UNIT 3

TEXAS: FROM COLONY TO REPUBLIC

1800–1845

CHAPTER 8 Anglo American Colonization of Texas
CHAPTER 9 The Road to Revolution
CHAPTER 10 The Texas Revolution
CHAPTER 11 An Independent Texas

UNITED STATES

1800 Philip Nolan returns to Texas
1803 Louisiana Purchase is made
1810 The Gutierrez-Magee expedition is defeated
1813 War of 1812 begins
1815 Adams-Onís Treaty redefines border between Louisiana and Spanish Texas
1821 Stephen F. Austin settles Texas

WORLD

1801 Tripoli declares war on the U.S.
1804 Haiti wins independence from France
1814 London’s The Times is first newspaper printed on steam presses
1821 Mexico wins independence from Spain
1825
Fredonian Rebellion occurs

1830
Convention of 1833 sends Stephen F. Austin to Mexico City

1833
General Sam Houston becomes president of the Republic of Texas

1836
Battle of the Alamo occurs; Texas wins independence

1835
Slavery is abolished throughout British Empire

1837
Victoria becomes queen of Great Britain

1822
Brazil declares independence from Portugal

1825
Erie Canal opens

1826
Great Britain is home to world's first public railroad

1825
California declares independence from Spain and becomes a province of Mexico

1841
Sam Houston is elected president

1844
Samuel Morse sends first telegraphed message in Morse code

1834
Slavery is abolished throughout British Empire

1839
Germany builds first major railway

1840
Opium War erupts in China

1844
Anson Jones is elected president

1845
Texas: From Colony to Republic
Anglo American Colonization of Texas
1800–1830

Section 1 Interest in Texas Grows Among Anglo Americans
Section 2 Stephen F. Austin and the Empresarios
Section 3 Life in Colonial Texas

No state on the continent is more eminently favored by nature, in fertility of the soil and salubrity of climate than Texas, or presents a like combination of natural advantages.

Texas author Mary Austin Holley

Louis Hoppe, Julius Meyenberg’s Farm

1801 Philip Nolan and his men fight Spanish soldiers near Waco
1806 The Neutral Ground Agreement is established
1819 James Long leads group of Anglo Americans to Nacogdoches
1821 Moses Austin receives permission to settle 300 families in Texas
1821 Stephen F. Austin brings Anglo American settlers to Texas
1824 Green DeWitt is granted permission to settle 400 families in Texas
1825 Martin de León petitions to establish the first Tejano colonies in Texas
1825 The Gutiérrez-Magee expedition is defeated
Before You Read

In the early 1800s, so many people left their homes in the United States to come to Texas that “G.T.T.” (Gone To Texas) signs became common. Settlers came to Texas from various places and traveled along a variety of routes. Your ancestors may have come to Texas during this period. Or they may have been Native or Spanish colonists. They may have moved here 100 years ago or 50 years ago. Or your family may be new to our state.

Think about
• how long members of your family have lived in Texas
• how your family members may have traveled to reach Texas
• what Texas was like when your family arrived
• whose rule the state was under when your family arrived
• the many different ethnicities in Texas

As You Read

During the period of Anglo American colonization, Texas was home to a variety of people. Completing this graphic organizer for Chapter 8 will help you understand their goals in coming to Texas, their accomplishments, and the challenges they faced.

• Copy the chart in your Texas Notebook.
• As you read the chapter, look for the types of people listed in the organizer.
• Complete column 1 with the names of specific people who fit in each category.
• Then complete columns 2 and 3. Identify the goals each person or group had for coming to Texas. List what each person or group accomplished or the challenges they faced in trying to meet their goals.

Organizing Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WHO</th>
<th>GOAL(S)</th>
<th>ACCOMPLISHMENTS/CHALLENGES</th>
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<td>Empresarios</td>
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<td>Filibusters</td>
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<td>Religious leaders</td>
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Interest in Texas Grows Among Anglo Americans

Why It Matters Now
Much of the language, culture, and government of Texas today came from its Anglo American settlers.

TERMS & NAMES
Anglo American, immigrant, empresario, recruit, filibuster, Philip Nolan, Neutral Ground Agreement, compromise, neutral, Gutiérrez-Magee expedition, republic, Tejano, James Long, Jane Long, cede

OBJECTIVES
1. Describe the filibuster era of Texas history.
2. Analyze the effectiveness of the filibusters in Texas.
3. Identify the contributions of the filibusters in Texas.

MAIN IDEA
Although conflict existed between Spain and the United States, many Americans moved west into Spanish Texas. The actions of these filibusters served as an example to later colonists.

INTERACT WITH HISTORY
Imagine that you are a United States citizen after the American Revolution. You dream of moving out West, but the western territories are controlled by Spain. If you decide to move, you must agree to become a Catholic citizen of Spain. Would you give up your American citizenship or stay where you are? Why?

WHAT Would You Do?
Write your response to Interact with History in your Texas Notebook.

