

Unit 5: Anglo American Colonization

Pioneering Principles: Are you a person of character?

Complete the warm up that was handed to you.

Open your journal to the next available, blank page.

5

Pioneering Principles **WHY CHARACTER MATTERS**

The opportunity to own cheap, abundant land in Mexican Texas was a powerful incentive for many Americans to pack up and set out for Austin's colony. Mexican authorities, however, did not want just anyone settling their land. They wanted to make sure the people coming to Texas met high standards of responsibility and conduct. Good settlers meant a prosperous and peaceful Texas, but how could the government of Mexico be sure they were getting good people?

The government of Mexico believed one way to help ensure the "quality" of settlers was to require documentation verifying the person's good character. Character is a set of qualities that defines a person: honest or dishonest, responsible or irresponsible, reliable or unreliable, etc. The quality of settlers colonizing Texas was so important to Mexican authorities that they put it into law. The 1825 Colonization Law of Coahuila y Texas stated in part, "the new settlers who present themselves for admission shall prove their Christianity, morality, and good habits..."

How could settlers prove they had good character? Before traveling to Texas, potential colonists would ask community leaders, politicians, and other influential citizens to write letters of recommendation on their behalf. These letters would be hand carried to Texas by the settler and offered to Stephen F. Austin as evidence of good character and eventual acceptance into the colony.

Among the archives at the Texas General Land Office is a group of documents called the Spanish Collection. Within the Spanish Collection are actual letters of recommendation brought to Texas by colonists. These letters reveal the expectations of the Mexican government.

Unit 5: Anglo American Colonization

Pioneering Principles: Are you a person of character?

“You must examine the Red River emigrants very closely, and take care that no bad men get in...”

---Stephen F. Austin 1823

Unit 5: Anglo American Colonization

Pioneering Principles: Are you a person of character?

Now that you are familiar with the characteristics that Austin and the Mexican government were looking for in individuals that they allowed to colonize Texas, you are going to pretend that you are an American hoping to join Austin's colony in Texas.

Write a one page letter to Austin requesting permission to join his colony. Be sure to add at least two qualities and characteristics that you believe will be beneficial to the colony.

Independent Mexico



>> **Analyze Maps** What geographic factors likely made Texas appealing to some settlers? What factors likely made it unappealing to other settlers?

Warm Up – October 26, 2015

View the image above and answer the question just below the image (Analyze Maps question).

The following film has limited
educational value beyond 7th
Grade Texas History.

You're welcome.

