

Read the text. Then answer the questions.

## A Trip to the Alamo

Every year, each grade here at Wildwood Elementary School has the opportunity to go on a group field trip. Students are allowed to write to their teachers to suggest locations. I am writing to ask that students in the fifth grade travel to San Antonio to visit the Alamo. There are a few reasons why the Alamo would be an excellent choice.

The first reason is that the Alamo is an important part of Texas history. Last year, we learned all about the Texas Revolution. We also learned about the Battle of the Alamo. We discovered that the thirteen-day siege ended badly for Texians—the people who lived in Texas when it was part of Mexico. However, it also inspired many others to join the Texian Army. A month later, the Texans won the revolution. Last year, we did not have the opportunity to visit the historic site of the Battle of the Alamo. It would be helpful for all of us in the fifth grade to get to see such a famous landmark!

Also, our field trip would strengthen our current history lessons because we are now learning about westward expansion. Many Texas settlers fought in the Texas Revolution. We would be able to learn about these settlers while at the Alamo. This would help us understand how the battle fit in with U.S. expansion. In addition, we learned about the American Revolution this year. We could compare and contrast this battle with battles that we discussed in America's fight for independence.

Another reason to visit the Alamo is simply that it would be very interesting for everyone to see! We could explore the church and surrounding grounds. This would give us a chance to spend the day outside and imagine what the battle was like. History talks are given in the courtyard, and there is a film to watch in the museum there, as well. Best of all, in the garden area students can learn about the skills and trades of the people who lived during the time of the Battle of the Alamo. It's almost like stepping back in time to see how people actually lived.

Visiting the Alamo is an ideal fifth-grade trip because it connects what we learned last year with what we are learning now. It also gives everyone a chance to get outside and have fun while still gaining a valuable educational experience. If we can enjoy ourselves, we are much more likely to be interested in the information and remember what we learn!

As an added bonus, the Alamo is only forty-five minutes away from us in San Antonio. We can easily visit the site in the morning and be back in time for a regular dismissal at the end of the school day.

For these reasons, I ask that you please consider the Alamo as the site for the fifth-grade field trip this year. I think it would be an exciting and interesting way to revisit an important part of Texas history.

**GO ON →**

1 Read the sentence from the text.

Also, our field trip would strengthen our current history lessons because we are now learning about westward expansion.

Which phrase from the sentence **best** hints at the meaning of current?

- A “our field trip”
- B “would strengthen”
- C “we are now learning”
- D “westward expansion”

2 Which detail **best** supports the author’s point of view that visiting the Alamo would be interesting?

- A It is only forty-five minutes away from San Antonio.
- B Students can see how people lived at the time of the Alamo.
- C This year, students learned about the American Revolution.
- D Students would get to spend the day outside on their field trip.

3 Read the sentence from the text.

Visiting the Alamo is an ideal fifth-grade trip because it connects what we learned last year with what we are learning now.

What is the meaning of the word ideal?

- A agreeable
- B right
- C perfect
- D accurate

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

- 4 Match the author’s claims with a supporting detail. Write your answers in the chart. Use the choices listed in the box below.

Author’s Claim	Supporting Detail
The Alamo is a part of the history of Texas.	
	Students are learning about westward expansion with Alamo settlers.
The Alamo is close to school.	

The Texans’ loss at the Battle of the Alamo inspired people to join the Texian army.

Students will be back for end-of-day dismissal.

The Alamo relates to what students are learning about in class.

- 5 Which sentence from the text **best** shows the author’s point of view?

- A “Every year, each grade here at Wildwood Elementary School has the opportunity to go on a group field trip.”
- B “In addition, we learned about the American Revolution this year.”
- C “History talks are given in the courtyard, and there is a film to watch in the museum there, as well.”
- D “I think it would be an exciting and interesting way to revisit an important part of Texas history.”

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