

Jim Bowie
Adventurer and Frontiersman

Host

Welcome to “Who’s Telling the Truth?” Each of our three guests claims to be the famous Jim Bowie. Only one, however, is telling the complete truth. It is up to you to decide who is the real Jim Bowie. Now let’s meet our guests. Jim Bowie, would you tell us your story?

Jim Bowie #1

I was born in Georgia in 1799 and was always big for my age. During the first 29 years of my life I moved around a lot but finally settled in Texas in 1828.

Jim Bowie #2

I was born in Texas in 1799, but left Texas to settle for a spell in Alabama and Mississippi. I lived a rough life, pirating with Jean Lafitte and fighting Indians. I was even shot once in a gun fight.

Jim Bowie #3

I was born in Louisiana in 1799 and lived a pretty rough life. In an Indian fight I lost my grip on the butcher knife in my hand and that’s why I invented the Bowie knife.

Host

What else can you tell us about yourselves?

Jim Bowie #1

I felt that Texans should be free so I fought in the Texas resistance movement at Nacogdoches in 1832 and, of course, lost my life at the Alamo in 1836.

Reading Parts: Host, Jim Bowie #1, Jim Bowie #2, Jim Bowie #3

Jim Bowie #2

I lived in Texas all my life, which is why I fought so hard for freedom. It was my bad luck to be so sick when Santa Anna attacked the Alamo that I could not fight as hard as I wanted to.

Jim Bowie #3

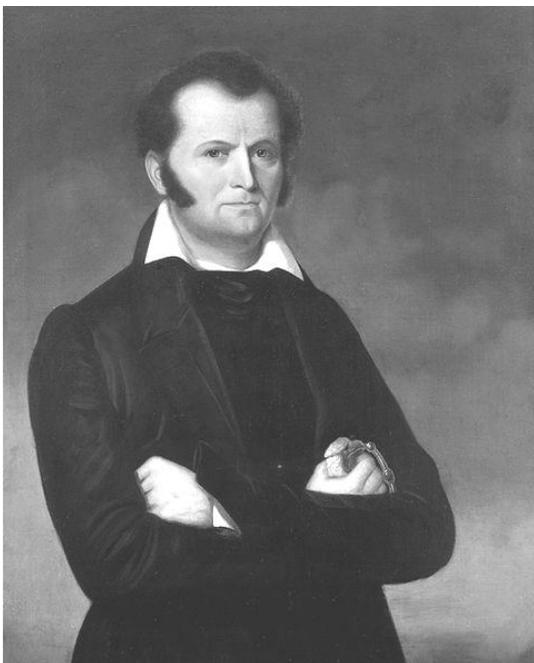
I was a prospector and a land speculator hoping to make my fortune in Texas lands. I never fought Indians but I did fight in the Texas resistance movement.

Host

Now it is time to decide which of our guests is the real Jim Bowie. Try to determine with a partner or in a small group:

- Is this fact true?
- What evidence in the script or in my prior knowledge would lead me to believe the fact is either true or false?
- Is there any way, within the limits of the script, to test the truthfulness of the fact?
- What do I know about the person who is the subject of the script, or about the fact itself, that would lead me to think it is true or false?

We will vote by a show of hands. Is it number 1? Is it number 2? Is it number 3?



Now for the moment you have all been waiting for. Will the real Jim Bowie, inventor of the Bowie Knife and defender of freedom at the Alamo, please step forward?