Americans Move West

The lure of the Western frontier was very strong. After the United States gained its freedom from Great Britain in 1783, Anglo Americans began searching for new areas to settle. Although western parts of North America were controlled by Spain, some adventurers looked across the Mississippi River and dreamed of new homes in the West.

Meanwhile, authorities in New Spain wanted to stop the U.S. government from claiming land west of the Mississippi. However, many American citizens had already moved to Spanish lands, including Texas. Although most of the settlers came for personal gain or adventure, their actions unintentionally affected the policies of Spain and the United States. Their growing numbers alarmed Spanish officials, who feared that Americans would outnumber Spaniards.

Spain Controls Immigration

At first, Spain tried to control the waves of illegal American immigrants by allowing Anglo Americans to settle in Missouri on generous land grants if they agreed to two important conditions. The
settlers had to pledge their loyalty to the Spanish government and become Catholics, which many were not.

Spain hoped to accomplish two things with this proposal. First, it wanted to populate the area to extend Spanish rule. At the same time, it hoped the new settlers would prevent other Anglo Americans from entering the territory illegally.

Under the plan, George Morgan became the first empresario to recruit settlers from the U.S. and be responsible to Spanish authorities for them. In 1789 Morgan founded New Madrid on the west bank of the Mississippi River in what is now Missouri. Morgan’s actions in founding the colony served as the example for later empresarios.

**Philip Nolan in Texas**

Not all settlers agreed to the conditions of the Spanish government. A group of Texas settlers known as filibusters threatened Spanish rule. Authorities suspected them of plotting to seize control of Texas. The first filibuster to arrive in Texas was Philip Nolan. Beginning in the late 1700s, Nolan led men into Texas to capture wild horses. He then sold the horses for a profit in the United States. At first, Nolan had permission from the Spanish government to do so, but he made the Spanish authorities suspicious by visiting often with General James Wilkinson, the U.S. Army commander on the frontier. Juan Bautista Elguezábal, the newly appointed Spanish governor of Texas, feared that Nolan was plotting with Wilkinson to take Texas from Spain. He warned Nolan not to return to Spanish lands or he would be arrested.

Nolan ignored the warning and returned to Texas in 1800 with a group of 17 men. In March 1801, Nolan and his men met a patrol of Spanish soldiers near Waco. During the fight that followed, the Spanish soldiers killed Nolan and another man. They captured the rest of Nolan’s party and took them to a Mexican prison. One of the men, Peter Ellis Bean, survived and later served as an officer in the Mexican army.
Neutral Ground Agreement

In 1800 Spain lost control of its northern territory when Napoléon Bonaparte reclaimed the region for France. The United States then purchased the land from the French in 1803 as part of the Louisiana Purchase. The United States and Spain once again shared a border, this time between Louisiana and Spanish Texas. Although the Sabine River was generally regarded as the border, each country tried to move the border to its advantage. Spanish authorities maintained that their territory extended to the Arroyo Hondo, or about 50 miles east of the river. The United States claimed that the line lay much farther west.

In 1806 General Wilkinson and General Simón Herrera, the commander of Spanish Texas, reached a compromise. They decided to create a neutral zone between the Arroyo Hondo and the Sabine River. Both countries agreed not to try to control the area or patrol it with their troops.

The Neutral Ground Agreement stopped border clashes between military patrols but created a shelter for lawless citizens of both nations. So many problems arose that Spain eventually agreed to let the U.S. Army enter the area and arrest any lawbreakers. Lieutenant Augustus Magee led the patrol and succeeded in controlling the area.

Gutiérrez-Magee Expedition

Soon after his patrol into the Neutral Ground, Magee resigned from the U.S. Army. He met Bernardo Gutiérrez de Lara (goo•TYEH•rehs deh LAH•rah), a follower of Father Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla, who was trying to free New Spain from Spanish control. Continuing the filibuster movement, Gutiérrez and Magee organized the Republic of the North. The army, made up of Tejanos, Native Texans, Anglo Americans, and other volunteers, arrived in Nacogdoches in 1812 and proclaimed Texas independent of Spain.

The expedition moved on to the presidio at La Bahía, where the army was attacked by Governor Manuel Salcedo’s forces. Magee died during the attack and was succeeded by Samuel Kemper and later by Henry Perry. The filibusters defeated Salcedo at the Battle of Salado in February 1813 and occupied San Antonio. Then Gutiérrez was replaced by José Álvarez de Toledo.

The expedition party was finally defeated by General Joaquín de Arredondo (hwah•KEEN deh ah•ray•DOHN•doh) in August 1813. The battle was fought near the Medina River, 15 miles from San Antonio de Béxar. Arredondo’s soldiers killed nearly all of the filibusters and many residents of San Antonio de Béxar who had conducted business with them.

