Chapter 5
Colonization and the Empresarios
(1821-1836)

Section 1: A New Wave of Settlement

Section 2: Moses Austin

Section 3: Stephen F. Austin and the Old Three Hundred

Section 4: Empresarios and Entrepreneurs
A New Wave of Settlement

Section 1

• Why did the Spanish build missions in Texas?

• How did the end of Spanish rule in Mexico affect Texas?

• What problems prevented Mexico from colonizing Texas with its own people?
Settlements in Texas

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td>La Salle founded Fort St. Louis in the 1680s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish</td>
<td>Spanish settlers used the mission-presidio system to found colonies—only three Spanish colonies survived into the early 1800s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American</td>
<td>Starting in 1811, some Americans formed small settlements at Pecan Point.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In 1821, Mexico won independence from Spain. About 2,500 Mexicans lived in all of Texas.

Many Mexicans favored ranching over farming. South Texas was perfect for ranching. East Texas held great promise for farming.

• More Mexicans settled in South Texas after 1821. Few Mexican settlers lived in East Texas.
To protect Texas from other countries, Mexico wanted more Mexican citizens to live there.

Most of the new settlers were Americans.

They had to become Mexican citizens before settling in Texas.

- They passed two laws to encourage settlers to move to Texas.
Colonization Laws

• **Colonization Law of 1823**
  - Settlers received land at very low cost.
  - They paid no taxes for the next six years.

• **Colonization Law of 1824**
  - The state governor received the power to grant land.
The colonization laws allowed empresarios to organize the settlement of Texas. An empresario is a person who puts together business deals.

- In Texas, empresarios acted as land agents. They helped settlers get started in Texas. They also handled relations with the Mexican government.

Stephen F. Austin was the most successful empresario. His father, Moses Austin, paved the way for all of the Texas empresarios.
• How did Moses Austin’s early life prepare him to colonize Texas?
• What contribution did Moses Austin make to the colonization of Texas?
Moses Austin led a life full of change and adventure even before he set foot in Texas.

**The Virginia Years**

- Moses Austin moved to Philadelphia as a young man in 1783. He ran a successful dry goods store there. Then he moved to Virginia, where he established a second store.
Always ready for a challenge, Austin bought a lead mine in Virginia. He made such a success of mining that people called him the “Lead King.”
Moving West
Moses Austin’s mine ran out of lead in the 1790s, and he looked for new mining opportunities. He worked out a deal with Spanish officials. They gave him a sitio of land (4,428 acres) in Louisiana, including several lead mines. They also gave Austin a contract to settle 300 families in Louisiana. The new settlers had to become loyal Spanish citizens.

Hard Times
Austin started a bank in Missouri in 1803. The Panic of 1819 ruined Austin’s bank and destroyed his fortune.
• Faced with a new challenge, Austin decided to do what he’d done before—turn to Spain.

• He traveled 800 miles to Texas in 1820 to talk to Spanish officials. At first, Governor Antonio María Martínez rejected his plan. Then, the weary Austin had a stroke of luck.

★ Austin had a friend in San Antonio—Baron de Bastrop—who knew the Spanish officials in Texas and had influence with them. Bastrop convinced the governor to approve Austin’s plan because Mexico needed loyal colonists.
Moses Austin’s Legacy

★ Austin returned to Missouri to begin carrying out his plans to colonize Texas. When he reached Missouri, he became ill and died.

★ Before he died, he shared his plans for the “Texas Venture” with his son Stephen F. Austin. Stephen promised to carry out his father’s dream.
• Why were people eager to join Stephen F. Austin’s colony?

• How did changes in the Mexican government affect Austin’s plan?

• What challenges did Austin’s colony face in its early years?
When Moses Austin died, his son Stephen F. Austin carried on his plan to lead 300 families into Texas.
Austin established a colony in Texas. He settled on a site between the Colorado and Brazos rivers. The land was ideal for agriculture.

- Agriculture is the work of preparing the soil, producing crops, and raising livestock.

To join Austin's colony, the Mexican government required settlers to:

- Pledge their loyalty to Mexico.
- Give up their rights as American citizens.
- Adopt the Roman Catholic religion.
Trouble in Mexico

• New leaders in Mexico did not like Austin’s plan to create a colony in Texas.
• Austin had trouble getting approval because the Mexican government was in turmoil.
• His plans were finally approved in 1823.
Trouble in the Colony

While Austin was away meeting with Mexican leaders, his colony met these challenges:

- Drought gripped the region.
- Colonists fought with the local Indians, the Karankawas.
- Few new settlers arrived. When Austin returned, the settlers organized a militia, a group of armed citizens who serve as soldiers during an emergency.
The first families of Austin’s colony came from the southern part of the United States. They were known as the Old Three Hundred.

