

# CHAPTER 6

## The Spanish Missions

(1680–1760)

The Granger Collection, New York



*La Salle canoed down the Mississippi River claiming the region for France three years before coming to Texas.*



*Mission Concepción was one of the early Spanish missions established near what is now San Antonio.*



1685 A group of colonists led by French explorer René-Robert Cavalier, Sieur de La Salle lands in Matagorda Bay in Texas.

1690 The Spanish build a mission named San Francisco de los Tejas.

1718 Martín de Alarcón establishes the San Antonio de Valero mission.

1680

1690

1700

1710

**U.S. and WORLD**



1688 The Glorious Revolution in England led to the removal of the Catholic ruler James II and the appointment of William and Mary to the English throne.

c. 1694 The French begin trading with American Indians along the Mississippi River for beaver pelts that are made into fur hats.

1700 More than 250,000 people live in the English colonies of North America.

1718 The French found New Orleans.



*William and Mary ruled England from 1689 until 1702.*

### Build on What You Know

Many Spaniards came to the Americas seeking gold and glory. Their search for gold brought several explorers trekking through Texas, where they reported on the land and its people. In the 1680s the Spanish began building churches and forts in Texas to extend their influence into the area.



Horse races were a popular pastime in early Spanish Texas settlements.



Some Spanish missions had brightly decorated altars.

1720

1730

1740

1750

1760

1731 Settlers from the Canary Islands arrive in San Antonio.

1755 Rancher Tomás Sánchez establishes the town of Laredo.

1732 Benjamin Franklin begins to publish *Poor Richard's Almanack*.

1759 Charles III takes the throne of Spain. He would later become known as one of the nation's best kings.



Charles III enacted a series of reforms during his reign.

If you were there . . .  
Would you have settled in Texas?

## You Be the Historian



**What's Your Opinion?** Do you **agree** or **disagree** with the following statements? Support your point of view in your journal.

- **Culture** When people move to a new region, they adapt to the culture that is already there.
- **Geography** A settlement's chances of success are not affected by its location.
- **Global Relations** Conflicts between countries always affect their overseas territories.



# Spanish Settlements on the Frontier

## Read to Discover

1. How did Spanish officials try to control the borderlands of New Spain?
2. Why did the Spanish establish missions along the western Rio Grande during the 1680s?

## Why It Matters Today

The crops that Spaniards and American Indians grew were important sources of food for the missions. Use [CNNfyi.com](http://CNNfyi.com) or other **current events** sources to learn more on farming today. Record your findings in your journal.

## Define

- missions
- presidios
- ranchos
- revolt

## Identify

- Pueblo Revolt
- Corpus Christi de la Isleta



Francis di Bernardone of Assisi founded a Catholic religious group known as the Franciscans.

## The Story Continues

Francis di Bernardone, a young Italian knight from Assisi, fought his first battle when he was 20. On his way to a second clash he became ill. As he lay sick in bed, he thought about the meaning of his life. When he recovered, he was a changed man. He gave up soldiering and devoted himself to a religious life. In 1209 he founded a religious group. Many of these Franciscans became missionaries. Some 400 years later, Franciscans came to Texas to convert American Indians to Catholicism.

## ★ The Mission System

At first, the Spanish were the only Europeans with settlements in North America. But by the early 1600s other nations had begun founding settlements. Royal officials wanted to protect New Spain's northern frontiers. Because few Spaniards lived in these borderlands, the Spanish sent missionaries there to establish **missions**, or religious communities. Spain used missions to convert American Indians to Catholicism and, eventually, to develop settlements in the borderlands. The mission system also represented the Spanish government in the borderlands.

The Spanish built missions near rivers to ensure a good water supply. Missions usually included churches, dormitories, workrooms, barns, fields, and gardens. The Spanish wanted local American Indians to live within the mission walls. Missionaries taught these Indians about Catholicism and an agricultural way of life. One priest noted, “This would also be the [best way] of achieving the civilization of many . . . peoples, who [might] accept . . . Christian instruction.” Many American Indians helped build and maintain the missions. But many other Indians did not want missions on their lands and opposed Spanish attempts to change their ways of life. To protect the missions from attack, the Spanish usually built **presidios**, or military bases. Soldiers in these forts were generally responsible for protecting several missions.

