

UNIT



3

Mexican Texas

1821–1836

Why It Matters

As you study Unit 3, you will learn that in the early to mid-1800s, Texas was pulled in a tug-of-war between Anglos—from the U.S. and Europe—and Mexico. Texas was torn between the conflicts of the past and the promises of the future.

Primary Sources Library

See pages 688–689 for primary source readings to accompany Unit 3.

William Travis and David Crockett are foremost among the Texas heroes honored by this memorial at Alamo Park in San Antonio.





“Public concerns are valued in honor, reputation, and good name.”

—José Antonio Navarro (1795–1871)



NATURE'S SUPERMARKET

In an era before hardware and grocery stores, Native Americans and pioneers depended on a wide variety of local plants and animals to survive.

Early settlers found many uses for plants. They chopped down walnut, pecan, pine, and other trees to make houses and furniture. Native Americans bent willow branches and covered them with hides to create dome-like shelters. Early settlers wove flexible willow branches to create baskets, cradles, and other furniture. They made dyes from walnut hulls, agarita bark and roots, and also tiny cochineal insects that live on prickly pears. Wild plums, blackberries, prickly pears, pecans, and other fruits and nuts made tasty treats. Early settlers sometimes planted bois d'arc (BO•dark) trees as natural barriers to keep animals off their property.

Plants provided many medicines. Tea brewed from willow bark relieved headaches, fevers, and rheumatism. Walnut leaves were used to eliminate fungal infections, dogwood bark helped malaria victims, blackberry tea helped to treat diarrhea, pulp from prickly pear cactus soothed wounds and snake bites, and citronella oil from horsemint was used to keep fleas away.

People also relied heavily on native animals. They fished, and they hunted deer, black bear, javelina (also know as peccary), and other animals. They made clothing from the soft skin of the deer and warm blankets or robes from bearskins. Animal fat was used for cooking and making soap. Native Americans and pioneers made clever use of the plants and animals around them—and very little went to waste.



Pioneers used the green hull of the black walnut to make dye. They made furniture from the wood.



Cochineal insects live on the prickly pear cactus. To hide, and avoid drying out, they cover themselves with a white waxy substance they produce.



Settlers dried the cochineal and crushed them to make dye.

LEARNING *from* GEOGRAPHY

1. What are three ways people used the willow tree?
2. List the Texas plants and animals that you have seen in your neighborhood or around the state.

People wove flexible willow branches into cradles and baskets.



Settlers constructed wooden buildings with native trees, such as cedar, elm, pecan, walnut, or pine.

Native Americans and pioneers used black bear fur to make warm robes.

People ate deer meat and used the hide to make clothes.

Gulf of Mexico

People fished for red drum in the shallow waters of the Gulf of Mexico and in coastal rivers.

The javelina can withstand dry conditions because its diet includes the water- and nutrient-rich prickly pear.



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Lambert Conformal Conic projection

CONTENTS

Age of Empresarios

Why It Matters

By inviting English-speaking settlers from the United States into Texas, Mexico changed Texas more in 15 years than Spain had changed it in hundreds of years.

The Impact Today

- The land survey (measurement) system used during the time Mexico ruled Texas is in effect in much of the state today.
- Some of today's landowners can trace the titles of their properties back to Mexican land grants.

Texas

United States

World

1819

1821

1823

1825

1821

- ★ Stephen F. Austin brought first colonists to Texas

1824

- ★ San Felipe de Austin became the unofficial capital of Austin's colony

1825

- ★ Green DeWitt authorized to bring 400 families to Texas

1820

- Missouri Compromise passed

1822




- Liberia founded in West Africa

1823

- Monroe Doctrine issued

1825

- First public railroad opened in Britain

Summarizing Study Foldable

Make this foldable and use it as a journal to help you take notes about Mexican Texas.

Step 1 Stack four sheets of paper, one on top of the other. On the top sheet of paper, trace a large circle.



Step 2 With the papers still stacked, cut out all four circles at the same time.



Step 3 Staple the paper circles together at one point around the edge.



Step 4 Label the front cover as shown and take notes on the pages that open to the right.



Reading and Writing As you read the chapter, write what you learn about Mexican Texas in your foldable.



The View of Austin by Ida W. Hadra captured the natural beauty of the future state's capital.



1830s
★ Mary Austin Holley described everyday life in Texas

1833
★ Population of Texas was estimated at around 20,000

1827

1829

1831

1833

1827
• Freedom's Journal, first African American newspaper, published

1829
• Mexico passed law ending slavery

1830
• Congress passed the Indian Removal Act

TEXAS HISTORY Online

Chapter Overview
Visit the texans.glencoe.com Web site and click on **Chapter 7—Chapter Overviews** to preview chapter information.

CLICK HERE

Austin Establishes a Colony

Guide to Reading

Main Idea

Stephen F. Austin faced challenges and opportunities while establishing his colony in Texas.

Key Terms

depression
survey
empresario
militia

Reading Strategy

Classifying Create a chart similar to the one below and list the events that were advantages or disadvantages in the settlement of Stephen F. Austin's colony.

Advantages	Disadvantages

Read to Learn

- who brought the first Anglo settlers to Texas.
- why Anglo settlers wanted to come to Texas and the challenges they faced.

Section Theme

Groups and Institutions Anglo Americans came to Texas with the assistance of an empresario.

Preview of Events

1821

Stephen F. Austin starts a colony in Texas

1824

San Felipe de Austin becomes unofficial capital of Austin's colony

1825

DeWitt is authorized to bring 400 families to Texas



Sailing vessel

A Texas Story

Thomas Jefferson Pilgrim was an immigrant who heard about opportunities in Texas. In New Orleans, he bought a ticket to Texas and a new life. "We were now on the Gulf . . . Soon all on board were seasick except the crew and me, and many wished they had not started . . . [After landing at Matagorda Bay] the others went eastward to the Brazos, I on foot and alone, made my way north to San Felipe, about 60 miles distant."

—*Diary of Thomas J. Pilgrim*

Moses Austin Paves the Way

In 1821, **Moses Austin** paved the way for Anglo American colonization of Texas. He was the first Anglo American to secure permission from Spain to bring American settlers into Texas.

Born in Connecticut, Moses Austin moved to present-day Missouri in 1798, when that area of Louisiana still belonged to Spain. As a result, he was familiar with Spanish laws and regulations.

At first, Moses Austin prospered. By 1819, however, this changed dramatically. A **depression**, a time in which businesses suffer and people lose jobs, swept the United States that year, and Austin's business was ruined. He looked for a way to regain his fortune. Austin knew that the Spanish government was now anxious to populate Texas. He also thought that there were many Americans who were eager to obtain cheap land.

In the fall of 1820, Austin and an enslaved African American named Richmond set out on an 800-mile journey to Texas to meet with **Governor Antonio Martínez**. Austin hoped to get a contract from Spanish authorities, allowing him to bring 300 American families to Texas. At first, Austin was turned down.

As Austin left Governor Antonio Martínez's office, he happened to meet an old friend, a man known to the Spanish as the **Baron de Bastrop**. The baron, whose real name was Philip Hendrik Nering Bögel, was Dutch. He had lived in Louisiana and had met Austin there years before.

Bastrop was now a man of some importance in San Antonio and promised to use his influence on Governor Martínez.

