



# Davy Crockett

**W**hen Davy Crockett was born in 1786, not too many pioneers had ventured away from the country's eastern shores. But Davy's folks had, and so he was born on top of a mountain in Tennessee.

To live on the frontier in those days you had to be tough, and Davy was no exception. When he grew up, he would tell people that growing up in those woods had made him able to walk like an ox, run like a fox, swim like an eel, and wrassle any mountain lion that came his way. Davy claimed he could whip his weight in wildcats and wade across the Mississippi River.

How tough was Davy Crockett? Once, during a thunderstorm, people said he went outside and opened his mouth wide. He swallowed a thunderbolt in one gulp. For a month after that, he ate all of his food raw. The heat from the lightning cooked it right in his stomach.

Every animal in the woods knew how tough Davy was. Davy was a crack shot with his rifle, and always had food on

the table for his family and warm animal skins on them for the cold frontier winters.

Davy's bragging made his name well-known in the Tennessee hills, so when it came time for the people of that state to send someone to

Congress, they asked him to run for office. At first Davy didn't want to. He knew politicians had to give speeches, and he wasn't very good at this kind of thing. But he knew his people needed him, so he

practiced making speeches on lonely hilltops until he was ready.

On election day, people gathered around outdoors as Davy gave his first speech. It was such a wonderful speech that everyone called out their votes for Davy at once. The animals of the woods were anxious for Davy to leave Tennessee and go to Washington, D.C., so they added their voices to the vote. And that's how Davy Crockett became a congressman.

Davy brought his pet alligator with him to Washington, D.C. and rode it wherever he went. His favorite thing about the nation's capital, besides meeting the





president, was a new invention called ice cream. He ate 20 quarts of it every day!

When Davy wasn't serving in Congress, he was busy saving the world. The first time he saved the world, a giant comet was hurtling toward Earth. Everyone hid in their cellars, waiting for the comet to hit. But not Davy. He climbed on top of the highest mountain he could find. When the comet sailed near him, he reached out and grabbed it with both arms. The comet moved and struggled, but Davy held fast. He turned that comet around and sent it back where it came from.

The second time Davy saved the world was the morning the sun never came up. The sky stayed pitch-black, and the air began to get colder and colder. Davy knew if he didn't do something fast the whole world would freeze over.

So Davy climbed up to the machinery that kept the sun moving around Earth.

There he found the sun, frozen between two large gears. Davy took off his raccoon-skin cap, scratched his head, and thought. Then he took a giant lump of bear grease from his bag and greased those gears until they shone. Slowly, the gears began to move, and the sun rose into the sky.

Saving the world twice was a pretty good trick, but that's not what made Davy Crockett a hero. In 1836, he joined the soldiers at the Alamo in Texas who were fighting for their independence from Mexico. Davy Crockett died fighting that day, but his legend will live on forever.

The End

