will complete Section II of the handout individually. They should be prepared to discuss their choice and how the selected passage contributes to a better understanding of the life and times of John C. Logan and the Texas Revolution.

**SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES**

- Give a dramatic reading of Logan’s letter to present to the class. Use music, props, etc., to enhance the presentation and audience experience.

- Imagine you are Logan’s cousin. Write a response to this letter and include any questions you may have about his experiences in Texas. What are your concerns and hopes as his close relative?
Washington, Tex., Dec. 19, 1835

Dear Sir,

I again take this opportunity of writing you a few lines to let you know that I am still in the land of the living. Your health and safety are of the utmost importance to me. I sincerely hope that you may find your relations and all your family well.

I have traveled over 300 miles from 200 miles distant yet to Fort San Antonio at Pecos. Last evening an express arrived here that the last manned fort has fallen into our hands. I have now the command of the fort. I am told that one comrade, Colonel [illegible], was killed and five privates have been taken. I am told that we are expected to be on the Red River, 200 miles distant from Fort San Antonio. Where we are now is a new town on the Rio Grande. We shall be before long a place of importance. We leave here this evening for a days' journey to Fort San Antonio. Since we arrived at the River Trinity, we have traveled over one of the finest country I have ever seen in Texas.

John C. Logan letter, Dec. 19, 1835, Court of Claims file #CC-4975, Archives and Records Program, Texas General Land Office, Austin.
Here to see the liberty of this Country it shall be some considerable length of time before I shall visit the United States again I suppose I should fall in Battle there is seven hundred different of land coming to me in this Country which I leave to you if you think it worth your while to attend to it for the law says if any person fall in battle that his Relation can have his bounty of land this monthly wages for the time he has served the Country but I expect to see Bill Kentucky yet please give my love to all your fathers family tell my Relations give my best Respect to Dr. Phillips no news at present but remains your affectionate Cousin N. H. C.

To Louisa Nancy Beauray

& I when you write to me direct to San Felipe de Austin J C Logan

of the Louisville

WASHINGTON, TEXAS

19TH DEC 1835

Dear Cousins,

I again take this opportunity of writing a few lines to you to let you know that I am still in the land of the living & in good health & I sincerely hope that these few lines may find you & all your fathers family & all my relations in the same. I have no traveled on foot 305 miles & its 200 miles distant yet to Fort San Antonio at Bejar last evening an express arrived here that the last maned fort has fallen in to our hands fallen in to our hands but I am sorry to say that our commander Colonel Milem & 5 privates has been killed in taken the last fort & it is expected that our next attack shall be on Mattemora near the mouth of the Rio Grand River & 200 miles distance from San Antonio Where we are now is a new town on the River Brazos & will be before long a place of some business we leave here this evening & in 10 days expect to be at San Antonio Since we crossed the river Trinity 70 miles back we have traveled over one of the finest Country I have ever seen it I shall live to see the liberty of this Country it shall be some considerable length of time before I shall visit the United States again & if I should fall in battle there is seven hundred & 40 acres of land coming to me in this Country which I leave to you if you if think it worth your while to attend to it for the law says if any person fall in battle that his relation can have his bounty of land & his monthly wages for the time he has served the Country but I expect to see old Kentucky yet Pleas give my best respects to all your fathers family & all my relations Give my best respects to Arnot Phillips no more at present but remains your affectionate cousin

J C Logan

To Lewis & Nancy Zearing

P S when you write to me direct
to San Felipe de Austin

J C Logan

Of the Louisville

Vollinteers

TRANSCRIPT OF: John C. Logan letter, Dec. 19, 1835, Court of Claims file #CC-4975, Archives and Records Program, Texas General Land Office, Austin.
LOGAN LETTER DOCUMENT ANALYSIS—PART I

1. What assumption can you make about Logan’s educational level?________________________
   Evidence: _________________________________________________________________________

2. What Texas Revolutionary battle does Logan refer to in his letter? ______________________

3. What does Logan mean when he writes, “... I am still in the land of the living ...” ____________
   ________________________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________________________

4. Does Logan plan to come home soon? ____________________________
   Evidence: _________________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________________________

5. What is Logan’s reward for his military service? ____________________________
   ________________________________________________________________________________

6. Summarize Logan’s general impression of Texas. ____________________________
   ________________________________________________________________________________

7. List three topics Logan addresses in the 1835 letter. ____________________________
   ________________________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________________________

8. List three adjectives that describe Logan and explain why you chose them. ________________
   ________________________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________________________

9. If you could ask Logan any question, what would it be? ____________________________
   ________________________________________________________________________________

10. Make a prediction based on information from the letter. ____________________________
    ________________________________________________________________________________
1. What is the most memorable quote from Logan’s letter? _________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________

2. What makes this quote memorable to you? ____________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________

3. How does this quote add to our understanding of John C. Logan and the Texas Revolution?
__________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________
Since we crossed the river Trinity 70 miles back we have traveled over one of the finest Country I have ever seen it I shall live to see the liberty of this Country ...”

— John C. Logan, 1835

In the autumn of 1835, a young man from Louisville, Kentucky named John C. Logan marched to Texas with other volunteers to fight for Texas independence from Mexico. During his journey, Logan wrote letters home to family and friends relating his observations and experiences. Two of Logan’s letters are part of the Archives and Records collection of the Texas General Land Office.

**GOALS**

- Identify the places visited by Logan.
- Trace the route of Logan’s journey through Texas to his final destination.
- Calculate how far Logan traveled during his time in Texas.