The vision of a free Texas that Gutiérrez and Magee shared did not become reality. However, the expedition was not a complete failure. It encouraged others to try to free Texas and Mexico from Spanish rule. Some of the soldiers who accompanied Gutiérrez and Magee later saw their dreams come true.
Revolutionaries and Pirates in Texas

After the Gutiérrez-Magee expedition, Texas became the home of others who tried to weaken Spain’s hold. Among these were revolutionaries and pirates. Francisco Xavier Mina and Henry Perry, who had survived the Gutiérrez-Magee expedition, organized a band of revolutionaries on Galveston Island. A French pirate, Louis Michel Aury (oh•REE), agreed to help them. The group hoped to attack Spanish ships. In 1817 Aury led an unsuccessful attack on Spain along the Mexican coast.

While Aury was gone, another pirate, Jean Lafitte, set up his headquarters in Galveston. Lafitte continued pirating from Galveston and founded the settlement of Campeachy. Although he claimed to be helping Mexico win its independence, his real goal was taking Spanish treasures. The U.S. Navy drove Lafitte from the Texas coast when he began raiding U.S. ships.

The Adams-Onís Treaty

Activities outside Texas prompted other filibusters to move to Texas. In 1817 American general Andrew Jackson pursued Native Americans into Spanish Florida. This angered Spanish authorities. However, the incident was resolved in 1819 by the Adams-Onís Treaty. Spain ceded Florida to the United States and agreed that the Sabine River would be the boundary between Spanish Texas and Louisiana. The United States agreed not to press claims west of the boundary. This agreement upset many Americans because it denied them the chance to move west. Several people decided to ignore the treaty and take portions of Texas away from Spain themselves.
The Long Expedition

In June 1819, Dr. James Long led a group from Natchez, Mississippi, to Nacogdoches, where he declared Texas independent from Spain. Jane Long, his wife, later explained his intentions to Mirabeau Lamar.

General Long hoped to achieve by military operations what the two Austins had the ability and address to accomplish by peaceful negotiation.

After sending men to establish posts on the Brazos and Trinity Rivers, Long traveled to Galveston Island to ask for Jean Lafitte’s help. Lafitte refused, stating that Long had no chance without a large, trained army. After learning that his forces had been defeated in Nacogdoches, Long returned to Natchez and raised supporters for a second expedition to La Bahía. Spanish troops surrounded the group and forced them to surrender. Long was sent to Mexico City and was shot by a prison guard on April 8, 1822. He was the last major filibuster in Texas.

After hearing of her husband’s capture, Jane Long stayed at Point Bolivar with her children and her slave Kian. The men who had been stationed there with her abandoned them. After news of her husband’s death came, Jane went back to Mississippi. She later returned to Texas and eventually settled in Richmond, where she managed a hotel and a plantation. Jane Long became one of the most prominent pioneer women in Texas.

As a whole, the filibusters failed to make any part of Texas free from Spain. However, reports of their activities encouraged many Americans to move to Texas. The quiet arrival of so many crossing into Texas did more to loosen Spanish, and later Mexican, control of the area than did the spectacular expeditions of Nolan, Gutiérrez and Magee, or Long.

**Terms & Names**
- Anglo American
- immigrant
- empresario
- filibuster
- compromise
- neutral
- republic
- Tejano
- cede

**Organizing Information**
Use a Venn diagram like the one shown to compare two filibusters from this section. Write similarities in the overlap and differences in the outer portions of the circles.

**Critical Thinking**
1. What was the primary goal of the filibusters?
2. In what ways were the filibusters successful? unsuccessful?
3. How did the actions of filibusters such as Philip Nolan and James Long encourage later colonization of Texas?

**Interact with History**
Review your response to Interact with History in your Texas Notebook. Now that you have read the section, would your answer remain the same? Or would you have become a filibuster? Explain.

**Activity**
**Government**
Spain, Mexico, and the United States all wanted to control Texas. Choose one of the countries. Research and debate which country should gain control.
Evaluating Sources

**LEARNING the Skill**

People learn about the past by reading and studying primary and secondary sources. These sources may include books, legal documents, speeches, diaries, magazine and newspaper articles, and interviews. They may also include visuals such as drawings, photographs, maps, videos, and artifacts. When gathering information, it is important to evaluate your sources to determine if the information is valid and relates to what is being studied.

**To evaluate sources, use the following steps:**

- Determine whether the information is relevant to your topic.
- Check the date of the source. Sometimes information is outdated.
- Determine whether the information is based on facts or opinions.
- Identify any bias in the source.
- Check other sources to determine the validity of the information, if necessary.
- Interpret the information in your own words.
- Summarize the main ideas.

**PRACTICING the Skill**

Read the following excerpt from *Memoir of Col. Ellis P. Bean, Written by Himself About the Year 1816*. Peter Ellis Bean was a survivor of the Philip Nolan expedition of 1800–1801.

In four days more it was our misfortune to be attacked by a hundred and fifty Spaniards sent by the commandant at Chihuahua. He was general-commandant of five northeastern internal provinces, and called Don Nimesio de Salcedo. . . . They surrounded our camp about one o’clock in the morning, on the 22d of March, 1801. They took the five Spaniards and one American that were guarding our horses, leaving but twelve of us. . . . We were all alarmed by the tramping of their horses; and, as day broke, without speaking a word, they commenced their fire. After about ten minutes, our gallant leader Nolan was slain by a musket-ball which hit him in the head.