Bastrop helped Austin convince the governor that his plan was not an excuse for the United States to grab land. After returning to Missouri, Austin received word that the Spanish had approved his request. Before he could carry out his plans, however, he became seriously ill with pneumonia. The long, difficult journey to San Antonio and his work in preparing for colonization had exhausted him. On June 10, 1821, Moses Austin died. His last request was that his son, Stephen, carry out the plans for settling Texas.

Stephen F. Austin Continues His Father's Work

At the time of his father's illness, Stephen was living in New Orleans, studying law and working for a newspaper. When he learned that the colonization contract had been approved, he left for San Antonio to help his father explore the country and set up the colony. He was near Natchitoches, Louisiana, when he learned his father had died.



People of Texas

Stephen F. Austin 1793-1836



Often referred to as "The Father of Texas," Stephen F. Austin founded the first Anglo American colony in the state.

After Mexico banned immigration of United States colonists into Texas in 1830, Austin went to Mexico City. He consulted with Mexican authorities

and persuaded them to change the law. However, President Santa Anna refused Austin's request for statehood. Austin left to return home, but was arrested en route and returned to Mexico City. He was imprisoned for one year for suspicion of encouraging revolt

against the Mexican government.

After his release from prison, Austin supported independence. In 1836 the Texas War for Independence was won at San Jacinto. Austin served as secretary of state of the new Republic of Texas until his death.

Born in Virginia, **Stephen Fuller Austin** had grown up on the frontier. He attended Transylvania University in Kentucky, served in the Missouri territorial legislature, and had been a circuit judge in Arkansas. Although he was only 27 years old when his father died, Austin possessed the strength of character that allowed him to carry on through difficulties.

Stephen F. Austin was determined to carry out his father's colonization plan. He decided to go to San Antonio to see Governor Martínez. **Erasmó Seguín** (eh•RAHS•moh seh•GEEN), a leading citizen of San Antonio, escorted him. When Austin arrived in August 1821, Governor Martínez warmly greeted him, then discussed Austin's plans for settlement.

✓ Reading Check **Identifying** Who was Stephen F. Austin?

Austin Sets Colony Boundaries

Austin spent most of September exploring Texas. He decided that the region between the Colorado and the Brazos Rivers was a good place for a colony. It had fertile soil, abundant

water, natural resources, a mild climate, and no other settlements. As he toured the land, Austin wrote in his journal of September 19, 1821:

“One of our group went hunting and killed the fattest deer I ever saw in my life. We started about nine o'clock, continued a north course along the large body of timber which lay to our right. Prairies of the richest kind of black sandy land, intersected by branches and creeks of excellent water—heavily timbered, beautifully rolling.”

After returning to the United States, Austin wrote a full report of his journey to Governor Martínez. In it, he outlined the boundaries that he wanted for his colony. Although he expected to establish most of the settlements in the Colorado and Brazos Valleys, he made a request for additional land along the coast. In order to be successful, Austin knew he would need a port for landing the groups of settlers and needed supplies.



Picturing History

Stephen F. Austin had his land surveyed and also drew a map of the colony. **Why did Austin need to survey his land?**



Advertising for Colonists

Austin began advertising for settlers to come to his colony. Because of the similarities of climate, economy, and culture, the advertisements appeared mainly in newspapers in the southern states. One ad said that “no drunkard, no gambler, no profane swearer, no idler” would be allowed in the colony.

The land policy proposed by Austin was very generous. Every man would receive 640 acres (259 hectares) for himself, 320 acres (129 hectares) for his wife, 160 acres (65 hectares) for each child, and 80 acres (32 hectares) for each slave. People of special value to the community, such as merchants, doctors, mill operators, and ferry operators, would receive additional grants of land.

Austin himself took the responsibility for having the land **surveyed**, or measured, to determine grant sizes and boundaries. After a survey, settlers could obtain legal rights to the property. In return, the settlers would pay Austin 12.5 cents per acre. Austin could then use this money to cover the considerable expense of conducting the surveys, purchasing advertisements to attract new settlers, preparing titles and records, registering new grants, and traveling to conduct business with government officials. Austin was willing to extend credit to the new settlers, however, allowing individuals time to pay.

Settlers coming to Texas were required to become citizens of their new country and to take an oath of allegiance to the Spanish—and later Mexican—government. They also had to become Catholic and be of good moral character. Austin wanted settlers who were willing to work hard and who would be loyal to the government.

Good Land and Low Prices Attract Settlers

Austin had no trouble finding colonists. The prospect of obtaining good farmland at a low price attracted many people. When Austin returned home from his first trip to Texas, nearly 100 letters from families who wanted to settle in Texas were waiting for him. In late 1821, Austin outfitted a ship, the *Lively*, to take people and supplies to the new colony. It made



its first voyage from New Orleans to Texas. Austin found that several families had already made their way to the new colony.

The first settler to enter the land claimed by Austin was Andrew Robinson. He set up a ferry across the Brazos River. That site later became the town of **Washington-on-the-Brazos**. Robinson would later open a hotel and saloon in town.

Most of the early colonists owned small farms and a few cows or horses. Some early settlers, however, brought slaves to Texas. The wealthiest of the new colonists was Jared E. Groce, a planter and lumberman from Alabama. He brought 50 wagons and 90 slaves with him.

Austin himself helped the colonists to find the land they wanted, but everything did not go as planned. In the spring of 1822 the *Lively*, loaded with additional settlers and supplies, wrecked on the western shore of Galveston Island. The loss of the colonists and the badly needed seed and supplies was a grave disappointment to Austin. Still more trouble lay ahead.

In March 1822, Austin went to San Antonio to report to Governor Martínez on the progress of the colony. There he learned that Mexico had won its independence from Spain in August of the previous year. He also found out that the new government did not recognize Austin's right to colonize Texas. Governor Martínez suggested that Austin travel to Mexico City to seek the new government's approval of his colonization contract.

Reading Check **Evaluating** What major setbacks did Austin encounter in 1822?



TAKS PRACTICE

Texas became part of the province of Coahuila y Tejas in 1824. Saltillo was the capital of the Mexican state.

Evaluating Why would the location of Saltillo be a problem for settlers in Texas?

Austin Impresses Mexican Leaders

Austin appointed an old friend, Josiah Bell, as land agent in his absence. Then he set out on the 1,000-mile journey to Mexico City. He did not know then that he would be gone from his colony for more than a year.

In Mexico City, Austin found much confusion. The new government had many problems and could give only limited attention to Texas. Other Americans in Mexico City were also seeking land contracts. This made the government reluctant to approve Austin's contract.

In 1823 the Mexican congress passed a general colonization law, and Austin was given a contract under its terms. Under the Mexican law of 1823, the amount of land each settler received was increased. Families who raised livestock and farmed could receive a total of 4,605 acres. Austin himself would earn about 100,000 acres of land for his services as **empresario** (a land agent whose job it was to bring in new settlers to an area). As under his original contract, Austin would be permitted to settle 300 families. Shortly after, a

new government took power in Mexico and suspended the colonization law of 1823. As a result, only Austin could go ahead with his settlement. Others seeking land grants would have to wait until the government worked out a new law.

During his long stay in Mexico, Austin accomplished a great deal. He gained approval from Mexico's government. He learned much about Mexican customs and institutions. He learned Spanish and met many important Mexican leaders. Austin impressed these leaders with his honesty and sincerity. They became convinced that he wanted to be a loyal Mexican citizen and had no desire to cause trouble for the Mexican government.