When civilians came to the borderlands, they usually built their settlements near missions and presidios. Some of these civil settlements became small towns. Farmers and merchants in these towns provided products and services for the missions and presidios. Other Spaniards lived on **ranchos**, or ranches. Some ranchos belonged to missions, while others were privately owned. Over time, some of these ranches grew into small settlements, increasing the Spanish presence in the borderlands.

**★ Reading Check Analyzing Information** Describe some of the defining characteristics of Spanish Texas.

## Life in a Spanish Mission

Spanish officials established missions in borderlands such as Texas to spread Catholicism and encourage settlement. Missionaries and American Indians built churches, grew crops, and created irrigation systems.

**1. Geography** In what ways did these early missions change the environment in some areas of Texas? **★ TEKS**

**2. Connecting to Today** How can you see the influence of Spanish missions in Texas today? **★ TEKS**



### Spanish Place-Names

The evidence of early Spanish exploration and settlement in Texas can be seen today. Many names of Texas cities and rivers, such as Amarillo and the Rio Grande, come from Spanish. For example, in May 1691 Spanish troops led by Texas governor Domingo Terán de los Ríos crossed the Rio Grande and headed to East Texas. Along the way, they named Texas rivers they crossed. **How did many cities, rivers, and places acquire Spanish names?** TEKS

## ★ New Missions along the Rio Grande

In the late 1600s the Spanish began building missions just south of the Rio Grande. They also built several missions among the Pueblo Indians in New Mexico. Life in the New Mexico missions was hard, and food was often scarce. The situation grew worse in the 1670s when a drought ruined many crops. At times, people even ate leather to survive. Tensions increased when missionaries tried to stop the Pueblo from following their traditional religious beliefs. In 1680 a Pueblo spiritual leader named Popé (poh-PAY) led a **revolt**, or revolution, against the Spanish. This **Pueblo Revolt** forced the Spanish settlers out of New Mexico.

Spain wanted to give these settlers a place to live and build a base from which to retake New Mexico. To accomplish these goals, Spanish officials extended the mission system along the Rio Grande. In 1682 the Spanish founded the first mission in Texas, **Corpus Christi de la Isleta** was along the western Rio Grande, just east of present-day El Paso. Over time, a town grew up on the site. The Tigua Indians called the settlement Ysleta (ees-LE-tah), which is probably the oldest European town in Texas. The settlement of El Paso was later founded near Ysleta.

Other missions were built in the area. Spaniards and Piro Indians fleeing the Pueblo Revolt founded a mission southeast of Ysleta, and another mission was built across the Rio Grande from Ysleta. Missionaries there hoped to convert the Apache, Jumano, Manso, Piro, Suma, and Tano Indians. In the midst of this activity, the Spanish received some shocking news. The French had entered the Gulf of Mexico—Spanish waters. The Spanish quickly focused their attentions on protecting their territory along the Gulf Coast.

**Reading Check Finding the Main Idea** Why did the Spanish build missions along the Rio Grande in West Texas?



## Section 1 Review



Questions 2, 3, 4a, 4b, 5



keyword: ST3 HP6

### 1 Define and explain:

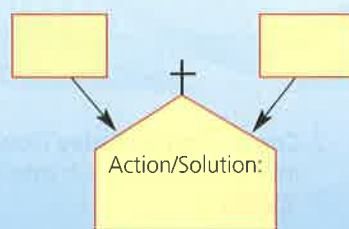
- missions
- presidios
- ranchos
- revolt

### 2 Identify and explain:

- Pueblo Revolt
- Corpus Christi de la Isleta

### 3 Identifying Cause and Effect

Copy the graphic organizer below. Use it to describe Spain's goals for the borderlands and how Spain tried to accomplish those goals.



### 4 Finding the Main Idea

- What types of Spanish settlements were in the borderlands? What was the purpose of each?
- Why did the Spanish choose to build the first Texas missions along the Rio Grande?

### 5 Writing and Critical Thinking

**Supporting a Point of View** Write a letter to an official in Mexico City requesting a presidio in the borderlands. Include reasons for your request.

Consider the following:

- the mission system
- the Pueblo Revolt



# The French Challenge

## Read to Discover

1. Why did the French try to build a settlement near the Mississippi River, and what was the outcome?
2. What effect did the La Salle expedition have on Spanish policy in Texas?
3. What happened to the Spanish mission in East Texas?