1. What is the subject of this passage?
2. Does the passage contain any opinions? If so, what are they?
3. Is bias reflected in Bean’s account of the events?
4. How does the information in this passage compare with the information about Philip Nolan’s expedition in the chapter?
5. What is the main idea of the passage?
6. How does the fact that the author was an eyewitness to the events affect the validity of the information?
7. Do you think the information in this source is valid? Why or why not?

**APPLYING the Skill**

Using resources in your school library or online sources, conduct research to find additional information about the filibusters in Texas. Use the steps in Learning the Skill to evaluate the validity of your source. Then write a summary of your evaluation and share it with the class.

Go to www.celebratingtexas.com to research this topic.
Stephen F. Austin and the Empresarios

TERMS & NAMES
Moses Austin, petition, Stephen F. Austin, land title, San Felipe de Austin, Green DeWitt

OBJECTIVES
1. Identify the contributions of Moses Austin to the colonization of Texas.
2. Identify the contributions of Stephen F. Austin to the colonization of Texas.
3. Explain the major change that took place in Texas during 1821.

MAIN IDEA
Anglo American colonization of Texas began when Stephen F. Austin was given permission to establish a colony of 300 American families on Texas soil. Soon other colonists followed Austin’s lead, and Texas’s population expanded rapidly.

Why It Matters Now
Stephen F. Austin’s colony laid the foundation for thousands of people to later move to Texas.

Moses Austin Begins Colonization in Texas

Moses Austin was born in Connecticut in 1761. During his business dealings, he developed a keen interest in lead mining. After learning of George Morgan’s colony in what is now Missouri, Austin moved there to operate a lead mine. Austin prospered there as the territory was transferred back to France in 1800 and then sold to the United States in 1803.

Things went well for Austin’s family until he lost his fortune and faced a growing debt during the Panic of 1819. Austin thought once more about George Morgan’s colony. He decided that helping colonists locate in Texas was the best way to make money and pay off his debt.

Austin traveled to Texas in 1820 with an ambitious plan in mind. He wanted to bring 300 families from the United States into Texas to begin a colony. No one had ever brought such a large group of settlers into the area. Spanish officials were suspicious of Austin at first. Because of their problems with earlier filibusters, they questioned Austin’s motives. However, his intentions were good and so were his plans for Texas’s future.

To set his plan in motion, Austin traveled 800 miles to obtain approval from Spanish officials. Once he arrived in San Antonio de Béxar, he met with Governor Antonio Martínez and presented his petition.
Martínez, following Spanish policy, quickly rejected Austin's plan. The government had seen too many filibusters attempt to seize Spanish lands. Disappointed, Austin prepared to leave Texas. Little did he know that his luck was about to change.

Before leaving San Antonio de Béxar, Austin met the Baron de Bastrop, Felipe Enrique Neri. Austin told the baron of his plan, and the baron agreed to use his influence with Spanish officials to help Austin win their approval. Bastrop arranged another meeting with Martínez, who agreed to send Austin's request to a higher authority.

Expecting a positive decision, Austin returned to the east to begin recruiting colonists for Texas. He became ill and was dying when he learned that his plan had been approved. On his deathbed, he asked that his son, Stephen, carry out his dream of colonizing Texas.

**Stephen F. Austin Takes Over**

Only 27 years old when his father died in 1821, Stephen Fuller Austin put aside his plans for a legal career and went to Texas to fulfill his father's wishes. Stephen was born in Virginia and grew up on the frontier. After attending Transylvania University in Kentucky, he served as a legislator in Missouri for six years and briefly as a judge in Arkansas. Despite his youth, Austin proved to be the perfect person to make his father's vision a reality.

Austin's first act was to visit San Antonio de Béxar and meet with Governor Martínez. Erasmo Seguín, a well-known and respected citizen of San Antonio de Béxar, had been appointed by the governor to help Austin. In August 1821, Seguín escorted Austin into the city. Governor Martínez legally transferred Moses Austin's grant to his son Stephen.

Next, Austin had to choose a site for his colony. After looking over the area, Austin chose land between the Lavaca and San Jacinto Rivers. It seemed like the perfect location. Unlike the heavily forested land of East Texas, it would be easy for settlers to clear. Unlike West Texas, it received enough rainfall to raise crops. The grassy prairie provided a good place for settlers to grow sugar cane, corn, cotton, and other crops with which they were familiar. Austin determined that the first settlement would be located along the lower Colorado River.

**Settlers Arrive in Texas**

After deciding on the colony's location, Austin traveled to New Orleans to recruit colonists. He knew that the success of his colony rested in part on the character of the colonists. By the terms of the empresarial grant, colonists had to be persons of good character and had to either be Catholic or agree to become Catholic. Austin looked for people who were willing to accept hard times and who would be able to provide for themselves in the new colony. Colonists were required to pledge their loyalty to Spain, as shown in the following record of two Texas settlers, Samuel Davenport and William Barr.
Stephen F. Austin and the Baron de Bastrop issued land titles to colonists.