Unit 5: Anglo American Colonization

Moses Austin, Stephen F. Austin, Mexican Laws, and Empresarios

TEKS: 1A, 2D, 2E, 2F, 9A, 9C, 11A, 11B

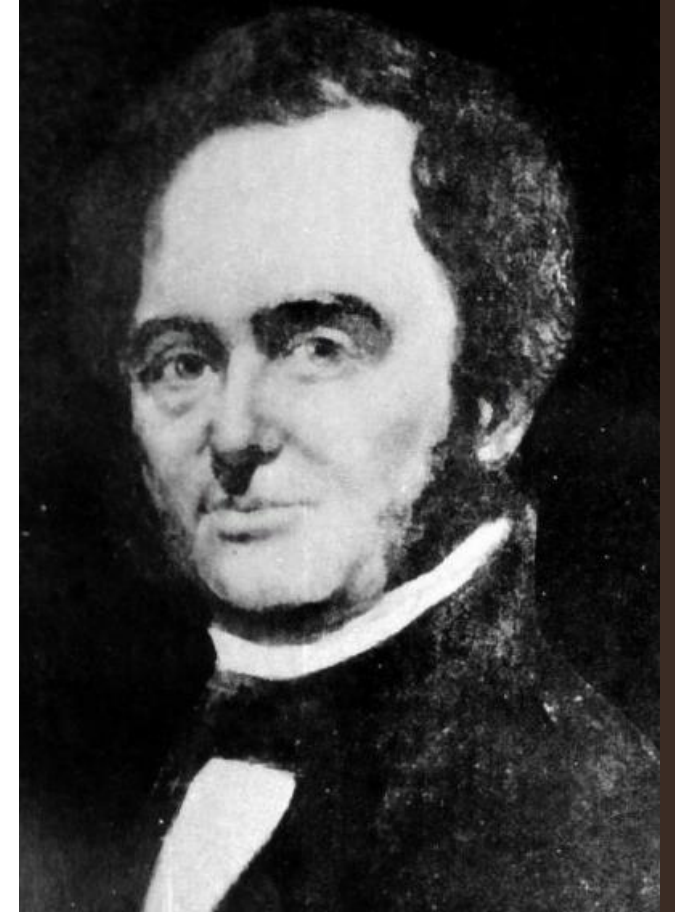
Moses Austin Plans a Settlement

- Moses Austin traveled to San Antonio in 1820 to meet with the Spanish governor and propose to bring 300 American families to Texas. That plan was rejected.
- A San Antonio businessman named Erasmo Seguin was sent to Missouri to let Moses Austin know that his request was now approved.



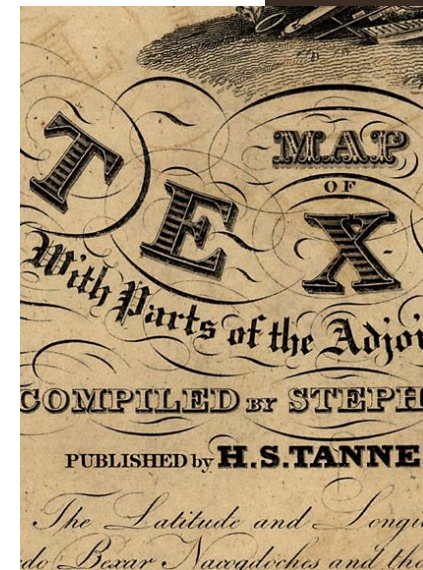
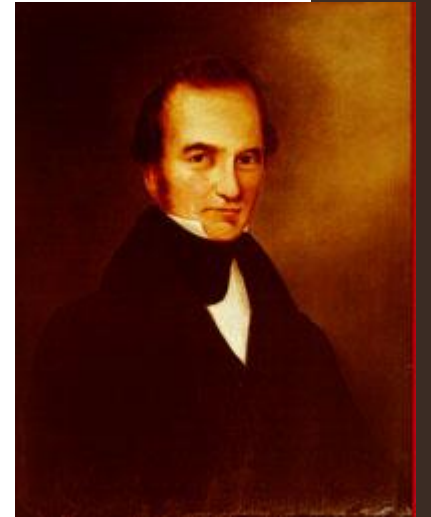
Moses Austin Plans a Settlement

- In 1821, Moses Austin became the first man to gain permission from Spain to bring Anglo-American settlers to Texas.
- Moses Austin is overcome with illness and pleads with his son, Stephen F. Austin, “to carry out the ‘Texas Venture.’”
- Moses dies in June 1821.



Stephen F. Austin Takes Charge

- Austin charged 12.5 cents per acre. This was still 1/10th of what the land in the United States cost.
- The fulfillment of conditions set by the Mexican governor still had to be met. The settlers must have become Catholic, display good conduct, and become citizens of their new country.
- Austin traveled to Mexico City to discuss the land agreements. He spends a year in Mexico City.
- Permission is received in 1823 to grant Austin a contract for his colony.



Stephen F. Austin Takes Charge

- The first 300 families that were a part of Austin's colony are known as the "Old Three Hundred."
- Most of the first settlers were farmers.
- Many of the wealthier farmers had enslaved African Americans and brought them to Texas.



Stephen F. Austin Takes Charge



- Austin's colony endured raids by the Karankawa and Tonkawas. Austin's attempts to make peace with the NAs failed & Austin commanded a militia against the Karankawas in 1824.

Mexican National Era



- The Mexican National Era is the period in Texas history where Texas was a part of Mexico & the Mexican government attempted to control Texas.
- A new government was formed by the Federalists after Emperor Iturbide was overthrown.
- The Constitution of 1824 was created and divided Mexico into 19 states and 4 territories.
- Two former Spanish provinces were combined to create Coahuila y Tejas.