Problems Develop in the Colony

Many problems faced Austin when he returned to the colony. Some of the colonists had left Texas because of a serious drought that had affected the area while Austin was away in Mexico. Many others were waiting for their land to be surveyed. Disagreements arose



Student Web Activity Visit the texans.glencoe.com Web site and click on **Chapter 7—Student Web Activity** to learn more about the settlers called the “Old Three Hundred” in Texas.

over ownership of certain lands. For the next several months, Austin and Baron de Bastrop, who had been appointed land commissioner, settled claims and recorded deeds to the land.

During Austin’s trip to Mexico City, the Karankawas along the coast and the Tonkawas in Central Texas raided settlements and stole horses and cattle. Native Americans did not like the settlers intruding on their territory. Austin tried to negotiate with the Native Americans to establish peace. When they continued to raid, Austin commanded a **militia**, a temporary army unit, to protect the colony. By the end of 1824, relations between the Native Americans and the settlers quieted.

Reading Check Summarizing List some of the problems faced by the early colony.

Men and Women of the Old Three Hundred

By the spring of 1825, Austin had almost completed the terms of his contract. He had issued titles to nearly 300 families. The settlers in his colony became known as the Old Three Hundred. Most of them had come from

Louisiana, Alabama, Arkansas, Tennessee, and Missouri. Being among the very first people to settle in the new area, these early colonists had an opportunity to select the very best land available on which to build their new homes and farms. Many of the families chose plots along the Brazos, Colorado, and San Jacinto Rivers or beside smaller streams such as Oyster Creek and Buffalo Bayou.

Several members of the Old Three Hundred had been in Texas even before Austin arrived. Jane Long, who secured a land title on the lower Brazos, had been on her husband’s expedition. Aylett C. Buckner, who built the first house on the Colorado River, had been a member of both the Gutiérrez–Magee expedition and the Long expedition. In 1826, Buckner was named by Austin as commander of the colony’s militia.

Another early settler in the Austin colony was R.M. Williamson. Although disabled, he



Picturing History

A dog-trot log cabin allowed a breeze to pass through to keep the house cooler. The passageway was also a favorite sleeping place for dogs. Porches could contain household items like this sideboard and pitcher. **What resources would have to be available to build this type of home?**

devised a wooden leg to support his weight. He was an outstanding lawyer who later became a leader in the Texas independence movement.

Mary Crownover Rabb, one of Austin's Old Three Hundred, recalled what her first home in Texas was like.

“The house was made of logs. They made a chimney to it. The door shutter was made of thick slabs split out of thick pieces of timber, and [to fasten the door] we had a large pin or peg that was drove in hard and fast [at night], and then the Indians could not get in.”

Rebekah Cumings came to Texas with three sons. Her daughter, Rebecca, was later engaged to William B. Travis. Soon after their arrival in Texas, Nancy Spencer's and Elizabeth Tumlinson's husbands were killed by Native Americans. Both women stayed to become members of the Old Three Hundred.

The Colony Gets a Capital

Austin decided that the west bank of the Brazos, where the Old San Antonio Road crosses the river, would be a good location for the new colony's capital. In July 1824, a town was officially organized. The name of the town, **San Felipe de Austin**,



Surveyors used standard length measuring chains, a compass, a transit to measure angles, and a level with a telescope, called a peep sight. They spent weeks working up one side of a river dividing the land into tracts. They ran the lines from trees which they marked with letters and numbers and made notes like: "100 feet from the pin oak marked 'S' to a pecan on the edge of the prairie marked 'W'."

honored both Austin and San Felipe, the patron saint of Texas **Governor Luciano García**. By 1828, San Felipe had a population of about 200. Austin lived one-half mile back from the river, on the west bank of a little creek. Noah Smithwick, an early settler and writer, described Austin's dog-trot home.

“[It was] a double log cabin with a wide 'passage' through the center, a porch with a dirt floor on the front, with windows opening upon it, and a chimney at each end of the building.”

Reading Check Identifying Who were the Old Three Hundred?

SECTION 1 ASSESSMENT

Checking for Understanding

- Using Key Terms** Define the key terms *depression*, *survey*, and *empresario*, and use each term in a sentence.
- Reviewing Facts** Why did Moses Austin and, later, Stephen F. Austin, want to bring colonists to Texas?

Reviewing Themes

- Groups and Institutions** Why was Baron de Bastrop's friendship with Governor Martínez important to Moses Austin?

Organizing to Learn

- Sequencing** Place the letters of the following events in correct order.

1820	1825

 - San Felipe de Austin becomes capital of the colony.
 - The *Lively* sinks.
 - Mexico passes a general colonization law.
 - Moses Austin receives approval to create a colony.
 - Stephen F. Austin goes to Mexico City.

Critical Thinking

- Making Predictions** If Moses Austin had lived longer, do you think he would have been a successful empresario? What qualities did he possess that may have been important to a person with his goals?



Analyzing What political and economic advantages would be available for members of the Old Three Hundred?

Social Studies

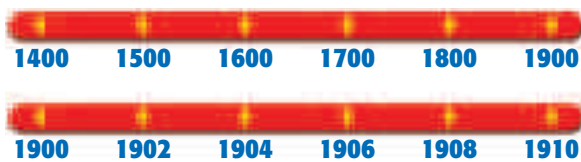
TAKS Skillbuilder



Making a Time Line

Why Learn This Skill?

A time line is a concise way to show the order of historical events within a certain time period. Most time lines are drawn horizontally. They represent different amounts of time, or time spans. Look at the two time lines shown below.



Both time lines are the same size. The first one, however, represents a time span of 500 years while the second one represents 10 years. On the first, the spaces between the dates represent 100 years, or a century. The spaces on the second line represent only two-year periods and add up to 10 years, or a decade.

Learning the Skill

The four steps to make a time line are:

- Identify the total time span it will represent.
- Break the total time into equal periods.
- Write the dates either horizontally or vertically.
- Fill in the events in the proper places on the time line.

Practicing the Skill

Key events from this chapter are listed in the next column. Find the dates on which these key events occurred and put them in correct chronological (date) sequence.

- A Stephen F. Austin nearly completes the terms of his first contract.
- B Mary Austin Holley writes about life in Texas.
- C Stephen F. Austin visits Mexico City.
- D Moses Austin visits Texas for the first time.
- E San Felipe de Austin is officially organized.
- F Nancy Tevis becomes a founder of the city of Beaumont.

Answer the questions that follow to make a time line of the previous events. After you answer the questions, draw a time line and label the events.

- 1 What is the time span represented by the time line?
- 2 How many years are in each equal time period?



TAKS PRACTICE

Time Line Find the key dates and events from this chapter that relate to the colonization of Texas. After you make the time line, answer the following questions:

1. In what decade do most of the events occur?
2. What types of settlements did you include on the time line?
3. Does your time line show that settlement followed the passage of colonization laws, or did the passage of colonization laws follow settlement?

Glencoe's **Skillbuilder Interactive Workbook**, Level 1, provides instruction and practice in key social studies skills.



The Colonies Grow

Guide to Reading

Main Idea

As Stephen F. Austin and other empresarios encouraged settlement in Texas, many groups made important contributions.