**Why was obtaining a title to the land important?**

El Camino Real, or The Royal Road, is the oldest highway in the United States. It was established by Spanish settlers in 1691. Beginning in present-day Texas near Eagle Pass, it runs through San Antonio and ends in Nacogdoches. The highway served as a major supply route from Mexico into Texas and helped make San Antonio the largest town in Spanish Texas. Today, sections of highway between San Antonio and Nacogdoches follow the original path of the road.

- How did settlements along El Camino Real benefit from its existence?

The grant allowed Austin to bring 300 families to Texas. These families were known as the “Old Three Hundred.” Settlers who were farmers received one labor, or 177 acres. Those who raised cattle could obtain a sitio, or a square league of 4,428 acres. Many settlers received both. After Austin made sure the colonists qualified, the Baron de Bastrop, as the government’s agent, gave land titles to the colonists.

Beginning in 1821, settlers began to arrive. Some traveled through Nacogdoches along El Camino Real, and others came by small boat. Austin purchased a small vessel named the Lively to transport the colonists. However, miscommunication caused a problem early on. Austin thought the Lively would land at the mouth of the Colorado, but instead it landed at the Brazos. With Austin waiting at the other river, some of the frustrated settlers gave up and returned home.

**Austin’s Leadership**

Although the first years of the colony were plagued by drought, attacks by Karankawas, and the return of some families to the United States, Austin’s colony prospered. This success was due in large part to Austin’s outstanding leadership. One of Austin’s biggest challenges occurred in 1822, when he visited San Antonio de Béxar to buy more supplies for the colony. While he was there, Austin learned that Mexico had gained its independence from Spain. This meant that Mexico, not Spain, now ruled Texas. Since his grant had been issued by Spain, Austin now had to obtain permission for his colony from Mexican officials. Austin traveled to Mexico City—a journey of over 1,000 miles—to secure the future of his colony. A year passed before he received the approval of the Mexican government.

During his time in Mexico, Austin learned to speak Spanish and won the trust of Mexican leaders. This gave him the ability to deal successfully with the new Mexican officials. Austin was awarded grants under the national colonization laws of 1823 and 1824 and the state colonization law of 1825 passed by the government of Coahuila y Tejas (ko•ah•WEE•lah ee TAY•hahs). He also influenced laws that made colonists free from taxes. In addition, he obtained homestead rights for the colonists. These rights meant that the settlers’ land and tools could not be seized to pay back a debt.
As the colony’s leader, Austin established his capital on the west bank of the Brazos River. The settlement was named San Felipe de Austin by the Mexican governor to honor both empresario Stephen F. Austin and his patron saint. Although San Felipe became the center of colonial activity in Texas, it remained a small community of perhaps 200 people until it was burned during the Texas Revolution.

Austin led his colony in many different ways. He was the colonists’ main representative to Mexican officials. He also translated Spanish laws and communicated government policies to the settlers. Anglo Americans later came to view him as the “Father of Texas.”

**Expanding the Empresarial System**

Although Stephen F. Austin was the first empresario in Texas, he was not the only one. In Coahuila y Tejas, the state colonization law of 1825 allowed other empresarios to receive land grants in Texas. By 1830 about 30 people had done so. Austin also received more land grants in Texas.

Green DeWitt is often viewed as the second most important empresario. After receiving his grant in 1825, DeWitt founded a colony southwest of Austin’s original grant. His colony’s headquarters were in Gonzales. Although DeWitt had permission to locate 400 families in Texas, he had settled only 166 by 1831.

Another important empresario was Martín de León. A native of Mexico, de León settled about 200 Mexican families near the coast.
Empresario Martín de León was an expert rider and a fine rancher. With the help of his wife and four sons, de León encouraged the growth of the cattle industry, and the town of Victoria became a central location for trade between Texas and Mexico. De León’s influence can still be seen today as Victoria continues to be an important farming and cattle community in Texas.

What made de León different from most of the other empresarios in Texas?

Texas in 1830

By the early 1830s Texas had a population of almost 20,000 people. The towns of La Bahía and Nacogdoches had grown considerably. In addition, there were the new towns of San Felipe, Gonzales, and Victoria. There were also many smaller communities.

The cotton and cattle industries were growing in Texas. Local government functioned in some communities. Working together, the Mexican government, the empresarios, and the settlers would continue to expand Texas’s population.
When Stephen Fuller Austin was a young man, he never dreamed he would be an empresario. In fact, when his father went to settle Texas, Stephen did not believe the venture would be a success.

Yet, when his father died, Stephen became the empresario. He used his education and his legal experience to promote his colony and to establish local government. He encouraged the colonists to be good citizens of Spain, then Mexico, and to obey the laws.

Austin’s colony prospered and served as an example to other empresarios in Texas. Later, Austin received grants to found additional colonies. In all, he helped over 1,000 families settle in Texas. In a letter to his colonists in 1823, Austin expressed his feelings about having the opportunity to bring people to Texas.