**TEKS**

**SOCIAL STUDIES, HISTORY 7.3**

(C) Explain issues surrounding significant events of the Texas revolution.

**SOCIAL STUDIES, GEOGRAPHY 7.8**

(A) Create and interpret thematic maps.

**SOCIAL STUDIES, GEOGRAPHY 7.9**

(A) Locate places of importance during 19th century Texas.

**SOCIAL STUDIES, GEOGRAPHY 7.11**

(A) Analyze why immigrant groups came to Texas and where they settled.

**SOCIAL STUDIES, GEOGRAPHY 7.21**

(A) Locate places of importance during 19th century Texas.

(B) Analyze information by sequencing and identifying cause-and-effect relationships.

(C) Organize and interpret information from timelines and maps.

**RESOURCES**

- Transcripts of John C. Logan’s 1835 and 1836 letters (Refer to Part I for the 1835 letter)
- Map of the United States, 1835
- Map of Texas, 1836
- John C. Logan and the Texas Revolution Timeline and Teacher Resource Key
ACTIVITY STEPS

1. Show students the 1835 map of the United States (project it on a whiteboard from the website or display a copy of the map in class). Explain to students that this map shows the western extent of the United States in 1835, the same year Logan journeyed to Texas to join the fight for independence from Mexico.

2. On the map, indicate the location of Logan’s hometown of Louisville, Kentucky and write beside it, “Logan.” Read aloud the following travel account from Charles B. Shain, who came to Texas with Logan as part of the Louisville Volunteers. As students read, call on other students to identify the places in the passage and annotate the map to highlight each location referred to in the passage:

“I left Louisville on the 15th of November, 1835, under the command of Captain James Tarleton. On the 17th, our company arrived at the mouth of the Ohio [river], where we remained hunting game until the arrival of the steamboat, Baltic. We got to Natchez [Mississippi] on the 25th, and remained there one day, [We]reached Natchitoches [Louisiana] on the 28th. That night, we took up our line of march [to Texas].”

Now that students have followed Logan’s journey to the border of Texas, they will use his letters to trace his travels through Texas to his final destination.

3. Divide students into pairs and provide each pair with one set of the following:
   - Transcripts of John C. Logan’s December 1835 and February 1836 letters
   - Map of Texas, 1836
   - John C. Logan and the Texas Revolution Timeline (blank)

4. Using information from Logan’s letters and the 1836 Map of Texas provided, students should trace his journey across Texas and record any observations Logan made about his travels on the map.

5. Next, students will complete the John C. Logan and the Texas Revolution timeline. Provide pairs of students with the list of the major Texas Revolution events and have them place these events and the events of John C. Logan in sequential order on the timeline provided: (Refer to the Teacher Resource key for guidance).

6. When the map activity and the timeline are completed, project the 1836 Map of Texas onto a whiteboard or Smartboard. (A Smartboard is an effective interactive tool students can use for this activity).

7. Call on volunteers to write their answers on the projected map. Encourage students to add information or ask questions about Logan’s journey and events of the Texas Revolution from their timelines.

8. When finished, have students use their completed maps and timelines to answer the following questions:
   - What was the first Texas settlement Logan visited?
   - What were some potential geographic challenges Logan and the other Louisville men faced on their journey across Texas? Which was the most challenging and why?
   - How many miles was Logan expected to march each day on the journey from Washington to Bexar (San Antonio) in order to arrive in 10 days?
   - Using the 1835 and 1836 Logan letters, calculate how many total miles Logan marched from Nacogdoches to Goliad.
   - How did the events of the Texas Revolution impact Logan’s journey and experiences in Texas?

WRAP UP QUESTION

What if these letters had never been written? What difference would it have made to our understanding of the Texas Revolution? Ask students to write a response to these questions and share with the class. List responses on the board and discuss as a class.
Goliad Texas Feb 24 to Feb 1836

Most Respected Friend

I again take the liberty of addressing a few lines to you to let you know that I am well at present and hope that these few lines may find you in the same. Our Company has just returned to this from San Patricio on the fourteenth of Texas & in a few days we are going to march. Before we have been some hard times in this Country for the last 2 months we have been living entirely on beef & we are all most naked as we are cutting up Tent Cloth to make us Pants & Co. Every man is his own tailor in this Army & a good many of us have been forced & bound to cut up all the clothes that was in the Provision & clothes has been worn & she has from New Orleans & bound to Copenhagen & we all wonder at the pace we are going in the U.S. With all the chance of being stripped a few minutes I did not intend to return to the United States at this time but there is a urge from here about to make us march to take this Country again our whole force at this time don't exceed 800 men but we are willing to meet them when ever the arises there is no Corn nor flour in this Country I have not heard from any of my friends since I left the country the U. States which is one of the best desert climates that I have ever been in but I don't like to be in for long it is more at present but remains your B F

Good Bye J C Logan

To Mr. Annis
Most Respected friend
I again take the liberty
Of addressing a few lines to you to let you know
That I am well at Present whoping that these
Few lines may find you in the same. Our
Company has just returned to this from San
Patricio on the fronteer of Texas & in a few days are
Going to march Bexar we have seen some
Hard times in the country for the last 2
Month we have ben living Entirely on beef &
We are all most naked as we are cutting
Up tent cloth to make us Panteloons &
Every man is his own Taylor in this Army
& a good many of us are bare footed & worst
of all the the Schooner that was bringing
provision & clothes has been wrecked She was
from New Orleans & bound to Copeno & we all
undergo fatigue that we would not do if wer
in the U.S. & all for the chance of up triping
a few mexicans I did intend to return
to the united states at this time but there is a
force from mexico of about 7000 men marching
to retake this Country again & our whole
force at this time dont Exceed 800 men but
we are willing to meet them when Ever
the arive there is no corn nor flour in
this country I have not heard from any
of my friend since I left this Country
the U. States this is one of the most desireble
climates that I have Ever been in but I dont
like to live (illegible) (in a?) fronteer Country (illegible) (no?) more
at present but Remains your OS