Key Terms

Federalist, Centralist, dowry, department

Reading Strategy

Classifying Information As you read this section, complete a web like the one shown here. List actions taken by the government and name the successful empresarios during the early colonization of Texas.



Read to Learn

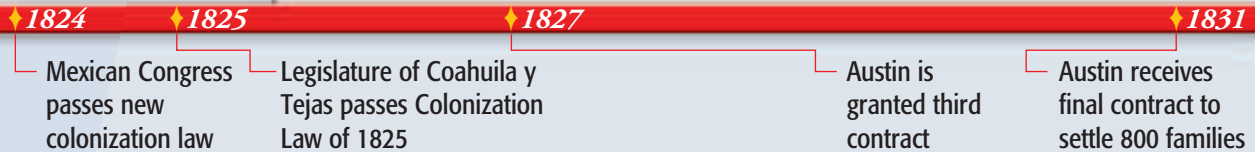
- what actions the government took
- about the successful empresarios.
- what groups came to Texas.
- what roles women played.

Section Theme

Groups and Institutions

Empresarios brought more settlers into Texas as more favorable immigration laws were passed.

Preview of Events



Advertisement for Austin Academy

A Texas Story

Most immigrants to Austin's colony came for land grants. Thomas Pilgrim was different. He wanted to open a school. Encouraged by Stephen F. Austin, Pilgrim advertised for students for a new school he named Austin Academy. A bill found among Pilgrim's records shows that Austin paid for two students.

To one scholar (student) 9 months ending Dec. 13th at \$2.50 per month	\$22.50
To one scholar 3 months ending Dec. 13th at \$3 per month	\$ 9.00

The Constitution of 1824

On March 19, 1823, Mexican emperor **Agustín de Iturbide** was overthrown. The people who formed the new government were called **Federalists** because they believed in sharing power between the states

and the national government. Their opponents, called **Centralists**, believed that power should be concentrated in the national, or central, government of Mexico City.

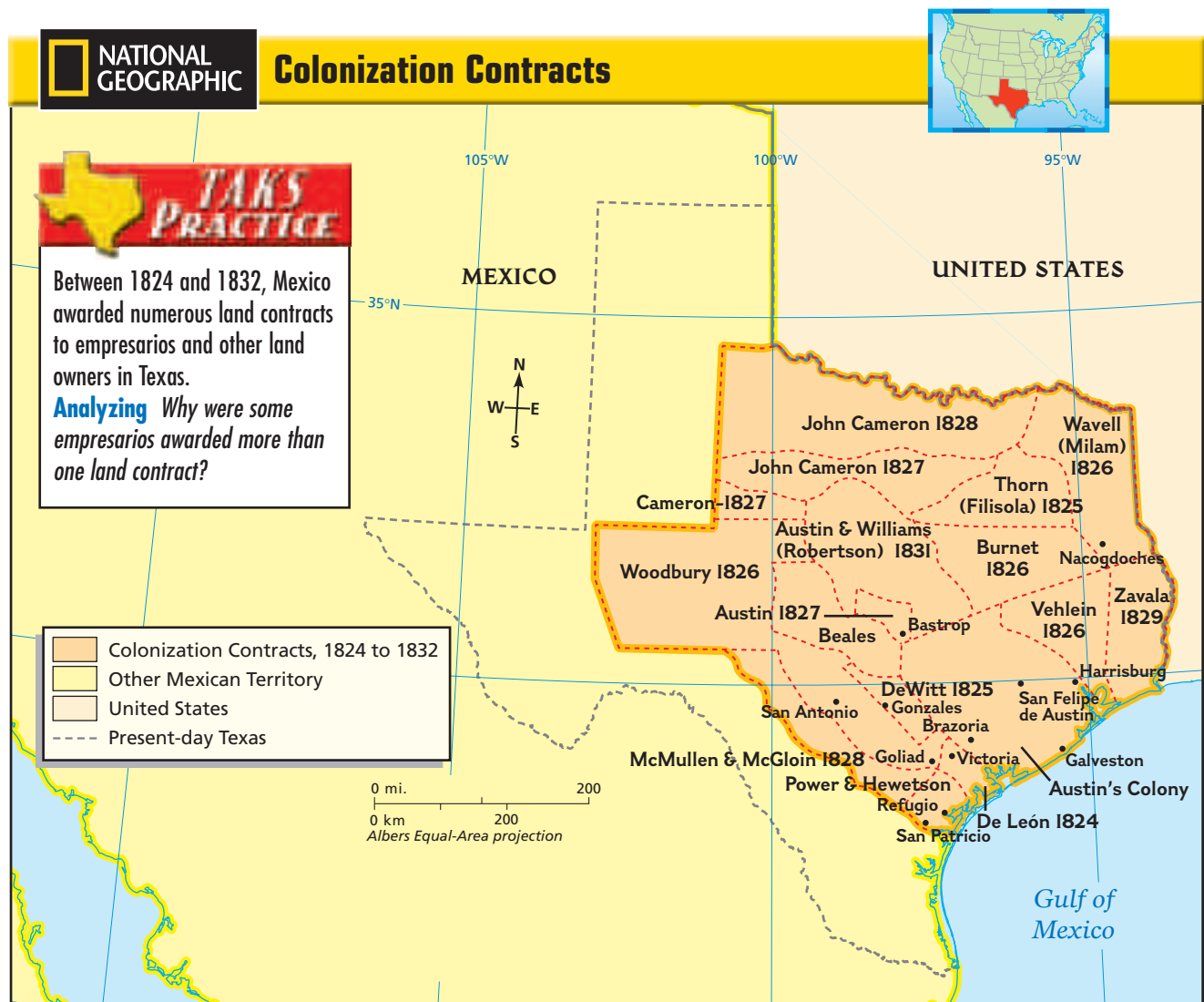
In 1824 the Federalists wrote a constitution for Mexico that divided the nation into 19 states and 4 territories. The former Spanish provinces of **Coahuila** (koh•ah•WEE•lah) and Texas were united as one Mexican state—Coahuila y Tejas. The constitution provided that Texas might become a single Mexican state, but only after its population grew large enough.

Texas was entitled to select only 1 of 12 members of the state legislature that met in **Saltillo** (sahl•TEE•yoh) in Coahuila. Baron de Bastrop was chosen as the first representative from Texas.

Mexico Passes Colonization Law

In 1824 the congress in Mexico City passed a new colonization law, in which the Mexican states would be responsible for working out their own detailed plans for settlement. The federal government set up certain restrictions for colonization. The most important were:

- 1) no one could receive more than 48,708 acres of land;
- 2) no colony could be established within 10 leagues (about 30 miles) of the coast nor within 20 leagues (about 60 miles) of an international boundary without permission of the Mexican government; and
- 3) only those who intended to live permanently in Texas could receive land contracts.



At the time this act was passed, many people were in Mexico City seeking contracts to set up colonies in Texas. When they learned that contracts were to be granted by the individual states, many people left for Saltillo, the capital of the state of Coahuila y Tejas.

Reading Check Summarizing What were some new colonization restrictions of the Mexican government?

How State Colonization Laws Worked

In 1825 the legislature at Saltillo passed a new state law providing for colonization. Under this law, foreigners were invited to immigrate to

Texas. They could receive title to land as individuals or through an empresario.