## Why It Matters Today

In the 1600s people from France, Spain, and other European nations settled in the Americas. Use [CNNfyi.com](http://CNNfyi.com) or other **current events** sources to learn more about immigration today. Record your findings in your journal.

## Identify

- René-Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle
- La Salle expedition
- Matagorda Bay
- Fort St. Louis
- Alonso de León
- Damián Massanet
- Tejas
- San Francisco de los Tejas

## The Story Continues

Diego de Peñalosa was bitter. The former Spanish governor of New Mexico had been found guilty of several crimes. He was exiled from all of New Spain in the 1660s. He went to England and then to France, seeking to undermine Spain's power in the Americas. To the French king Peñalosa proposed that France build a colony on the Rio Grande and slowly move into Texas. The king liked the idea. Peñalosa's hopes of leading the expedition soon died, however. The king picked another river and another explorer for the French colony.



The French king at the time was Louis XIV, also known as the Sun King.

## ★ La Salle's Expedition

Spain was no longer the only European power in North America in the 1600s. England was beginning to establish its thirteen colonies along the East Coast. France also posed a threat to Spain's control of the borderlands. To the north France had claimed Canada. French fur trappers were exploring the Great Lakes as well as the Ohio, Missouri, and Mississippi Rivers. In 1682 French explorer **René-Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle** expanded France's empire. He canoed down the Mississippi River to its mouth at the Gulf of Mexico. There he planted the French flag and claimed all of the land drained by the Mississippi for France.



**CONNECTING TO  
SCIENCE AND  
TECHNOLOGY**

**La Belle**

In 1686 La Salle's ship *La Belle* wrecked in Matagorda Bay. Divers discovered *La Belle* in 1995. Archaeologists wanted to examine the ship, so engineers designed an enormous steel structure to hold back the water. Scholars spent months examining *La Belle*. The ship and its artifacts were then taken to a laboratory at Texas A&M University for further study. The artifacts—such as bells, cannons, glass beads, and pottery—taught scholars much about the lives of the colonists. **How did scholars benefit from raising *La Belle*?**

This land extended from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico. La Salle named the region Louisiana for his king, Louis XIV.

After exploring the area, La Salle returned to France. He asked the king for permission to establish a settlement near the giant river's mouth. La Salle pointed out that the settlement would strengthen France's claim to Louisiana. The colony would serve as a military base and discourage other European colonists from moving into the area. The French would also gain a port for the valuable fur trade and perhaps even trade with the Spanish colonies. King Louis agreed to La Salle's proposal. Because a colony so close to Texas would anger the Spanish, the French kept their plan a closely guarded secret. They hoped to sneak up the Mississippi River and establish the colony before the Spanish found out.

The **La Salle expedition** left France in the summer of 1684. It had four ships and about 300 soldiers and settlers. The expedition ran into trouble when Spanish pirates captured one ship. Then some of the sailors deserted. They later told the Spanish of La Salle's plans. Despite these problems, La Salle sailed on. He became lost, however, and the ships missed the mouth of the Mississippi. The group finally came ashore in February 1685 at **Matagorda Bay** on the Texas coast. While entering the bay, one ship ran aground with valuable supplies aboard. Then another ship returned to France. The colonists were left with very little food and few other supplies. They were ill prepared for life in the wilderness.

**★ Reading Check Finding the Main Idea** What was the purpose of the La Salle expedition?

## ★ Fort St. Louis

La Salle and the others quickly realized they could not live on the coast's marshy lowlands. They moved inland several miles and built a settlement called **Fort St. Louis** near Garcitas Creek. The settlement consisted of several simple houses and a five-room fort made out of timbers from the wrecked ship. One of the rooms in the fort served as a chapel. For protection, the settlers put eight cannons on the fort's walls.