Good Bye

J C Logan

J C LOGAN
After crossing the Trinity River, the Louisville volunteers were divided into two separate commands. In his letter written from Washington, Texas, on December 19, 1835, Logan states that his company would (arrive in) Bexar (San Antonio), a 10-day march from Washington. That would place their date of arrival in San Antonio on December 29. Charles B. Shain, another volunteer from Louisville, writes that his company arrived in San Antonio on December 27th.* The two separate commands of the Louisville Volunteers, divided at the Trinity River crossing, arrived at San Antonio by separate routes, probably just a few days apart.

Logan and the other volunteers arrived in Bexar after it had been taken by Texan forces during the Siege of Bexar. During their stay in San Antonio, all Texas volunteer units were re-organized. Logan along with 300 to 400 other volunteers, left San Antonio on January 3, 1836, as part of an expedition led by Frank Johnson and James Grant. The expedition planned to march to San Patricio by way of Goliad and Refugio and then attack Matamoros. On January 21 the expedition reached Refugio, where Sam Houston pleaded with them not to continue their journey south toward Matamoros. Houston wanted to attack the Mexican army within the borders of Texas where they would have a better chance of success. He was able to convince most of the men to stay, but about 60 to 70 men left for San Patricio with Johnson and Grant. Houston had been right. Johnson and Grant would be defeated in separate actions by General Urrea.

What happened to John C. Logan? Where was he during this time? Did he remain at Refugio with the main group, or did he leave with Johnson and Grant to meet the advancing Mexican army? If he went with Johnson and Grant, how did he survive their defeat? We will probably never know. What is known is that Logan was present at Goliad on February 24, 1836, the date of his last letter to home. In a little more than a month, Logan would be one of 342 soldiers massacred by Mexican forces on Palm Sunday, March 27, 1836.

JOHN C. LOGAN AND THE TEXAS REVOLUTION TIMELINE

Use information from Logan’s letters and major events from the Texas Revolution to complete the timeline below.
John C. Logan and the Texas Revolution timeline (Teacher's Key)

Use information from Logan's letters and major events from the Texas Revolution to complete the timeline below.
... We have seen some Hard times in the country for the last 2 Month we have ben living Entirely on beef and we are all amost naked as we are cuting Up tent cloth to make us Panteloons & Every man is his own Taylor in this Army ...

— John C. Logan, 1836

John C. Logan’s three-month sojourn into Texas may be the most eventful, exciting, and terrifying era in Texas history, and those experiences are reflected in Logan’s writing. The volatility of events impacted Logan’s ever-changing situation. This activity compares Logan’s December 1835 letter to the letter he wrote in February 1836. Through this analysis students learn to understand and appreciate how events shaped the destiny of John C. Logan.

GOALS
★ Read and analyze Logan’s 1835 and 1836 letters.
★ Describe the changes in Logan’s life and circumstances.
★ Explain how these changes affected his duty as a soldier.

TEKS
HISTORY 7.3
(A) Trace the development of events that led to the Texas Revolution.

GEOGRAPHY 7.11
(B) Analyze how immigration and migration to Texas have influenced Texas.

SOCIAL STUDIES SKILLS 7.21
(A) Locate and use valid primary sources such as documents.
(B) Analyze information by comparing, contrasting, summarizing and drawing conclusions.
(D) Identify different points of view about an issue.

SOCIAL STUDIES SKILLS 7.22
(C) Express ideas orally based on research.
(D) Create visual and written materials such as graphic organizers.
ACTIVITY STEPS

1. Place students in pairs.

2. Provide half the students with a copy and transcript of the December 1835 letter and the other half with the February 1836 letter and transcript.

3. Project one of the Logan letters on to a screen and ask the students what can be inferred about the time period based on a visual analysis of the letter. Lead a general discussion using these topics: paper and ink used, style of writing, salutation, words used, corrections, signature, etc.

4. Have the students read their assigned letters, making notes in the margins about questions they have, unfamiliar words, or any other comments about the letter.

5. When finished, each student who has read and commented on the December 1835 letter should pair with a student who has read and commented on the February 1836 letter.

6. Distribute one copy of the Logan Letters Comparison to each pair of students and have them consolidate, discuss, and compare their information from both the 1835 and 1836 letters. The pairs of students should identify any changes in Logan’s circumstances in the intervening two months and write those changes in the left hand margins of the sheet next to each topic.

7. Distribute a copy of the Logan Letters Acrostic to each pair of students. Explain that each response should address a change in Logan’s circumstances over the two-month period.

8. When finished, ask pairs to share their acrostics and summary statements.

9. Discussion questions:
   ★ How do you think Logan’s friends and family back in Kentucky reacted to the February 1836 letter?
   ★ In what ways are the experiences of today’s military service people similar and different from those of Logan’s day?
   ★ Would the change in circumstances change your mind about serving in the army? Would you stay or leave? Explain.

