



American Latino Heritage



ANTONIO LÓPEZ DE SANTA ANNA

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López was known as the “Napoleon of the West.” He joined the infantry at 16 and went on to become a general and serve as President of Mexico 11 non-consecutive times over 22 years. He was instrumental in the fight for freedom from Spain. He is widely known for his defeat by Americans in Texas at the Alamo, after which he was exiled to New York. Like many Mexicans, Santa Anna frequently chewed “chicle,” or gum. He introduced it to Thomas Adams, who tried to find other uses for the substance, many of which didn’t work until Adams opened the first chewing gum factory in 1870.