I was animated by the gratifying hope of providing a home for a number of . . . citizens and placing them and their families in a situation to make themselves happy the balance of their lives. One of the greatest pleasures a virtuous mind can receive in this world is the consciousness of having benefited others, this pleasure I now have in prospect.

Several years later, there was trouble between the Texas settlers and the Mexican government. This led to Austin’s belief that Texas should be part of Mexico as a separate state. Austin later met with settlers to discuss independence. At first, the idea was hard for Austin to accept because he believed Texas would flourish under Mexican rule. But with Antonio López de Santa Anna in power, he seriously doubted Texas’s future. With settlers’ support, Austin was made chairperson of the central Committee of Safety. He was charged with coordinating Texans’ actions.

Although he was not a military man, Austin led Texas forces against the Mexican army at San Antonio de Béxar in October 1835. Then, giving up his command of the Texas soldiers, he was chosen to go to the United States to get aid and supplies for the Texans. Victory was achieved in 1836.

With the war behind him, Austin decided to run for president of the new Republic of Texas. Unfortunately, he lost the race to another honored Texan, Sam Houston. Houston appointed Austin secretary of state.

Stephen F. Austin, Texas’s first empresario, continued to serve the Republic until he died on December 27, 1836, at the age of 43. He had given most of his adult life to Texas—the land he loved.

**LINKING TO HISTORY**
Both Stephen F. Austin and Paul Revere were members of the Committee of Safety, at different times and in different places. Research these two men and the Committee of Safety. Then complete a Venn diagram to compare Austin and Revere.

**LINKING TO TODAY**
Stephen F. Austin and his father dreamed of changing its unsettled territory into a thriving and populated area. As a result of their vision, Texas was changed forever. Look at your community. What changes are planned or in progress? Whose vision is responsible for these changes?
Mary Austin Holley was a cousin of Stephen F. Austin. An accomplished author, Holley wrote a series of letters, diary entries, and books that prompted many settlers to move from other states to Texas. Her works described the climate, the geography, and everyday life in Austin’s colony of San Felipe. Holley directed some of her helpful hints specifically to women settlers.

"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. Ladies in particular, should remember that, in a new country, they cannot get things made at any moment, as in an old one."

Mary Austin Holley, *Texas: Observations Historical, Geographical, and Descriptive*

**A REAL-LIFE STORY**

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**Gone To Texas**

The empresarios had opened the door for Texas colonists. As people poured westward into the area, the inscription *G.T.T.*, meaning “Gone To Texas,” became a common sight on abandoned cabins across the southern United States. This message that the previous owners had packed up and moved beyond the Sabine and Red Rivers.

Settlers moved to Texas for many reasons. Some were seeking adventure. Others sought escape from problems in the United States. Many were attracted by the plentiful and inexpensive land. Land in the United States cost $1.25 per acre, much more than most Americans could afford.
By contrast, land in Texas could be bought for 12.5 cents per acre and paid out over several years.

Several different routes brought these settlers to Texas. The Tennessee and Ohio Rivers flowed into the Mississippi from the east. Traveling along the rivers on boats was often easier than going by land. Some families followed a line that stretched southwestward from Maryland, Virginia, and the Carolinas through Kentucky, Tennessee, and Arkansas into Texas. Some came south from Missouri. Others traveled westward through the Southern states of Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana.

Colonists coming to Texas traveled on horseback, in covered wagons, on boats, and even on foot. Some settlers walked because they lacked a horse or a wagon. This limited the supplies they could bring. Most immigrants coming on foot could carry no more than a rifle for hunting and protection, extra ammunition, salt to flavor food, and perhaps some extra clothes. Those who rode horses could bring more tools and supplies, especially if they brought a pack horse. Immigrants who had wagons could bring even more supplies, but they usually walked beside the wagons so the wagons could be filled with supplies. Other colonists floated their belongings down rivers on rafts or flat boats.

**Settlers of Various Nationalities**

The settlers of colonial Texas were as varied as the routes they traveled. Although most emigrated from the United States, some came from Mexico and Europe. Early Texas colonists included people of German, Irish, Polish, Mexican, and African descent, among others.
A large population of Tejanos settled in San Antonio de Béxar and along the Rio Grande. Martín de León founded one of the first Tejano colonies in Texas. Other powerful Tejanos in colonial Texas were Erasmo and Juan Seguín, Lorenzo de Zavala, and José Antonio Navarro.

The African American population in Texas also grew. Many enslaved African Americans were brought by settlers from the American South. Slavery was illegal in Mexico after 1829, but the law was seldom enforced. Mexican law did offer protection and legal rights to free African Americans who lived in Texas. Among them were Greenberry Logan, Hendrick Arnold, and William Goyens. These men later helped Texas win independence.

**Diet of Colonial Texans**

Texas lands held many resources for the colonists. With fish in the streams and animals in the forest and on the prairie, food was plentiful for skilled hunters. One Texas colonist wrote in 1834 about the number of animals that could be hunted on the Texas plains.