SUGGESTED STUDENT ACTIVITIES

1. Interview a family member or friend who has served or is serving in the military and compare his/her military experience with Logan’s. Some suggested interview questions may include:
   ★ What motivated your military service?
   ★ What benefits did you receive as a result of military service?
   ★ Where were you stationed and how did this experience affect you?
   ★ How did the experience change or impact your life?

2. Create a Venn Diagram that compares the two experiences and summarize how their and Logan’s experiences are different and similar.

3. Edit Logan’s February 24, 1836 letter and correct any grammar, punctuation, and spelling errors found. Re-write the letter incorporating these corrections. Determine if these corrections changed the meaning and purpose of the letter and write a short paragraph explaining these changes.
After analyzing each letter individually, consolidate your information into the following categories in pairs. Share your answers with your partner comparing differences and similarities. Discuss how Logan’s circumstances changed between the 1835 and 1836 letters, and note those changes in the left margin.

1. **Logan’s purpose for writing:**

   **1835**
   
   **1836**

2. **Major events taking place in Texas:**

   **1835**
   
   **1836**

3. **Logan’s impression of Texas:**

   **1835**
   
   **1836**

4. **Reward for service in Texan Army:**

   **1835**
   
   **1836**

5. **Hardships/challenges experienced by Logan:**

   **1835**
   
   **1836**
Use your knowledge of John C. Logan and write a statement beside the letter that relates to change in the circumstances of John C. Logan from December 1835 to February 1836. The first one has been done for you as an example.

D elighted to see such a beautiful country.  F rontier country is no place to live.

E
C
E
M
B
E
R
R
1835
1836

Write a one-sentence summary that best describes Logan’s change in circumstances.

_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
Use your knowledge of John C. Logan and write a statement beside the letter that relates to change in the circumstances of John C. Logan from December 1835 to February 1836. The first one has been done for you as an example.

D elighted to see such a beautiful country.  F rontier country is no place to live.

E very step takes us closer to Bexar.  E ager to come home.

C ame upon a new town called Washington.  B eef is all there is to eat.

E xpect to retake Texas.  R est is what we need.

M y health is good!  U niforms are scarce.

B ounty land reward for military service.  A rmy has no shoes.

E ach man fights for liberty.  R eady to fight when the time comes.

R elatives will see me again.  Y our friend, G oodbye.

1835 1836

Write a one-sentence summary that best describes Logan’s change in circumstances.

Although Logan was eager to come to Texas and fight, he discovered that being a soldier required sacrifice and hardship.
GOLIAD TEXAS, 24th Feby 1836. Most Respected friend I again take the liberty Of addressing a few lines to let you know That I am well at Present whop- ing that these few lines may find you in the same ...

— John C. Logan, 1836

Arguably the most famous letter in Texas history and indeed one of the most fa- mous in American history is the “Victory or Death” letter written on February 24, 1836 by William B. Travis at the beginning of the siege of the Alamo. A little known but no less powerful letter was written by an obscure volunteer soldier from Kentucky named John C. Logan on the very same day.

GOALS
★ Compare and contrast the Travis and Logan letters.
★ Assess Logan’s contribution to Texas and the Texas Revolution.

TEKS
SOCIAL STUDIES, HISTORY 7.3
(B) Explain the roles of significant individuals during the Texas Revolution.
(C) Explain the issues surrounding significant events of the Texas Revolution.

SOCIAL STUDIES, CITIZENSHIP 7.18
(A) Identify the leadership qualities of elected and appointed leaders of Texas.

SOCIAL STUDIES SKILLS 7.21
(B) Analyze information by comparing and contrasting and drawing conclusions.
(F) Identify bias in written, oral, and visual material.

SOCIAL STUDIES SKILLS 7.22
(D) Create written, oral, and visual presentations of social studies in formation.
ACTIVITY STEPS

1. Divide the class into pairs and distribute the Logan and Travis letters and accompanying transcripts. One student in each pair will be responsible for reading and analyzing one of the letters.

2. Before students read their assigned letter, ask them to look for key words and phrases that will help them understand the letter, make notes on what they have read, and write any questions they may have about the document.

3. When students have finished reading their assigned letter, distribute the Travis/Logan comparison chart and ask pairs to discuss each category of comparison as it relates to Travis and Logan. After completing all categories, ask paired students to discuss their answers and complete the “Logan’s story” statement.

4. Ask for student volunteers to read their “Logan’s story” statements and discuss how both documents together help to clarify our understanding of the Texas Revolution.

SUGGESTED STUDENT ACTIVITY

There are no known portraits of John C. Logan. Ask students to paint a portrait of Logan based on information presented in his letters.

★ What would he look like?
★ How would he be dressed?
★ What scene could be depicted in the portrait’s background?

Because not all students are comfortable doing artwork, students may choose to write about how he may have looked. When finished, display the portraits around the classroom with an “artist’s explanation” of why the painting may be an accurate depiction of John C. Logan.
**PART A. Using information from the letters, complete the boxes below for each comparison category.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TRAVIS</th>
<th>LOGAN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DATE WRITTEN</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REASON FOR WRITING</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMMEDIATE SITUATION</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HARDSHIPS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOPES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PART B. Complete the following sentence:**
Although William B. Travis would be the soldier history remembers, John C. Logan’s story is also important because ...