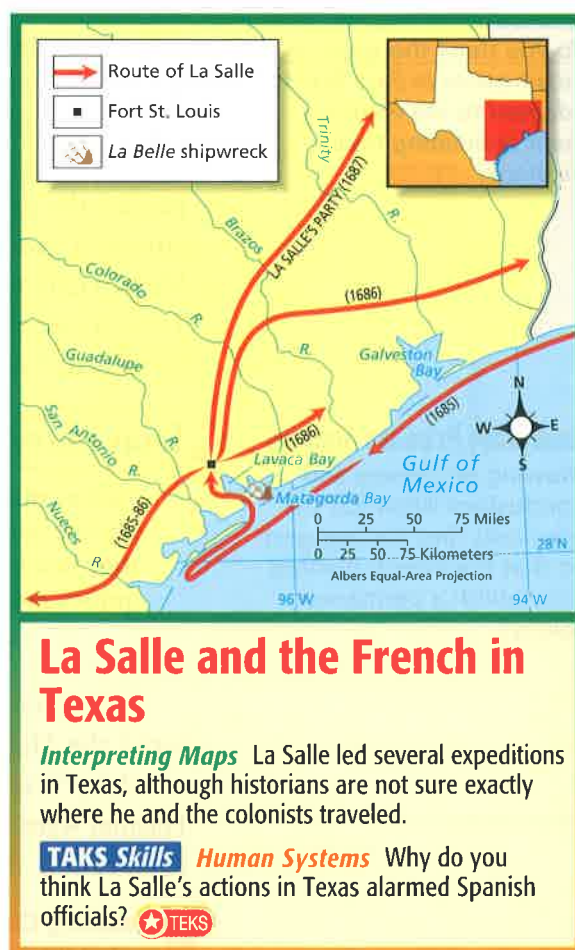
As the settlement was being built, La Salle led a small group west toward the Rio Grande. They may have been searching for Spanish mines or food supplies. La Salle was away from the fort from October 1685 to March 1686. He probably reached the Rio Grande before he realized that Fort St. Louis was west of the Mississippi.

Meanwhile, life was not going well at the settlement. Hunger and disease killed many settlers. In addition, the colonists had to defend themselves against attack by the Karankawa Indians. By the end of July 1685, more than half the settlers were dead. The situation became worse as the colony's leaders quarreled. La Salle returned in March 1686 to a colony in crisis. The colonists' condition grew more desperate when the last remaining ship, *La Belle*, wrecked during a storm and stranded the settlers.

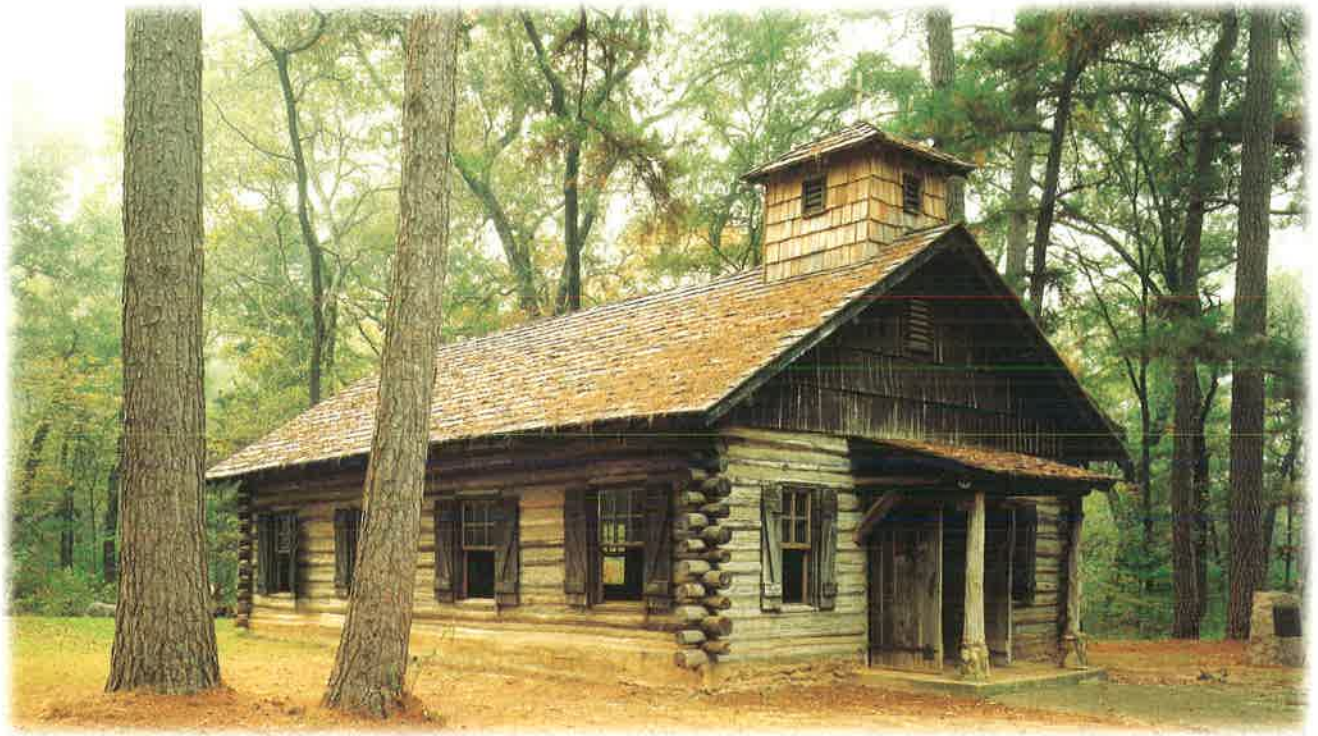
La Salle decided to go to Canada for help. However, the eastward journey through the wilderness to the Mississippi was difficult, and the expedition ended in failure. In early 1687 La Salle and 17 men went east again, looking for the Mississippi. While they marched through East Texas, tensions mounted. The men argued about how poorly things had turned out. Violence resulted, and La Salle was murdered by one of his own soldiers. Six members of La Salle's party eventually made their way back to Canada.