**TEXAS VOICES**

After we got into Texas the game was very abundant, and I found but little difficulty in procuring plenty, more especially after getting into the wide-spread prairie country. Hundreds of deer were to be seen in all directions, and wild geese everywhere—thousands. . . . To kill the geese or the deer either on the prairie was easily effected, and we never failed to have plenty of nice venison or turkey for supper, and a kettle full of choice pieces hot for breakfast.

*Gideon Lincecum, Adventures of a Frontier Naturalist*

In addition to hunting, colonists gathered wild berries and nuts to eat. Some also had staples, or basic food products, such as salt, sugar, and flour that they had brought with them. The settlers eventually planted

**KITCHENS** Pioneer kitchens were seldom separate rooms. Women cooked in pots hung over open fires or on wood stoves. Wood had to be chopped to keep the fire going, and there were no matches. Ashes were saved to make lye for soap. Water had to be brought by bucket from a well. Pans were made of cast iron or copper. Women churned their own butter and made their own cheese and bread. Sugar was brown; coffee beans were green and had to be roasted and ground by hand. With no refrigeration, settlers had to preserve fruit and vegetables in jars. Today’s kitchens are filled with labor-saving appliances, and running water is available at the turn of a faucet.

*How have modern appliances changed food preparation?*
crops and built mills to grind sugar cane and grains into syrup and flour. However, colonial Texans rarely enjoyed a balanced diet. Fresh vegetables were available only during the growing season. As a result, colonists ate only meat and dried vegetables for much of the year. Corn was the primary staple and was part of almost every meal. It could be eaten fresh or dried and ground into a meal that could be prepared in various ways.

**Colonial Homes**

In addition to providing food, the Texas land also offered materials that could be used to build homes. Where timber was found, colonists built log cabins. Rock was used to build houses on the western edges of the settlement. Usually colonists began with a one-room cabin. As the family grew, a second cabin might be built beside it and the space between them covered. This shelter was known as a breezeway, dog-run, or dog-trot because hounds gathered in the shade of the covered area between the structures.

Often, the entire cabin was a single room. Cooking was done in an open fireplace that also provided light and warmth for the cabin. In the summer the settlers might cook over an outside fire to avoid heating the cabin. The floor was often bare ground or, later, boards elevated off the ground. Settlers used tree moss or corn husks to create mattresses. These had to be placed out in the sun from time to time to rid them of mildew or parasites, such as fleas and lice.

The furnishings of a colonial home were also made from the area’s natural resources. Tables and chairs were carved from wood. Chairs might be no more than cross sections of tree trunks standing on end.

**Religion and Education**

When Texas colonists applied for land grants, they had to be—or agree to become—Catholics. Some settlers became Catholics only to obtain land. So many of these dishonest converts were baptized by Father Michael Muldoon around
San Felipe de Austin that they became known as “Muldoon Catholics.” Since there were so few priests in Texas, colonists usually worshiped as they pleased. Samuel Doak McMahan established a Methodist church near San Augustine. Baptists Joseph E. Bays and Thomas J. Pilgrim preached their faith in relative freedom, as did Cumberland Presbyterian preacher Sumner Bacon.

Although some colonies had schools, there was no real system of education. Few children attended formal classes. Instead, most were taught at home by their parents.

**Challenges**

Texas colonists faced many challenges. Disease was one of the most common hardships of colonial life. Most settlers lived too far from a town to visit doctors. Even if they could reach a town, many doctors had no medical training. Colonists who were ill or injured often used homemade remedies that did not always work.

Colonists also had conflicts with Native Americans. In 1824 Aylett Buckner, an agent of Stephen F. Austin, secured a treaty with the Tawakonis and Wacos. This treaty reduced danger for several years. Other native groups, however, saw the colonists as intruders to be driven out. Colonists came to fear raids by the powerful Karankawas. To protect the colonists, Austin formed a small militia to ride throughout the colony and prevent raiding parties. This patrol was later organized into the Texas Rangers. Eventually, both friendly and hostile Native Americans were driven out of the area.

Anglo Americans accepted the requirements and hardships that came with colonial life. Some made a genuine effort to become Mexican citizens. However, by 1830 tensions between the colonists and the Mexican government had begun to develop. These conflicts would later lead to the colonists’ demand for independence.
Settling Texas

The settlers who moved to Texas brought very few possessions. With them, however, came their stories and songs. The settlers shaped their old songs to fit their new lives on the frontier, singing about who they were and how they lived.

The song “Texas Boys” is a humorous song sung by girls to warn other young ladies about the kind of life they might lead if they married a frontiersman who was going to Texas.

Come all you young ladies and listen to my noise,
And don’t you go marrying those Texas boys,
Cause if you do your life’s gonna be Johnny cake and venison and sassafras tea.

When they come a-courtin’ I’ll tell you what they wear,
An old tattered shirt all patched and bare,
An old straw hat more brim than crown,
And a pair of leather britches that they wear the winter round.

They’ll take you to a house with hewed log walls,
And it ain’t got no windows at all,
A pine-shake roof and a puncheon floor,
And it’s that way all Texas o’er.