__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________

**PART C. Extension (Choose one to complete on a separate sheet of paper).**
1. Write a letter to Logan’s family explaining the events of the Texas Revolution after the massacre at Goliad.
2. Compose a eulogy memorializing the life and contributions of John C. Logan to the Texas Revolution.
3. Research the land grant rewards for military service Logan mentions in his letters. What were these land grants, how many acres were involved, where were the grants located and who received them?
... If I should fall in battle there is seven hundred & 40 acres of land coming to me in this Country which I leave to you if you if think it worth your while to attend to it ...

— John C. Logan, 1836

GOALS

★ Define words and terms used in the Texas land granting process.
★ Describe the process of how veterans or heirs received land in Texas.
★ Examine legal documents to determine how they relate to Logan and his heirs.
★ Write the “final chapter” to Logan’s life and legacy in Texas.

TEKS

SOCIAL STUDIES, HISTORY 7.3
(C) Explain the issues surrounding significant events of the Texas Revolution.

SOCIAL STUDIES, GEOGRAPHY 7.10
(C) Identify ways in which Texans have adapted to and modified the environment and analyze the positive and negative consequences of the modifications.

SOCIAL STUDIES, GEOGRAPHY 7.11
(A) Analyze why immigrant groups came to Texas and where they settled.

SOCIAL STUDIES SKILLS 7.21
(A) Use valid primary sources to acquire information about Texas.
(B) Analyze information by comparing, contrasting and drawing conclusions.

SOCIAL STUDIES SKILLS 7.22
(D) Create written, oral, and visual presentations of social studies information.

VOCABULARY

heir
a person legally entitled to property after someone’s death.

petition
a formal request to an authority for a specific reason.

testimony
a formal written statement of evidence.

act
legislation passed for a specific purpose.

land grant
a gift of land or its privileges.

bounty
land certificate issued to veterans of the Texas Revolution or their heirs.

donation
land certificate issued to veterans of specific battles in the Texas Revolution or their heirs.

headright
land certificate issuing an amount of land based on the settler’s marital status upon arrival.

public domain
land held and controlled by the sovereign (a government) as opposed to private or company owned lands.
ACTIVITY STEPS

Review the vocabulary and resources with students. Explain that these are legal documents (binding in a court of law), which students will need to understand before they begin writing the final chapter of John C. Logan's story.

WARM UP

Show students the following quote from Logan's December 1835, letter: “…there is seven hundred & 40 acres of land coming to me in this Country which I leave to you if you if think it worth your while to attend to it…”

DIRECTIONS

1. Ask students to speculate what motivated Logan to write this sentence. After discussion, tell students they will write the last chapter of John C. Logan’s story. Explain that his reference to land played a large part in shaping his legacy in Texas.
2. Print out the station placards for each of the following: Bounty, Donation, Headright, Heir, Petition, Testimony, Act.
3. Organize the classroom into seven learning stations. Place a station placard along with the corresponding documents at each station.
4. Divide the students into groups of equal numbers and provide each group with a copy of the “If I should fall in battle” worksheet.
5. Explain to the students that their group will visit each station to read and analyze the documents to determine how they contributed in telling the final chapter in John C. Logan's story.
6. As the groups visit each station, guide them in discovering clues within the documents to help them connect the documents to Logan's story.
7. When all stations have been visited, have the groups analyze their findings and piece together what they think may have happened after Logan's death.
8. Individually, or in groups, students will write the ending to Logan’s story to present to the class. After the presentations discuss the similarities and differences between students’ ideas. Provide a copy (Teacher Resource sheet) or share with students the actual ending to the story and ask them to compare and contrast their version with the correct one. Students should also discuss how they reached their own conclusions.

WRAP UP QUESTION

Where did the heirs of John C. Logan locate this land in the public domain?

If time and curriculum requirements permit, have the students research where Logan's land grants are located in Texas:

2. For the Original Grantee enter, “Logan, John C.”
3. Use the Texas General Land Office land grant database to search for the John C. Logan land grant files. You may be surprised where these grants are located.

Did your students enjoy this lesson? Let us know! The Texas General Land Office values your thoughts and feedback. Please report oversights, errors and omissions to the Texas General Land Office Archives at archives@glo.texas.gov.

Texas General Land Office, Jerry Patterson, Commissioner
1700 North Congress Avenue ★ Austin, Texas 78701
WWW.SAVETEXASHISTORY.ORG | 1.800.998.4GLO
PART A. Use this activity sheet to record your group’s findings at each station.

Bounty
Definition: __________________________________________________________
Date of document: __________ Why was it written? _______________________
What connection does it have to the story? _______________________________

Donation
Definition: __________________________________________________________
Date of document: __________ Why was it written? _______________________
What connection does it have to the story? _______________________________

Headright
Definition: __________________________________________________________
Date of document: __________ Why was it written? _______________________
What connection does it have to the story? _______________________________

Heir
Definition: __________________________________________________________
Date of document: __________ Why was it written? _______________________
What connection does it have to the story? _______________________________

Petition
Definition: __________________________________________________________
Date of document: __________ Why was it written? _______________________
What connection does it have to the story? _______________________________

Testimony
Definition: __________________________________________________________
Date of document: __________ Why was it written? _______________________
What connection does it have to the story? _______________________________

ACT
Definition: __________________________________________________________
Date of document: __________ Why was it written? _______________________
What connection does it have to the story? _______________________________

PART B. When finished, discuss your findings. How did these documents contribute to the rest of Logan’s story? Begin putting the story together using the information from these sources. Use the reverse side of this paper to write a rough draft. If you are working in a group, choose one person to be the recorder to write your group’s ending to the incredible story of John C. Logan.
John C. Logan was executed along with 341 other men at Goliad on March 27, 1836. His death put in motion a series of events that ultimately led his brothers, James and Daniel, to apply for the land grants John had promised in his letters to family and friends back home in Louisville, Kentucky.