Back at the settlement, fewer than 30 people were left. Many were women and children. Karankawa Indians attacked and overran the fort in late 1688 or 1689. They killed all of the adult settlers and destroyed the fort. Five children were taken captive by the Karankawa. The children were kept by the Karankawa until they were rescued by later expeditions. The La Salle expedition had ended in disaster. Despite its failure, the expedition gave France a claim to Texas. It also challenged Spain's empire north of the Rio Grande.


★ **Reading Check Analyzing Information** Why did Fort St. Louis fail?







### Interpreting the Visual Record

**Missions.** The first mission in East Texas, *San Francisco de los Tejas*, was a simple building similar to this reconstructed mission. **How do you think the Spanish missionaries in East Texas adapted to the environment in building their missions?** 



### Analyzing Primary Sources

**Drawing Inferences and Conclusions** What did the Spaniards find that suggested that the French wanted to establish a permanent colony?

### Texas Voices

“We found three dead bodies strewn [scattered] in the field, one of which seemed to be a woman by the clothes that still clung to the bones. . . . We looked for more dead bodies, and could not find them, which caused us to conclude that they had been cast [thrown] into the arroyo [creek] and that the alligators, many in number, had eaten them.”

—Alonso de León, quoted in *Documents of Texas History*

In addition to finding the French settlement, the Spanish encountered the Hasinai. The Spaniards called the Hasinai by the Indians’ word for “friend”—**Tejas** (TAY-hahs). Father Massanet believed that the Hasinai were interested in the establishment of a mission. After further exploration, the Spanish reported what they had learned to the viceroy.



**Reading Check Summarizing** What did the Spanish accomplish in the search for the French settlement?



## The Spanish Search for La Salle

Soon after the founding of Fort St. Louis, the Spanish tried to remove the French from Texas. Officials sent six expeditions by land and five by sea. Attempts at locating the settlement in 1686 and 1687 failed, but the Spanish learned much about the geography of East Texas.

**Alonso de León**, a Spanish governor, led another expedition in 1689. A Spanish priest, Father **Damián Massanet** (mas-ah-NAY), accompanied the group. The expedition found two French survivors living among a group of American Indians. De León took the men back to Mexico City to be questioned. Spanish officials ordered de León back to Texas to search for the fort. When de León finally found the settlement, he recorded what the Spanish saw.

## ★ Spanish Missions in East Texas

Alonso de León and Father Massanet had been impressed by the land and the Tejas. When they returned to Mexico City, they advised the viceroy to set up missions in the region. Spanish officials soon approved the plan. They feared that the French might gain control of Texas if there were no Spanish settlements there.