Mexican National Era

Mexican Federal Constitution of 1824 & Colonization Law

- Allowed each Mexican state to set its own colonization policies.
- Restricted new U.S. immigrants from establishing colonies near the borders or the coast.

The State Colonization Law of 1825

- A family would receive 4,428 acres of land for \$30 and would not have to pay taxes for a set amount of time.
- Empresarios would receive 23,000 acres for every 100 colonists he settled in Texas.

Effects on Settlement in Texas

- Huge wave of immigration, particularly U.S. immigration to Texas.
- Several new colonies established.

Other Empresarios



- Green DeWitt received permission to settle 400 families next to Austin's original colony.
- DeWitt's colony sustained numerous setbacks.
- Mexico became concerned that Mexican culture was being overwhelmed by the influence of so many outsiders from the United States.
- Mexico passed the Law of April 6, 1830 which limited immigrants from entering Texas.
- Although the Law of April 6, 1830 hindered DeWitt's colony from growing, the DeWitt colony and the creation of the city of Gonzales within the colony make it one of the most successful.

Other Empresarios

- Martin De Leon was a Mexican native that received a grant to establish a Mexican colony in Texas.
- This was the only colony in Texas that would be mainly settled by Mexican families.
- De Leon was a successful cattle rancher. His success helped found the cattle industry in Texas.
- Other successful empresarios brought immigrants from other countries, such as Ireland. This played a role in creating the diverse cultures that Texas has.



Empresarios

- Due to Stephen F. Austin's hard work, determination, leadership ability, and success, he is known as the "Father of Texas."

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You're welcome.

Differences in Methods of Settlement in Texas

Spanish Settlement in Texas

Missions	Presidios	Towns	Ranchos
Missions were church communities built to spread the Catholic religion, and convert the Natives. The missions grew and raised its own food. Their goal was to be self sustaining.	Presidios were forts built to protect Spanish colonies from native attacks. Not enough forts to provide adequate protection.	Towns were settlements usually built near the missions and presidios to house the people, provided shops, and services for the soldiers in the Presidio	Ranches provided cattle, and farm products sold to the towns, and presidio soldiers. Usually set farther from towns, but close enough to the presidios to offer some protection.

Differences in Methods of Settlement in Texas

Mexican Settlement in Texas

The Empresario System

The empresario system became the primary method for Mexican settlement of Texas.

- The government hoped that these colonies would help protect their claim to the land, increase tax revenues, and provide a buffer between American Indians and existing Mexican towns.
- The Mexican Government would authorize Empresarios to bring a specified number of families into assigned areas of Texas.
- Stephen F. Austin's "Old 300" was the first Anglo colony in Texas, but many others would follow.
- Some colonies, including Martin De Leon's, had primarily colonists of Mexican decent. These were closer to the Rio Grande and mainly ranches.
- Other colonies included immigrants from Europe.
- All colonies were based on agricultural economies. (farming for Anglos and ranching for Tejanos)

This method was very successful at attracting settlers to Texas; however the American influence caused conflict and eventually revolution.

Differences in Methods of Settlement in Texas

Anglo Settlement in Texas

The Mexican empresario system led to a rapid increase of Anglo settlement in Texas. The characteristics contrasted greatly with previous attempts to colonize the land.

- The vast majority of Anglo's coming to Texas were from the southern United States.
- They brought with them their farming lifestyles and techniques. These consisted of small family farms and large plantations.
- The plantation economy thrived because of the climate and fertile soil; however it was powered by the increasing slave population.
- Mexican culture did not approve of slavery and the government became concerned about the growing trade between colonists and the United States.
- As the amount of settlers increased, many towns were formed and grew to support the agricultural economy and population.
- The need to export cotton & sugar produced on the plantations resulted in the first coastal towns.
- The Anglo settlements quickly grew beyond governmental control and there were numerous conflicts as a result.
- As with the other methods of settlement, conflict with the American Indians continued along the frontier.