In 1838, James and Daniel visited the Justice of the Peace in Jefferson County, Kentucky to give testimony that they were the sole legal heirs of John C. Logan who was killed at Goliad. For whatever reason (money, distance from Texas, etc.), James and Daniel did not begin the process of obtaining John C. Logan’s land grant certificates until they petitioned the Texas Court of Claims in January 1851. The petition was filed through two Austin attorneys, D.C. and G.R. Freeman. In this petition, the Logan brothers requested the Bounty, Donation, and Headright grants due them as heirs to John C. Logan’s land. During the process of verifying that John C. Logan had in fact died at Goliad, the Muster Roll (a formal listing of soldiers who served in the Texas Revolution) indicated a “Logan” at Goliad. Apparently Logan’s first name “John” had not been written in the Muster Roll. Because there was no definitive proof that the “Logan” in the Muster Roll was in fact their brother John, the petition was denied.

Undeterred, James and Daniel petitioned the Texas Legislature in November 1855, arguing that the “Logan” name listed in the Muster Roll was indeed their brother John. What they needed was sworn testimony from men who knew their brother John personally and also knew he had been at Goliad. In 1856, the brothers offered the testimony of two witnesses who knew John C. Logan – William L. Hunter and Joseph H. Barnard. The Texas Legislature determined the testimony of these two men was valid and consequently passed “An Act” for the relief of James and Daniel Logan. The long struggle was over. The brothers of John C. Logan were finally issued the three certificates for land.

- The Bounty land certificate (960 acres) for John’s service as a soldier in the Texas Revolution.
- The Donation land certificate (640 acres) because John had fallen at Goliad.
- The Headright certificate (1/3 of a league, 1476.1 acres) for John having arrived in Texas prior to March 2, 1836, Texas Independence Day.

James and Daniel would receive an additional Bounty land certificate of 960 acres, bringing the total land granted to 4036.1 acres, or over six square miles of land!
John C. Logan bounty certificate No. 288, Milam Bounty, file number 1673, Archives and Records Program, Texas General Land Office, Austin, Texas.
This is to certify that, the Heirs of John C. Logan are entitled, to have surveyed by any legally authorized surveyor, upon any of the vacant and un-appropriated Public Domain of the State of Texas, Nine Hundred and Sixty acres of land, to which the said Heirs of John C. Logan are entitled, by virtue of the service of John C. Logan, in the Army of the Republic of Texas under Col. Fannin in 1836.

In accordance with the provisions of “An Act” to authorize and require the Commissioner of Claims to issue certain land certificates therein named.

Passed Feb'y 15th 1858

In Testimony whereof, I hereunto set my hand, and affix the impress of the Seal of said office, the date first above written.

Edward Clark

EDWARD CLARK
Commissioner of Claims
Office of Commissioner of Claims,
Austin, Texas, August 11th, 1866

This is to certify that,

John C. Logan, arrived in the Army of the Republic of Texas

entitled to have surveyed by any legally authorized Surveyor, when any of the vacant and unappropriated Public Domain of the State of Texas nine hundred and sixty acres additional, land for services in the Army of the Republic of Texas,

from the day of _______ until the 27th day of March 1836, having fallen with Col. Fannin,

in accordance with the provisions of "An Act to reorganize the Court of Claims and to extend the term for the presentation of claims for losses against the Republic of Texas.

Affixed by 1866.

In Testimony Whereof, I herewith set my hand

and affix the impress of the Seal of said Office

the date first above written.

W.J. Hitchcock
Commissioner.
This is to certify that the Heirs of John C. Logan [deceased] are entitled to have Surveyed by any legally authorized Surveyor, upon any of the vacant and un-appropriated Public Domain of the state of Texas Nine Hundred and Sixty acres additional land for services in the Army of the Republic of Texas from the — day of — until the 27th day of March 1836 and having fallen with Col. Fannin, in accordance with the provisions of “An Act” to reorganize the Court of Claims, and to enter the time for the presentation of claims for land against the Republic or State of Texas.

Approved Feb'y 7th 1860

In Testimony Whereof, I hereunto set my hand and affix the impress of the Seal of said Office the date first above written

WJ. Hotchkiss

WJ. HOTCHKISS

Commissioner
Donation

Office of Commissioner of Claims,
Austin, Texas, Sept. 16th, 1858.

This is to certify that, the heirs of
John C. Logan, are entitled to
have surveyed by any legally authorized surveyor, upon any of
the vacant and unappropriated Public Domain of the State
of Texas, six hundred and forty acres
of land, to which the said heirs of John C. Logan are entitled, in virtue of
the service of John C. Logan, in the
Army of the Republic of Texas, in
1836 (he having been killed at Coletoad)

In accordance with the provisions of "An Act to authorize and provide for the Commissioner of Claims to issue certain land certificates

Tased Feb'y 15th, 1858.

In testimony whereof, I have unto set my hand, and affixed the impress of the Seal
of said office, the date first above written.

Edward Clark
Commissioner of Claims

Intelligencer Print, Austin, Texas.
DONATION

OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER OF CLAIMS
AUSTIN, TEXAS, SEPT. 10TH 1858

This is to Certify that, the Heirs of John C. Logan are entitled, to have surveyed by any legally authorized surveyor, upon any of the vacant and un-appropriated Public Domain of the State of Texas, Six hundred and forty acres of land, to which the said Heirs of John C. Logan are entitled, by virtue of the service of John C. Logan, in the Army of the Republic of Texas, in 1836 (He having been killed at Goliad).