The settlers who moved to the Texas plains lived in dugouts, or sod shanties, or in crudely built wood huts. They made sod shanties by cutting squares of topsoil and laying the squares into walls. In “Greer County Bachelor,” a “soddy” from Greer County, Texas, sings about his home.

My house it is built out of natural soil.
The walls are erected according to Hoyle.
The roof has no pitch but is level and plain,
And I always get wet if it happens to rain.

The Greer County settler sings about his life on the frontier.

My clothes are all ragged; my language is rough.
My bread is corn dodgers, both solid and tough.
And yet I am happy and live at my ease
On sorghum molasses and bacon and cheese.

How happy am I when I crawl into bed,
And a rattlesnake hisses a tune at my head.
A gay little centipede, all without fear
Crawls over my pillow and into my ear.

In a verse sung to the old tune “Shady Grove,” women sing about their desires to go to the new frontiers.

If I had a needle and thread,
As fine as I could sew,
I’d sew my skirt to his shirt tail
And through the world we’d go!

LINKING TO HISTORY
Write your own four-line verse to describe some aspect of colonial life. Use the verses on this page as models.

LINKING TO TODAY
Working in groups of three or four, write a song that describes some common aspect of your lives at school. Share your songs with your class.
TERMS & NAMES
Explain the significance of each of the following:
1. Philip Nolan
2. Neutral Ground Agreement
3. Gutiérrez-Magee expedition
4. James Long
5. Jane Long
6. Moses Austin
7. Stephen F. Austin
8. Green DeWitt
9. San Felipe de Austin
10. Mary Austin Holley

REVIEW QUESTIONS
Interest in Texas Grows Among Anglo Americans (pages 168–172)
1. What two requirements did Spain establish for U.S. immigrants settling in Texas?
2. Why did Spain and the United States create the Neutral Ground Agreement?
3. What were the results of James Long’s last expedition?

Stephen F. Austin and the Empresarios (pages 174–178)
4. How did Moses Austin obtain permission to form a colony in Texas?
5. What location did Stephen F. Austin select for his first settlement? Why?
6. What effect did the state colonization law of 1825 have on Texas?

Life in Colonial Texas (pages 180–184)
7. Why did many American settlers choose to move to Texas?
8. What challenges did the Texas colonists face?

READING SOCIAL STUDIES
After You Read
Review your completed chart. Which of the groups in the first column do you think was most important in colonizing Texas? Explain.

CRITICAL THINKING
Identifying Points of View
1. Examine the reasons why Spain wanted to limit the number of U.S. immigrants in Texas. Use these reasons to support Spain’s policy of colonization.

Comparing Information
2. Compare the different filibusters who led expeditions into Texas during the early 1800s. What did they have in common? How were their efforts different from one another?

Determining Cause and Effect
3. What effect did Mexico’s independence from Spain have on Stephen F. Austin and the colonists in Texas?

Contrasting Information
4. How did Spaniards and Anglo Americans differ in their purposes for and methods of settling Texas?
**MAP & GEOGRAPHY SKILLS**

**Applying Skills**

What rivers helped form the boundaries of the Neutral Ground?

**SOCIAL STUDIES SKILLBUILDER**

**Evaluating Sources**

The following passage is from the Adams-Onís Treaty, signed on February 22, 1819.

**Article 2.** His Catholic Majesty cedes to the United States, in full property and sovereignty, all the territories which belong to him, situated in the eastward of the Mississippi, known by the name of East and West Florida. . . .

**Article 3.** The boundary line between the two countries, west of the Mississippi, shall be on the Gulph [sic] of Mexico, at the mouth of the river Sabine, in the sea, continuing north, along the western bank of that river. . . .

1. What is the subject of this passage?
2. Does the passage contain any opinions or bias?
3. What is the main idea of the passage?
4. Is this information valid? Why or why not?

**CHAPTER PROJECT**

**Plan a Colony** Imagine that you are an empresario in Texas. You want to recruit settlers for your colony. Create and compile a kit of information for your colonists. Include the following items:

- a map showing the location of the colony and the routes to reach it
- a description of the resources in the area
- a list of supplies that the settlers will need
- an explanation of the requirements necessary to become a colonist in Texas

**SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & SOCIETY ACTIVITY**

**Comparing Texas Lifestyles** Life in colonial Texas was very different from life today. Colonists used simple tools and built most of the furnishings in their homes. Today, most homes include many appliances and machines designed to make life easier. Although the tools have changed dramatically, some aspects of life have remained the same since colonial days. Create a two-column chart in your Texas Notebook comparing and contrasting life in colonial Texas with life today. Include aspects of life such as housing, furnishings, sources of food, tools and appliances, and medical care.

**CITIZENSHIP ACTIVITY**

**What Does It Mean to Be a Citizen?** Colonists who came from the United States and settled in Texas gave up their American citizenship to become Spanish subjects. Then, when Mexico gained its independence from Spain, the colonists became citizens of Mexico. Interview your family members and friends on what it means to be a citizen of a country or a state. Using this information and your own views, prepare an informative three-minute oral presentation to the class.