After a payment of \$30, a family could receive as much as 4,428 acres (1,792 hectares) of land (one league). Colonists would not have to pay general taxes for a set number of years. Single men usually would receive only 1,107 acres (448 hectares) of land (one-fourth of a league). They would be given another 3,321 acres (1,345 hectares) (three-fourths of a league) when they married. If a man married a Mexican woman, he would receive a bonus of an additional 1,107 acres (448 hectares).

Colonists had to show evidence of good moral character. They also had to be Roman Catholics. However, the Mexican authorities did not bother settlers who practiced other religions

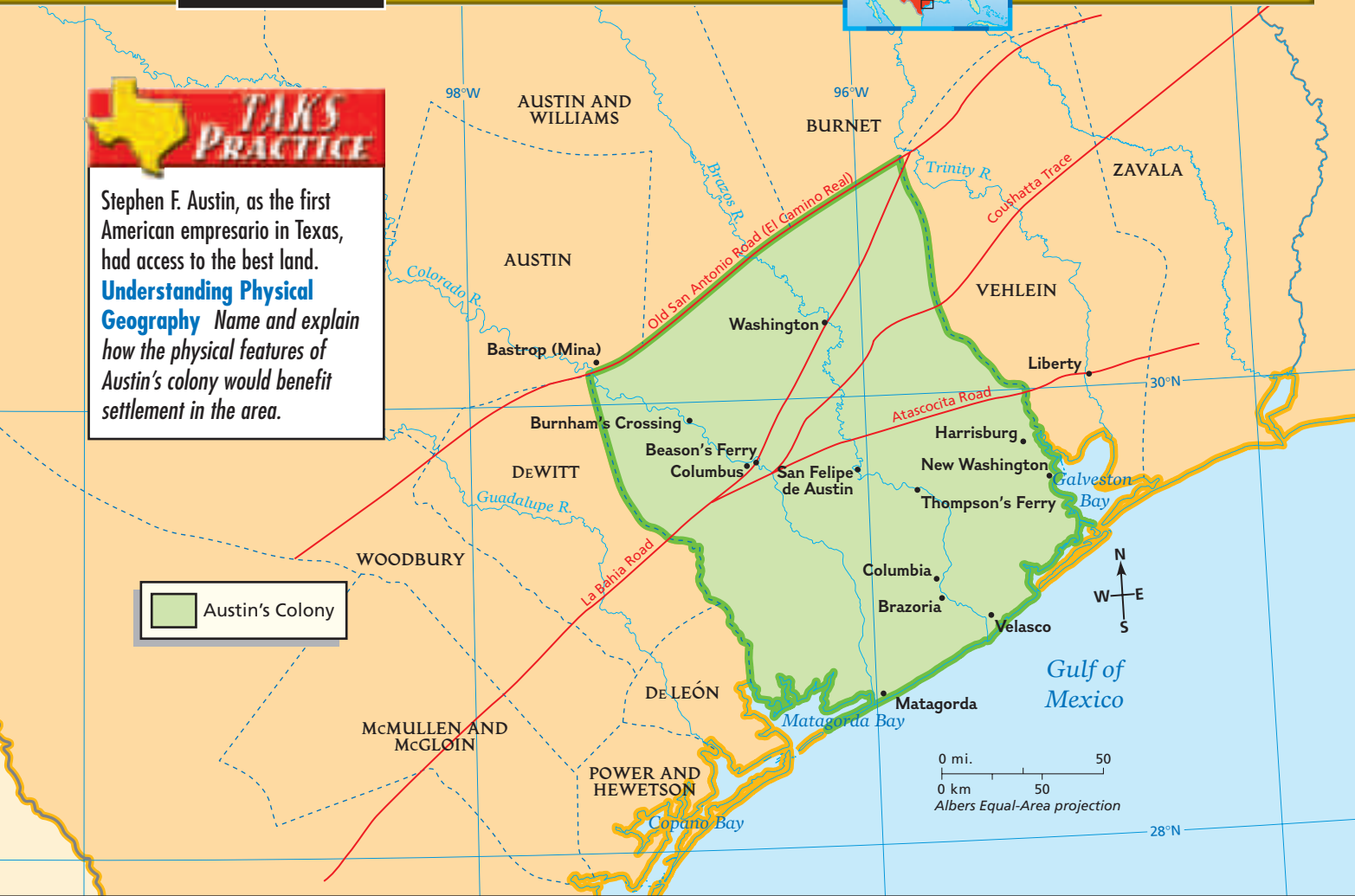


Stephen F. Austin's Colony



Stephen F. Austin, as the first American empresario in Texas, had access to the best land.

Understanding Physical Geography Name and explain how the physical features of Austin's colony would benefit settlement in the area.



because there was a shortage of Catholic priests to oversee church matters.

While the new laws made it possible for individual families to settle on their own, most settlers came into Texas as part of an empresario contract. There were two main reasons for this system. Most settlers could not speak Spanish and therefore had trouble getting title to their land without an empresario's help. In addition, most of the desirable lands were held by an empresario.

Each empresario would receive about 23,000 acres of land for every 100 colonists he brought to Texas. Empresario contracts ran for 6 years. If the empresario was not able to get at least 100 families settled on the land within those 6 years, the empresario's contract would be canceled by the Mexican government. In the years that followed, other federal and state colonization laws were passed, including the granting of 25 new empresario contracts.

The Most Successful Empresario

Stephen F. Austin continued to be the most successful empresario. By 1828 he had received four additional contracts under the new colonization law of 1825. The first of these provided for the settlement of an additional 500 families within the boundaries of his first colony.

Another contract was granted in 1827. This provided for the settlement of 100 families east of the Colorado River and north of the San Antonio Road. In his application for this contract, Austin pointed out that such a colony would provide protection for travelers on the way to San Antonio.

The town of **Bastrop** became the headquarters for the "Little Colony," the name given to the land covered by the new contract.

In 1828 Austin received special permission for the settlement of 300 families in a 10-league zone along the coast. Austin's last contract was obtained in 1831. It provided that Austin and his partner, Samuel M. Williams, could settle 800 families in a large area north and northwest of his



Picturing History

Stephen F. Austin issued land contracts to eager settlers who were determined to make a new life in a vast land. [What problems did Austin encounter with his last colonization contract of 1831?](#)

first colony. This contract, however, included land that had been granted to another group of settlers from Tennessee, led by **Sterling C. Robertson**. For many years, disagreements flared over the ownership of this land. In 1847 Texas courts awarded the grant to Robertson and the Nashville Company. More than 600 families had moved there, establishing settlements at Salado, Viesca (later Milam), and Nashville.

Reading Check **Comparing** How much land would single male colonists receive as compared to families?

Why Austin's Colonies Succeeded

Several reasons contributed to Stephen F. Austin's success as a colonizer. He demonstrated from the beginning his ability to deal successfully with Mexican authorities. His colonists had little difficulty getting title to their land and making improvements. Native Americans became less of a threat.

In addition, Austin's contracts included lands with some of the most fertile soil in Texas. Of the many motives for immigrating, the search for fresh land was the most common. Like the southern United States, Texas mainly produced cotton.

Cotton farmers rarely used wise soil conservation practices. They repeatedly planted cotton crops in the same fields. They did not protect against erosion. The fields became less productive. The decline in soil fertility forced them to search for new lands that had never been farmed. Texas offered what they needed.

In Texas the land was well watered, contained enough timber for homes and fuel, and was crossed by roads and rivers that provided a means of transportation.