- Austin’s contract allowed only families to receive land grants. To get around this rule, Austin let single men form partnerships, an association of two or more people in a business venture.
Life for the settlers in the colony was difficult. Women were expected to cook, clean, maintain the fires, and care for the sick with few medicines or doctors. Colonists had to make their own clothing, soap, and supplies.

In 1823, Austin established a town, San Felipe de Austin, to serve as the heart of the colony. Here he conducted his business. He assisted settlers and acted as a link between the settlers and the Mexican government.
Why did American settlers want to move to Austin’s colony?

(A) The land was inexpensive and excellent for agriculture.

(B) Settlers were tired of battling the Native Americans for land.

(C) Settlers wanted to live near the ocean.

(D) Austin was giving land away.
Why did American settlers want to move to Austin’s colony?

(A) **The land was inexpensive and excellent for agriculture.**

(B) Settlers were tired of battling the Native Americans for land.

(C) Settlers wanted to live near the ocean.

(D) Austin was giving land away.
Why did Stephen F. Austin decide to allow slavery in his colony?

(A) He wanted a cheap source of labor to build his colony.

(B) He believed in slavery.

(C) He feared colonists would not come to Texas unless slavery was allowed.

(D) Austin owned slaves himself.
Why did Stephen F. Austin decide to allow slavery in his colony?

(A) He wanted a cheap source of labor to build his colony.

(B) He believed in slavery.

(C) He feared colonists would not come to Texas unless slavery was allowed.

(D) Austin owned slaves himself.
Set up your own notebook paper for this next set of notes...

NOTES ON EMPRESARIOS (5/4)

Copy the **bold-faced, red-letter notes** and SUMMARIZE—writing in your own words, if possible, but maintaining the meaning of the original notes.
• How did Martín De León contribute to the colonization of Texas?
• What role did Green DeWitt play in the colonization of Texas?
• How did other empresarios affect the growth of Texas?
• Why did Haden Edwards lose his contract?
• Why did Texas colonists NOT remain loyal to Mexico?
Martín De León

- De León was the only Mexican empresario to found a colony in Texas.

Green DeWitt

- DeWitt was an American whose land grant overlapped with De León’s. Mexican officials ruled in De León’s favor, pushing DeWitt further west.

Robert Leftwich

- Leftwich began a settlement, but then sold his contract to Sterling C. Robertson.
Sterling C. Robertson

• Robertson failed to settle any families. Austin convinced officials to give him Robertson’s land. The two men argued over land for years.

Lorenzo de Zavala, Joseph Vehlein, and David Burnet

• Instead of leading settlers to Texas, these land agents sold their land rights. This dishonest practice caused great confusion and cheated many settlers.
James Power and James Hewetson
• established the first Irish settlement in Texas
• named the capital of the settlement Refugio

James McGloin and John McMullen
• established the second Irish settlement in Texas
• named the capital of the settlement San Patricio
• **In 1825, Haden Edwards brought 800 families to settle in an area near Nacogdoches.**

  Edwards discovered the land was already settled. He forced those settlers to prove their ownership. When they could not, Edwards made them pay him for the land they had settled.

• Mexican leaders cancelled Edwards’s contract, but his colonists had already arrived in Texas.

• **Edwards declared Texas an independent nation, the Republic of Fredonia. Soldiers from Mexico, helped by Austin’s militia, quickly ended the revolt.**
The Empresario Era Winds Down

Chapter 5, Section 4

- A census taken in the 1830s showed about 25,000 people living in Texas.
- Settlers in Texas disliked the Mexican system of government.
- To deal with their concerns and give them a stronger voice, the Mexican government created departments.
- Census: an official count of the population of a region
- Department: a land division
What led to the end of the empresario era?

(A) The empresarios tried to take over the government.

(B) There were no empresarios left.

(C) Much of Texas was already settled by Anglos and Tejanos.

(D) The empresarios went on strike and refused to travel.

Want to link to the *Lone Star* Internet activity for this chapter? Click here!
Empresarios and Entrepreneurs - Assessment

What led to the end of the empresario era?
(A) The empresarios tried to take over the government.
(B) There were no empresarios left.
(C) Much of Texas was already settled by Anglos and Tejanos.
(D) The empresarios went on strike and refused to travel.

Want to link to the Lone Star Internet activity for this chapter? Click here!
Why did the Mexican government create departments?

(A) To help divide the land up fairly among the settlers
(B) To give settlers a stronger voice in government
(C) To help government handle all the paperwork on new settlers
(D) So settlers could govern themselves
Why did the Mexican government create departments?

(A) To help divide the land up fairly among the settlers

(B) To give settlers a stronger voice in government

(C) To help government handle all the paperwork on new settlers

(D) So settlers could govern themselves

Want to link to the *Lone Star* Internet activity for this chapter? [Click here!](#)