In accordance with the provisions of “An Act” to authorize and require the Commissioner of Claims, to issue certain land certificates therein named

Passed Febr’y 15th 1858

In Testimony Whereof, I hereunto set my Hand, and affix the impress of the Seal of said office, the date first above written

Edward Clark

EDWARD CLARK
Commissioner of Claims
Office of Commissioner of Claims,
Austin, Texas, March 1st, 1858.

THIS IS TO CERTIFY, that the heirs of
John C. Logan are
entitled to have surveyed, by any legally authorized surveyor, a piece of the
unappropriated public domain of the State of Texas, one
third of a League of
land, in accordance with the provisions of the Act of the last session of Congress, and
require the Commissioner of Claims to issue
Certain Land Certificate thereon named.

Approved, Ralph, March 1st, 1858.
Ralph Feb'y 15th, 1858.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand
and affixed the impress of the seal of said
office, the day and date first above written.

Edward Clark
Commissioner of Claims.

PRINTED AT THE INTELLIGENCER OFFICE.
HEADRIGHT

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF CLAIMS
AUSTIN, TEXAS, MARCH 6TH, 1858

This is to certify, that the Heirs of John C. Logan are entitled to have surveyed, by any legally authorized surveyor, upon any of the vacant and un-appropriated public domain of the State of Texas One Third of a League of land, in accordance with the provisions of “An Act” to authorize and require the Commissioner of Claims to issue certain Land Certificates therein named

Passed Febr’y 15th 1858

In Testimony Whereof, I hereunto set my hand and affix the impress of the seal of said office, the day and date first above written

Edward Clark

EDWARD CLARK
Commissioner of Claims

TRANSCRIPT OF: John C. Logan, Fannin 1st Class Headright, file number 1185, Archives and Records Program, Texas General Land Office, Austin, Texas.
State of Kentucky,
Jefferson County, 1847.

I, J.W. Fisher, do solemnly swear to say, that on the day of June, 1847, at 12 o'clock, that personally appeared to me and generally made oath that Daniel Logan and James Logan are the 13th and only children of John Logan, deceased, who was killed at Goliad in the Republic of Texas while acting as a private in Col. Kane's Regiment. That said Daniel Logan volunteered to go to Texas, at the call of Governor Miller of Kentucky and died in the Army of Texas between four and six months previous to his being killed.

12th, 1838.

C. W. Fisher.

Executive Department
Frankfort, Kentucky,
October 12th, 1838.
STATE OF KENTUCKY

JEFFERSON COUNTY

I, G.J. Johnston, a Justice of the Peace
in and for said County, do hereby certify that

on this day, James B. Caskey and James Craig
personally appeared before me and Severally [Individually]
made oath that Daniel Logan and James Logan
are the Brothers and only Heirs [by] Law, of John Logan
dec’d [deceased] who was killed at Goliad in the
Republic of Texas – Whilst [While] acting as a private
in Col. Fannin’s Regiment.

That said John Logan volunteered to go to Texas,
in the city of Louisville, State of Kentucky – and
served in the Army of Texas between four and five months
previous to his being killed.

James B. Caskey

JAMES B. CASKEY

Subscribed and Sworn
To before me this
October 12, 1838

G.J. Johnston, J.P.J.C.

G.J. JOHNSTON, J.P.J.C.
Executive Department
Frankfort, Kentucky
October 15th, 1838

TRANSCRIPT OF: Certifying heirs of John C. Logan, Court of Claims file number 4975, Archives and Records Program, Texas General Land Office, Austin, Texas.
Hon. J. C. Wilson

Chairman of Claims—Sir—We herewith present the claim of the Heirs of John C. Logan, deceased, for 13,200 acres, Donation and Headright land at one due them on account of the death of the said John C. Logan with Col. Fannin at Goliad, by Bounty, to the amount of 13,200 acres, Donation to the amount of 6,400 acres and Headright to the amount of 1,700 acres.

We herewith present the best evidence in support of the claim, which we think it possible to obtain for the same.

We also present proof of their claim. The Heirs being non-residents of the State desire to make out a case for reference to the Legislature, the expense of proving their identity, by producing their witnesses in Texas being greater than they are able to bear not justified by the interest to be acquired thereby.

S. P. W. Freeman,
Attorney for the
Heirs of J. C. Logan
Austin Jan. 26th 1851

Hon. J.C. Wilson

Com. Of Claims – Sir - We herewith present the claims of the Heirs of John C. Logan dec’d for the Bounty, Donation and Headright land due them on account of the death of the said John C. Logan with Col. Fannin at Goliad; Viz Bounty to the amt. of 1920 acres, Donation to the amt. of 640 acres and Headright to the amt. of 1476 acres.

We herewith present the best evidence in support of the claim, which we think it possible to obtain for claims of the kind at this time. We also present proof of heirship – The heirs being now residents of the state desire to make out a case for reference to the Legislature, the expense of proving their identity by producing their witnesses in Texas being greater than they are able to bear not justified by the interest to be acquired thereby –

D.C. & G.R. Freeman

D.C. & G.R. FREEMAN

Attys for the
Heirs of John C. Logan

TRANSCRIPT OF: John C. Logan brothers petition, Court of Claims file number 4975, Archives and Records Program, Texas General Land Office, Austin, Texas.
The Petition of James and Daniel Logan

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Texas

Most respectfully, Showeth That their Brother John C. Logan died was one of the unfortunate who fell at Fannin's Massacre at Goliad as is fully shown by the accompanying document, but that by some means his Christian name does not appear on the Muster Roll and on this account they have been unable to get the land to which they, as the heirs of one who fell with Fannin, are entitled by law.