In early 1690 de León and Father Massanet returned to Texas with several missionaries and more than 100 soldiers. Arriving in the land of the Tejas, the Spanish claimed the region for their king. They then picked a site west of the Neches River. The Spanish set to work building the mission. After only a few days, they had finished building **San Francisco de los Tejas**. The Tejas promised to think about moving into the mission. De León and Father Massanet soon returned to Mexico, leaving three missionaries and three soldiers at the mission. The Tejas and the missionaries were hopeful about the mission's future.

In 1691 Father Massanet and Domingo Terán de los Ríos, the first governor of Texas, arrived in East Texas. Disputes between the two men created tension in the mission. In addition, droughts and floods ruined the mission's crops. Supplies were difficult to get, and the Spanish had to live on corn cakes. The Tejas at the mission ate cow skins to survive.

The Spanish became even more discouraged after discovering that the Tejas did not want religious instruction. An outbreak of disease worsened tensions between the Spaniards and the Tejas, who blamed the Spanish for the deadly disease. The Spaniards realized that they had to leave. On the night of October 25, 1693, the Spanish burned the mission to the ground. They buried the mission bells and fled to Mexico. The first Spanish attempt at settling East Texas ended in failure.

**★ Reading Check** Finding the Main Idea Why did the Spaniards leave East Texas?



### Section 2 Review



Questions 1, 2, 3a, 3b, 4

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Homework  
Practice  
Online

keyword: ST3 HP6

#### 1 Identify and explain:

- René-Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle
- La Salle expedition
- Matagorda Bay
- Fort St. Louis
- Alonso de León
- Damián Massanet
- Tejas
- San Francisco de los Tejas

#### 2 Analyzing Information

Copy the graphic organizer below. Use it to show why the Spanish decided to build a mission in East Texas.

Reasons for a mission

- 1.
- 2.

#### 3 Finding the Main Idea

- a. Why did La Salle establish Fort St. Louis, and what happened to it?
- b. What steps did Spanish officials take to stop French settlement in Texas?

#### 4 Writing and Critical Thinking



**Identifying Cause and Effect** Write a short article about the founding and failure of the East Texas mission.

Consider the following:

- why it was established
- the challenges it faced

### That's Interesting!

#### Mud Volcanoes

Many Spaniards traveled along the San Marcos River to reach the East Texas missions. Some travelers saw an odd sight along the way—mud volcanoes. One priest noted, "These move when we ride near them on horseback and even discharge some water." These "volcanoes" were actually marshy patches that "erupted" under pressure. They are known as quaking bogs. Today visitors to Palmetto State Park can still see mud volcanoes.

## Section

# 3

# The Spanish Return to Texas

### Read to Discover

1. Why did the French send an agent to Texas, and what happened when he arrived?
2. What was the Spanish goal in East Texas?
3. Why did the Spanish settle in the San Antonio River area, and what was the result?

### Why It Matters Today

The Spanish tried to protect their hold on Texas by barring foreign trade in the region. Use [CNNfyi.com](http://CNNfyi.com) or other **current events** sources to learn more about free trade issues or a trade dispute between nations today. Record your findings in your journal.

### Identify

- Francisco Hidalgo
- Louis Juchereau de St. Denis
- Domingo Ramón
- Nuestro Padre San Francisco de los Tejas
- Martín de Alarcón
- Antonio de San Buenaventura y Olivares
- San Antonio de Valero
- San Antonio de Béxar
- Villa de Béxar
- San Fernando de Béxar
- El Camino Real



Many Texas missions had simple altars.

## The Story Continues

Father Francisco Hidalgo was a patient but persistent man. Since becoming a Franciscan at the age of 15, he had longed to become a missionary, travel, and spread the Catholic faith. After arriving in New Spain, the young priest heard many stories about Texas. He became determined to go there to teach Texas Indians about Catholicism. Delay after delay prevented Father Hidalgo from reaching them. But he knew that his chance would come.



