Texas on the Mexican Frontier

Texas History Chapter 8
1. Mexican Frontier

- Texas was vital to Mexico in protecting the rest of the country from Native Americans and U.S. soldiers
- Texas’ location made it valuable to Mexico
2. Spanish Missions

• The Spanish had created missions to teach Christianity to the American Indians

• The Spanish also wanted to keep the French out of Spanish-claimed territory
3. Empresarios in Texas

- Mexico created the *empresario* system to bring new settlers to Texas.
- Moses Austin received the first *empresario* contract to bring Anglo settlers to Texas.
Moses Austin convinced Mexican authorities to allow 300 Anglo settlers because they would improve the Mexican economy, populate the area and defend it from Indian attacks, and they would be loyal citizens.
5. Moses Austin

His motivation for establishing colonies of American families in Texas was to regain his wealth after losing his money in bank failure of 1819. He met with Spanish officials in San Antonio to obtain the first empresario contract to bring Anglo settlers to Texas.
6. Other Empresarios

- After Moses Austin death, his son, Stephen became an empresario bringing the first Anglo-American settlers to Texas
- He looked for settlers who were hard-working and law abiding and willing to convert to Catholicism and become a Mexican citizen
- They did NOT have to speak Spanish
7. Other Empresarios

- His original settlers, The Old Three Hundred, came from the southeastern U.S.
- Austin founded San Felipe as the capital of his colony
- He formed a local government and militia and served as a judge
8. Other Empresarios

- Green DeWitt was the next empresario after the Austins.
- DeWitt established the town of Gonzales and was the 2nd most successful empresario, bringing 400 families to settle next to Austin’s colony. Settlers would convert to Catholicism and obey Mexican laws.
• Martin De Leon was a wealthy Mexican empresario known for establishing a colony of primarily Mexican settlers in Texas.
10. State Colonization Law

• Permitted the Anglo-American colonization of Texas
• Created limits on immigration
• This law required that Texas settlers become Catholics and Mexican citizens of good character
• New settlers did not have to pay taxes for 10 years
11. Anglo Settlers in Texas

- Settlers moved to Texas mostly because they wanted to buy cheap land.
- Settlers established farms and ranches and built ports to trade with the U.S.
- Slavery was extended from the southern U.S.
12. Anglo Settlers in Texas

- Anglo colonists came to Texas for economic reasons, while the Spanish sought to spread Catholicism and to keep other nations from settling in the area.
13. Anglo and Tejano Settlers in Texas

• Mexican settlers helped create the empresario system. More settlements were established after Mexican independence from Spain.

• Tejano settlers received privileges, such as the first choice of available lands.
14. Mexico becomes a Republic

- A Republic is a representative form of government in which people elect their leaders.
- **Mexican Federal Constitution of 1824**: Mexico becomes a republic; Mexico was reorganized into 19 states and 5 territories; Coahuila y Tejas was created; slavery was NOT allowed.
15. Erasmo Seguin

- Seguin was a successful Tejano rancher who served as the Texas state representative to the congress that wrote the Constitution.
- He located land for the 1st Austin colony
- He later supported Texas’ quest for independence from Mexico
1. Sample Test Questions

The value of Texas and other frontier territories was in their ___________.

- Resources
- Gold
- Location

Many U.S. citizens wished to move to Texas because they _____________.

- Wanted to buy cheap land
- Wanted to become Roman Catholics
- Opposed slavery in the U.S.
1. Test Question Answers

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2. Sample Test Questions

Which successful Tejano rancher served as the Texas state representative to the Mexican Congress?
- Lorenzo de Zavala
- Erasmo Seguin
- Martin de Leon

What did the Mexican Federal Constitution of 1824 guarantee?
- Citizens’ voting rights
- A representative form of government
- Freedom of religion
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3. Sample Test Questions

What document permitted empresario contracts and settlers to enjoy ten years tax-free?

- Law of April 6, 1830
- Federal Constitution of Mexico
- State Colonization Law of 1825

Why were Texas and Coahuila merged into a single Mexican state?

- Neither had enough people to become a separate Mexican state
- Both provinces felt threatened by a potential U.S. invasion
- A large number of settlers in Coahuila owned land in Texas
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4. Test Questions

New settlers to Texas had to _____.
• Enter military service
• Become subjects of Mexican emperor
• Become Catholic

This was NOT part of the Mexican Federal Constitution of 1824.
• Mexico became a republic
• Slavery was allowed
• Coahuila y Tejas was developed
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