They therefore most earnestly and respectfully pray that your Honorable Bodies will provide for their relief by passing an act authorizing and directing the Commissioners of the General Land Office to issue to them the Headright, Bounty, and Donation certificates to which they as the heirs of one who fell with Fannin are entitled, they being the only heirs of their brother as is shown by the affidavits of Jas. B. Casey and James Craig. Resubmitted
Austin Nov 9th 1855

Daniel Logan
James Logan
THE PETITION OF
JAMES AND DANIEL LOGAN

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Texas

Most respectfully showeth

that their brother John C. Logan dec’d

was one of the unfortunate who fell at

Fannin’s Massacre at Goliad, as is fully

shown by the accompanying documents; but

that by some means his Christian name
does not appear on the Muster Roll and on this
account they have been unable to get the

land to which they, as heirs of one who fell

with Fannin, are entitled by law.

They therefore most earnestly and respectfully
pray that your Honorable bodies will
provide for their relief by passing an act
authorizing and requiring the Commissioner
of the General Land Office to issue to them
the Headright, Bounty, and Donation
Certificates to which they as heirs of
one who fell with Fannin are entitled, they
being the only heirs of their brother as is
shown by the affidavits of James B. Caskey
and James Craig herewith submitted.

Austin Nov. 29th 1855

Daniel Logan

DANIEL LOGAN

James Logan

JAMES LOGAN by atty
Testimony of William Hunter, Court of Claims, file number 4975, Archives and Records Program, Texas General Land Office, Austin, Texas.
**THE STATE OF TEXAS**
**COUNTY OF GOLIAD**

I, William L. Hunter

do hereby certify that I was one of the men under the command of Col. J.W. Fannin in February and March 1836, at Goliad – That I was personally acquainted with a man by the name of John C. Logan, who was an Irishman, and he was attached to Capt. Pettus’ Company – San Antonio Grays.

Wm. L. Hunter

WILLIAM L. HUNTER

**THE STATE OF TEXAS**
**COUNTY OF GOLIAD**

I do hereby certify that the above named Wm. L. Hunter made oath, and subscribed to the above before me,

Jany 5th 1856.

In testimony whereof, I hereunto subscribe my name, and office, my Official Seal this day and year above written.

Wm. N. Fant

W.N. FANT
Chief Justice, Goliad

TRANSCRIPT OF: Testimony of William Hunter, Court of Claims file number 4975, Archives and Records Program, Texas General Land Office, Austin, Texas.
The State of Texas.
County of Galveston.

Joseph H. Barnard, theatury

certify that I was one of the men under the command of Capt. J. W. Barnard in February 4, 1836, at

Galveston— that I know no person in a lot of

the town in said command at that time which

I believe to be correct—that I found in said

lot the name of Logan (so Christian name given)

as a private in the company of Capt. Titus—See

Antonio Goyas—and as one that furnished in the

Mappum of 27th March of said year—and

that this is the only man in said lot whom the

name of Logan refers.

Joseph H. Barnard.

The State of Texas.
County of Galveston.

P. M. St. Clair

As Clerk, certify

that the above named Joseph H. Barnard

Wrote a tale and subscribed to the

above before me, June 5th, 1836.

In testimony whereof,

I have hereunto subscribed

my name and offic,

the official seal, the

day and year above

written.

P. M. St. Clair.

Chief Justice, etc.
THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF GOLIAD

I, Joseph H. Barnard do hereby certify that I was one of the men under the command of Co. J.W. Fannin in February and March of 1836, at Goliad – that I have in my possession a list of the men in said command at the time which I believe to be correct – that I find in said list the name of Logan (no Christian name given) as a private in the Company of Capt. Pettus – San Antonio Grays and as one that perished in the Massacre of March 27th of said year – and that this is the only case in said list where the name of Logan occurs.

Joseph H. Barnard
JOSEPH H. BARNARD

THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF GOLIAD

I do hereby certify that the above named Joseph H. Barnard made oath and subscribed to the above before me August 5th, 1856

[Official Seal] In testimony whereof I hereunto subscribe my name and office my Official Seal, the day and year above written.

W. N. Fant
W. N. FANT
Chief Justice, Goliad
An act for the relief of James and Daniel Logan

By it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas that the Commissioner of the General Land Office be and he is hereby authorized and required to issue to James Logan and Daniel Logan three certificates for land, one for a third league as a headright one for 1920 acres as Bounty and one for 640 acres as donation in consideration of the death of their brother John C. Logan with Col. Fannin at Goliad, and that this act take effect from and after its passage.
PROPOSED ACT
FOR THE RELIEF OF
JAMES AND DANIEL LOGAN

Be it enacted by the Legislature
of the State of Texas that the Commissioner
of the General Land Office be and is hereby
authorized and required to issue James Logan
and Daniel Logan three certificates for land,
one for a third of a league as a headright –
one for 1920 acres as Bounty –
and one for 640 acres as Donation
in consideration of the death of their brother
John C. Logan with Col. Fannin at Goliad,
and that this act take effect from and after its passage.

February 13th, 1858