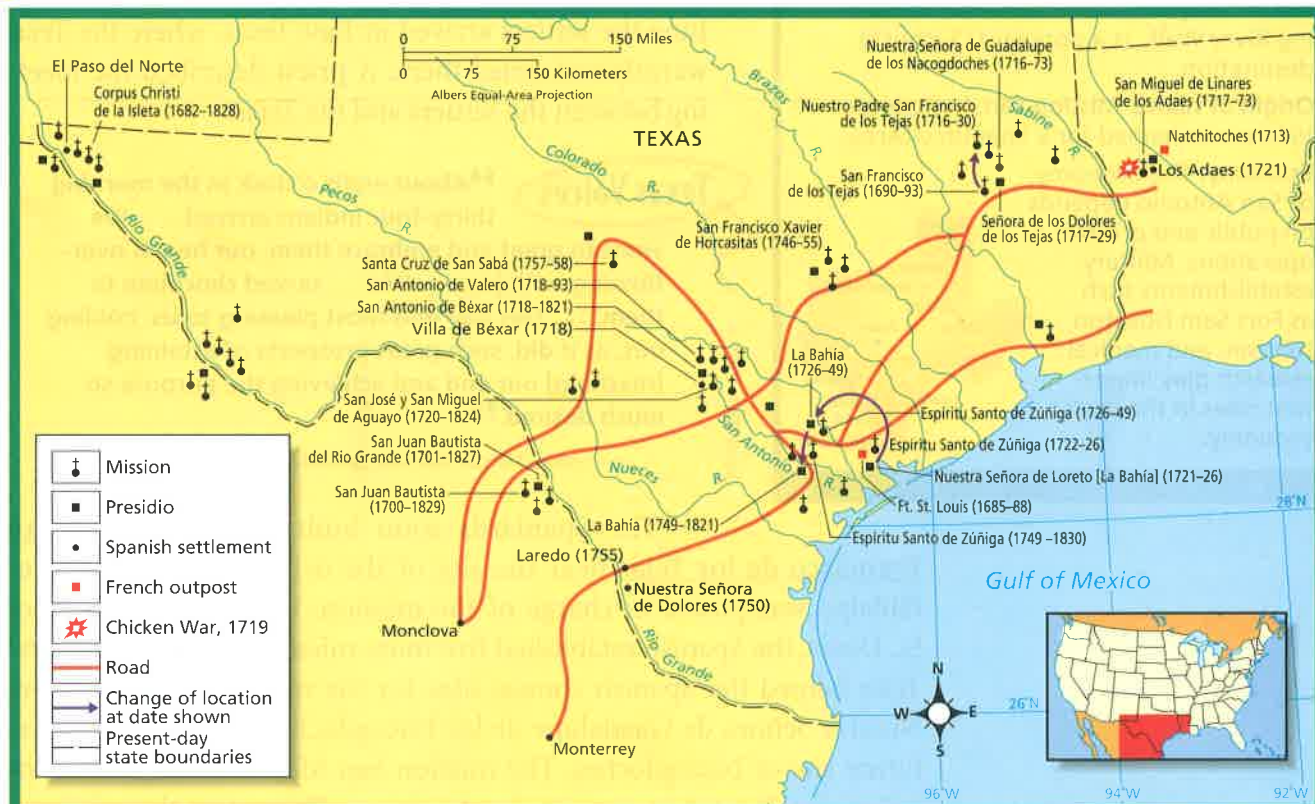
### A New French Threat

After the settlement failures in East Texas, the Spanish ignored most of Texas for more than 20 years. Father **Francisco Hidalgo** (ee-DAHL-goh) tried to change that policy. He had served at San Francisco de los Tejas. After that mission was abandoned, Father Hidalgo helped found the San Juan Bautista mission along the Rio Grande, but Father Hidalgo was not content there. He wanted to return to East Texas and work with local American Indians. He repeatedly asked Spanish officials to re-establish the East Texas mission, but they refused. Unwilling to give up, Father Hidalgo eventually looked elsewhere for help. He wrote a

letter asking the French governor of Louisiana to help build missions in East Texas. Sending such a letter was a daring move because France and Spain were longtime enemies.

At their trading posts in the Mississippi River valley, the French traded with American Indians for furs. Spain prohibited the French from trading in New Spain. Nonetheless, Governor Cadillac of Louisiana saw Father Hidalgo's letter as a way to begin trading in Texas. In 1713 Cadillac sent **Louis Juchereau de St. Denis** (sand uh nee), an experienced explorer, to East Texas to find Father Hidalgo. In 1713 he built a trading post near the Red River that grew into the town of Natchitoches, Louisiana. St. Denis traveled west through East Texas, but he could not find Father Hidalgo in the region. After trading with some Tejas, he headed to the Spanish missions along the Rio Grande. He arrived at the San Juan Bautista presidio with a load of goods to trade. Faced with a French trader at his doorstep, the Spanish commander of the presidio arrested St. Denis. Commander Diego Ramón treated St. Denis well. The trader enjoyed his stay at the mission, even convincing Ramón's stepgranddaughter to marry him. Eventually, Ramón had to send St. Denis to Mexico City for questioning.