Green DeWitt's Success

Next to Austin, the most successful empresario was **Green DeWitt** of Missouri. In 1825 he was authorized to bring 400 families into Texas. His colony was situated west of Austin's first colony and south of the San Antonio Road. The town of **Gonzales** was established as headquarters for the colony.

Native Americans began a series of raids, which slowed the early growth of DeWitt's colony. Nevertheless, by 1831, he had issued 166 titles to land.

Martín de León, Empresario

Another successful empresario was **Martín de León**. De León, a native of Mexico, was an expert horseman and rancher. In 1805 he had established a ranch on the Aransas River in Texas. Later he received permission to bring Mexican settlers into Texas. He settled between 100 and 200 families along the Guadalupe River near the coast. **Patricia de la Garza de León** helped her husband, Martín, found the town of Victoria in 1824, which they named for the first president of the Republic of Mexico. Their fortune had its beginnings in the **dowry**, or valuable goods, Patricia brought to the marriage. She also gave money, land, and furnishings to establish the first church in Victoria. Later, she sided with the Texans during their war with Mexico and contributed aid to the war effort. Despite her support, she and her family, along with other Mexican Texan supporters of the war for independence, would become the victims of anti-Mexican sentiments and would be forced to flee.



Picturing History

Mexican empresario Martín de León brought Mexican settlers into Texas. **In what other ways did he and his wife, Patricia de la Garza de León, contribute to the development of Texas?**

Native American raids also troubled de León's colony, which was southeast of the DeWitt settlement. The colonists prospered, however, by farming and ranching. By the 1830s, thousands of cattle were grazing on the rich grasses of this area. Victoria became an important center for trade between Texas and Mexico.

Other Contracts

James Power and James Hewetson, both natives of Ireland, settled Irish immigrants along the Gulf Coast. Their central town, Refugio, was established on the site of an old Spanish mission by that name. John McMullen and James McGloin established a second colony of Irish immigrants at San Patricio.

Many other empresarios held contracts to bring settlers into Texas. Among these, Haden Edwards, David G. Burnet, Joseph Vehlein, Arthur Wavell, and Lorenzo de Zavala are the best known. Some empresarios, such as David

Burnet and Lorenzo de Zavala, later became active in the Texas independence movement. Their land holdings encouraged their participation in government and politics.

Many families came into Texas without help from empresarios. One such family was that of Noah and Nancy Tevis, who with seven children came to southeast Texas from Tennessee in 1824. Several years later they received a land grant from de Zavala. They settled along the Neches River and began farming. Noah died in 1835, but Nancy continued to live on the farm. In 1836 she became one of the founders of Beaumont, which was established on her land.

Various Nationalities Settle in Texas

The total number of Tejanos living in Texas during Mexican rule did not change much. There was, however, an overall increase in population during the colonial period. This was due to the generous land policies of the Mexican government. The policies attracted thousands of settlers from the United States and other parts of the world.

By and large these newcomers were farmers and people of some means, although in coming to Texas, some may have left behind them debts they could not pay. Since documents from that time show that only a small number of crimes were reported, it is thought that the immigrants were generally honest and law abiding.

Although travel was often dangerous in those days, people risked the journey to Texas for many reasons. They might be joining relatives or friends, or looking for a promising new place to raise a family. When the economy was bad, many families looked for new starts in distant lands. Some pioneers were simply motivated by a sense of adventure and plain curiosity. Most, of course, came for the cheap land in the hopes of creating productive farms and homesteads.

Many of the immigrants were women. Some came with husbands and families, but others bravely faced the journey alone. Most of the Anglo settlers came from the Southern states, especially Louisiana, Alabama, and Arkansas.

There were more than 3,000 people of Mexican ancestry, most of whom lived in

the Department of Béxar. A **department** is a large administrative unit, similar to a territory. Several pioneer families of Spanish or Mexican ancestry still lived in East Texas. Many of the settlers in the Refugio and San Patricio colonies were of Irish descent.

The **Imperial Colonization Law** recognized slavery but outlawed slave trading. Other laws or acts, though, were broad enough that slavery was a fact of life in colonial Texas. Slavery did not exist, however, to the extent that it did in other Southern states, possibly because of the uncertainty of the laws.

More than 2,000 enslaved African Americans lived in Texas. Many of them worked on farms or plantations in the rich valleys along the Brazos, Colorado, and Trinity Rivers. Although the Mexican government opposed slavery, the Anglo American colonists argued that slave labor was necessary to clear the land; to cultivate cotton, corn, and sugarcane; and to make a profit.

Not all African Americans living in early Texas were slaves. Greenbury Logan, Samuel H. Hardin, Lewis B. Jones, William Goyens, and Hendrick Arnold were free African Americans, to name a few. It is estimated that by the time of the Texas Declaration of Independence, 150 free African Americans lived in Texas. Some fought for independence from Mexico.

 **Reading Check** **Identifying Locations** In which areas did many of the slaves work?

Estimated Population in Texas, 1834		
Department	Population	Main Towns
Nacogdoches	9,000	Anahuac, Bevilport, Liberty, Nacogdoches
Brazos	8,000	Bastrop, Brazoria, Columbia, Gonzales, Harrisburg, Matagorda, San Felipe de Austin
Béxar	4,000	Goliad, San Antonio, San Patricio, Victoria



Summarizing Study the chart and write a sentence about the Texas population in 1834.

Women Play Important Roles

Colonists in Texas endured great hardships. Early settlers had to bring most of their household articles with them. **Mary Austin Holley**, a cousin of Stephen F. Austin, visited Texas in 1831 and wrote a series of letters in which she described everyday life in Austin's colony.

“Housekeepers should bring with them all indispensable articles for household use . . . together with as much common clothing (other clothing is not wanted) for themselves and their children, as they, conveniently can . . . Where the population increases beyond the increase of supplies, articles of necessity, as well of luxury, are dear. If, on arrival, they find a surplus on hand, it can be readily disposed of to advantage; for trade, by barter, is much practiced, and you buy provisions with coffee, calico, tea-kettles, and saucepans, instead of cash.”

Life was difficult for women in early Texas. They worked alongside the men, building houses, tending livestock, and defending their land. Despite their contributions, women held few rights under law. They could not vote, hold public office, or serve on a jury. Slave women suffered worse conditions. They labored long hours without pay, with no prospect of freedom. Their families often were split up because of slave sales.

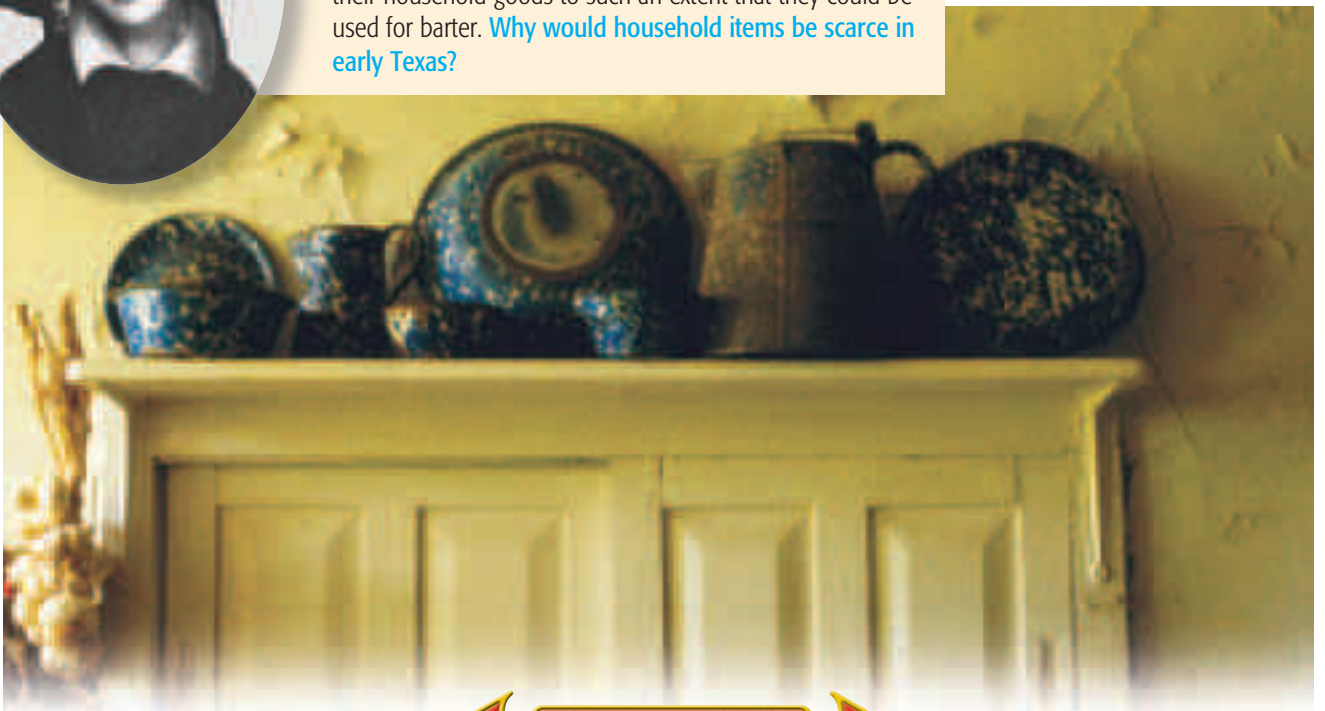
Despite these obstacles, women made important contributions. Mary Austin Holley's books about Texas helped attract settlers from the United States. María Calvillo was both the daughter and the wife of ranchers. She eventually became the sole owner of her father's ranch. Drawing on her courage, organizational skills, and talents, she improved and expanded her holdings.

Jane McManus arrived in Texas in 1832, and she and her brother became empresarios. They succeeded in bringing a few German colonists to Texas in 1833. Tamar Morgan came to Texas as a slave in 1832. She purchased her freedom with the proceeds of her own labor and contributed to the Texas economy by becoming a successful landowner in Brazoria County, along with her husband, Samuel H. Hardin.



Picturing History

Mary Austin Holley and other early settlers to Texas valued their household goods to such an extent that they could be used for barter. **Why would household items be scarce in early Texas?**





People of Texas

Lorenzo de Zavala 1788-1836



Of all the men who signed the Texas Declaration of Independence, few matched Lorenzo de Zavala in education, political experience, or diplomacy. He spoke Spanish, French, English, and Latin. When he was imprisoned for his political views he studied

medical texts in jail.

When released, he was elected to public office. He served in the Mexican congress and senate in the new Republic of Mexico, and as minister of the treasury. President Santa Anna appointed him minister to France,

but he resigned when Santa Anna assumed dictatorial powers.

He moved his family to Texas where he became a strong supporter of the independence movement. He was the ad interim vice president of Texas in 1836.

Education in the Colonies

A lack of funds prevented the Mexican government from ever providing public education for the children in the new colonies. As a result, the job of educating children was left to the colonists themselves.

Wealthy colonists hired private teachers to instruct their children. Others chose to send their children to schools in the United States. Most new settlers, however, joined together to establish private schools in the new communities.

In 1829, **Thomas J. Pilgrim** opened the first school in the new town of San Felipe de Austin. In the mid-1830s, **Frances Trask** opened one of the first schools for girls in Texas, in present-day Independence. By the 1830s almost every town in the new settlements had at least one teacher providing children with the basics in reading, writing, and arithmetic.

Reading Check Explaining What were some rights not granted to women?

SECTION 2 ASSESSMENT

Checking for Understanding

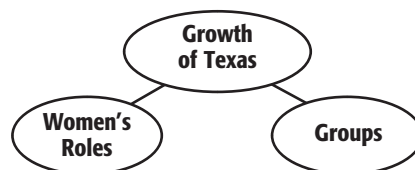
- Using Key Terms** Write an imaginary newspaper headline for each of the following words: **Federalist**, **Centralist**, **dowry**, **department**.
- Reviewing Facts** What restrictions on colonization did the Mexican government set in 1824?

Reviewing Themes

- Groups and Institutions** Why was Stephen F. Austin a successful empresario?

Organizing to Learn

- Summarizing** Complete a web like the one shown below. List the different groups who came to Texas and the various roles of women.



- Analyzing** According to Mexican land grants, when a man married he received 3,321 acres. If he married a Mexican woman, he received a bonus of an additional 1,107 acres of land. Why do you think the government offered this bonus?



Contrasting How did the Mexican government feel about slavery in contrast to most Anglo American colonists in Texas?



Chapter Summary

Age of Empresarios

1820

- Moses Austin travels to Texas after his business is ruined.

1821

- Spain approves Moses Austin's request to bring American settlers to Texas.
- Moses Austin dies.
- Stephen F. Austin takes up his father's cause.

- ★ American settlers begin arriving in Texas.

1822

- ★ Stephen F. Austin travels to Mexico City.

1823

- The Mexican congress passes a general colonization law.

- ★ Stephen F. Austin is given a contract to settle 300 families.

1824

- Mexico adopts a constitution and becomes a republic.
- Texas and Coahuila become one state.
- San Felipe de Austin becomes the capital of Austin's colony.

1825

- Stephen F. Austin largely completes his contract to bring 300 settlers to Texas.
- A new state colonization law allows foreigners to settle in Texas.
- ★ Green DeWitt receives permission to settle 400 families in Texas.

1827

- Stephen F. Austin is granted a third contract.

Reviewing Key Terms

Write a paragraph in which you properly use the key terms listed below:

1. depression
2. survey
3. empresario
4. Federalist
5. Centralist
6. department
7. dowry

Reviewing Key Facts

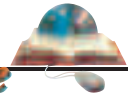
8. Name the friend of Moses Austin who provided needed assistance in San Antonio.
9. How did Stephen F. Austin become involved in the colonization of Texas?
10. List three requirements for new settlers of Texas.
11. What two qualities about Texas were particularly attractive to prospective settlers?
12. Describe some of the problems that new settlers faced.
13. Besides Stephen F. Austin, who was the most successful empresario?

Critical Thinking

14. **Synthesizing Information** Describe the population of Texas in the early 1800s.
15. **Comparing and Contrasting** Compare the 1824 colonization law by Mexico to the 1825 colonization law of Coahuila y Tejas. Complete a chart like the one below to list the major parts of each law. Consider the similarities and differences. Compare the impact of each law.

Colonization Law of 1824	Colonization Law of 1825

16. **Identifying Assumptions** How do you think the Native Americans must have reacted when hundreds of settlers came to the lands they had first inhabited?
17. **Making Inferences** Why was it important for Austin to have settlers loyal to the Spanish and, later, to Mexico?
18. **Analyzing** Explain how obtaining land without the help of an empresario would be difficult for settlers.



Self-Check Quiz

Visit the texans.glencoe.com Web site and click on **Chapter 7—Self-Check Quizzes** to prepare for the chapter test.

CLICK HERE



Geography and History Activity

19. According to Mexico’s Colonization Law of 1824, “There cannot be colonized any lands . . . within twenty leagues of the limits of any foreign nation, nor within ten leagues of the coasts.” Why do you think the Mexican government included such a provision in the law?



Building Technology Skills

20. **Creating Graphs** Using the population statistics in the table entitled “Estimated Population of Texas, 1834” on page 177, create a circle graph or a bar graph. Draw the graph by hand or use a computer spreadsheet program such as *Microsoft Excel* if you are familiar with such a program.



Portfolio/TAKS Writing Activity

21. **Writing a Letter** When Stephen F. Austin arrived in Texas and surveyed the area which he wished to colonize, he wrote in his journal about the abundant resources and the beauty of the land. Write a persuasive letter that Stephen F. Austin might have written to a friend in Missouri urging the friend to immigrate to Texas.

Cooperative Learning Activity

22. **Creating a Map** Working in groups of four, draw a large map of Texas. Begin by adding the major rivers that were so important to the colonization process in the early 1800s. Include the San Antonio, Guadalupe, Colorado, Brazos, Nueces, and Aransas Rivers. Draw the boundaries of Stephen F. Austin’s first settlement. Locate and label San Antonio, Goliad, Nacogdoches, San Felipe, Gonzales, Victoria, Refugio, San Patricio, and Galveston Island. (Refer to other maps to help find some of these rivers and towns.)

Practicing Skills

Making a Time Line Use information that you have studied in prior chapters to determine when the following events occurred. On a separate sheet of paper, place the events in their correct chronological order. Then draw a time line beginning with the year 1760 and ending with 1830.

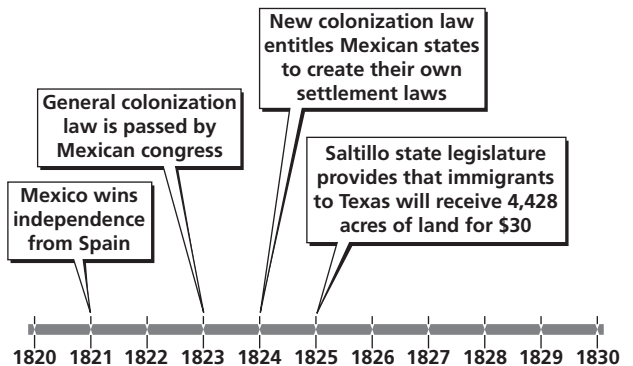
- 23. Mexico wins independence from Spain.
- 24. The United States acquires Louisiana.
- 25. Spain surrenders San Antonio to the Republican Army.
- 26. Gálvez aids colonies in the American Revolution.
- 27. Spain acquires Louisiana from France.

Economics and History Activity

28. **Environment** Although cotton was a major crop in the early 1800s, cotton farmers did not practice soil conservation. Describe the social, economic, and environmental effects of not using conservation methods.

TAKS PRACTICE

Use the time line and your knowledge of Texas history to answer the following question.



Mexican Colonization Laws, 1820–1830

During the 1820s, immigration to Texas

- A was an orderly and smooth process.
- B decreased because of conflicts with Native Americans.
- C was encouraged by the Saltillo state legislature after 1825.
- D grew slowly because many immigrants could not meet the residency conditions.

Test-Taking Tip:

If you do not recognize a word or term in a test question, read the test question carefully for context clues. The word *conflict* is a negative condition, whereas the word *encouraged* is a positive condition. These clues might help you guess.

Economics & History

Learning to Succeed

While talking with your classmates, you have probably discovered that their parents work at many different sorts of jobs. They may work in a factory or for a construction firm, on a ranch or farm, or for the city's public works departments. Or, they may work with computers or in stores or banks. Today, the majority of people in the state work in a service industry. Instead of producing goods, these businesses provide services to people, such as repairing computers or shipping important packages.

Many factors determine what kind of career or job a person holds. Education is important but so are personal skills, attributes, and traits. In the past, when formal education was not available to many people, personal characteristics were even more important.



One of the most successful Texans in the 1820s and 1830s was Stephen F. Austin. As an empresario, he earned his livelihood by bringing Anglo American settlers into Texas and granting them land.

Austin Studies Hard

Austin attended college at Transylvania University in Kentucky (though he did not receive his degree). He also studied law. But for him to be successful in Mexican Texas (1821–1836), he had to possess more than just schooling. He had to be good at promoting his business interests. For this he needed to be an effective communicator. That meant he needed to learn Spanish, the language spoken in Texas and Mexico at that time.

Austin arrived in Texas in 1821 without

Stephen F. Austin

knowing Spanish. Soon after, he began studying and practicing the language daily, stopping only to exercise and work. By 1822, he was speaking and writing Spanish fluently.

Representing Different Interests

Between 1822 and 1836, Austin's ability to speak English and Spanish proved valuable to him over and over. It allowed him to develop high-level contacts in Mexico with persons of influence and government officials who could ensure the success of his Texas enterprise. Between 1821 and 1831, he entered into five contracts with the Mexican government to settle families in Texas. Mexico paid Austin very well for fulfilling those contracts. In exchange for bringing a stated number of families to Texas, he stood to acquire thousands of acres of land, which he could then sell. In addition, Austin charged settlers a small price for surveying their lands and registering their titles to the property. When families could not afford to pay with money, Austin accepted slaves or farm animals, or he gave them time to pay on credit.

Protesting Laws

Austin's Spanish-speaking abilities benefited him in still other ways. His understanding of Mexican laws written in Spanish inspired confidence in his abilities to govern and helped him attract many new people to the area. Because of his fluency, he was able to protest those laws that slowed or prevented the colonization of Texas. In 1830, he protested the Law of April 6, which ended immigration from the U.S., and later Austin helped convince Santa Anna to repeal it. This again opened Texas up to settlement by prosperous immigrants from the United States and Europe.

Austin also lobbied against efforts in Mexico to abolish slavery, for he believed enslaved African Americans were needed to work the new land. In 1835, he wrote and sent a pamphlet to the Mexican government explaining why many Texans wanted to be a separate state and not part of Coahuila. When disturbances in Texas increased, Austin continued to abide by his agreement with the Mexican government for as long as possible.

Successful Businessman

Because of his education—both formal and informal—and his willingness to learn about other people and other cultures, Stephen F. Austin became a skillful and successful businessman. When he passed away in 1836, the value of his land holdings was estimated at over \$500,000. Additionally, he had been able to pay off debts he owed before his arrival in Texas. Hard work, personal integrity, and his knowledge of the Spanish language and customs had been instrumental to his economic success.



Bilingual sign at Brownsville car dealership

TAKS PRACTICE

- 1. Making Generalizations** What qualities do you think are needed to be successful in business?
- 2. Drawing Conclusions** What are some benefits of acquiring new skills?
- 3. Writing About Economics** Write a paragraph that describes a time when knowledge of another language would have helped you. Use standard grammar, spelling, sentence structure, and punctuation. Include information and examples from the feature as details to support your argument.