**★ Reading Check Finding the Main Idea** What action did the French take to begin trading in Texas?



## Texas under Spanish Rule, c. 1750

**Interpreting Maps** During the 1600s and 1700s Spain established almost 40 missions in Texas.

**TAKS Skills** *Places and Regions* In what areas of present-day Texas were most of the Spanish missions located? **★ TEKS**

# Texas Cities



**History:** Martín de Alarcón, a Spanish official, founded a mission and presidio on the site of the city in 1718. The mission later became known as the Alamo. It became the site of an important battle in the Texas Revolution.

**Population in 2000:** 1,144,646

**Relative Location:** South-central Texas on the San Antonio River

**Region:** South Texas Plains

**County:** County seat of Bexar County

**Special feature:** San Antonio, with its historical Spanish architecture and winding River Walk, is a popular U.S. tourist destination.

**Origin of name:** Mission San Antonio de Valero was named for a Spanish viceroy.

**Economy:** The economy of San Antonio depends on public and private operations. Military establishments such as Fort Sam Houston, tourism, and medical research play important roles in the city's economy.



## ★ New East Texas Missions

St. Denis told Spanish officials that he had traveled to Texas to look for Father Hidalgo. The priest was not in East Texas, so St. Denis headed to the Rio Grande to continue his search. It is doubtful that the Spanish officials believed St. Denis. The presence of a French trader in Texas alarmed the officials, who feared that the French were once again a threat to Texas. In addition, the Spanish had heard that the Tejas wanted them to return to East Texas. The Spanish decided it was time to build new missions in East Texas. Father Hidalgo had achieved his goal.

In 1716 Diego Ramón's son, **Domingo Ramón**, led an expedition to East Texas. Even though St. Denis was not a Spaniard, he was hired as the guide. The expedition included Spanish priests, soldiers, civilians, and three French citizens. Some of the soldiers also brought their wives. These women were probably the first female Spanish settlers in Texas. The Spanish brought gifts for the Tejas, hand tools, and seed for crops. In late June the settlers arrived in East Texas, where the Tejas warmly welcomed them. A priest described the meeting between the settlers and the Tejas.

### Texas Voices

“About eight o'clock in the morning thirty-four Indians arrived. . . . We went to greet and embrace them, our hearts overflowing with joy. . . . We . . . served chocolate to them. . . . This day was most pleasing to us, holding out, as it did, such great prospects of attaining [reaching] our end and achieving the purpose so much desired.”

— Isidro Félix de Espinosa, quoted in *Documents of Texas History*

The Spaniards soon built **Nuestro Padre San Francisco de los Tejas** near the site of the original mission. Father Hidalgo was placed in charge of the mission. With the assistance of St. Denis, the Spanish established five more missions in East Texas. The Tejas helped the Spanish choose sites for the missions. One mission, Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe de los Nacogdoches, was located on the future site of Nacogdoches. The mission San Miguel de Linares de los Adaes was located in present-day Louisiana. To protect the missions, Captain Ramón built the Nuestra Señora de los Dolores de los Tejas presidio.



**Reading Check Analyzing Information** How did the Spanish re-establish their control over East Texas?

## The San Antonio Settlements

The Spanish were determined to firmly establish the mission system in East Texas. Officials knew that the first mission failed partly because of its distant location. It was more than 500 miles from the nearest Spanish settlements. Getting supplies to the mission had been difficult. The journey was long and dangerous, with the threat of raids by Texas Indians. As a result, the Spanish in East Texas sometimes even turned to nearby French settlements for supplies. Because of these problems and the experiences of earlier East Texas missions, the Spanish decided to set up an outpost between the East Texas missions and the Rio Grande.

In 1716, officials approved a plan to build a mission-presidio outpost along the San Antonio River. In 1718 **Martín de Alarcón**, the governor of Texas, led a group of colonists to the area. A priest, **Antonio de San Buenaventura y Olivares**, traveled with a separate group. By the beginning of May, both parties had reached the San Antonio River. Near the river, they built **San Antonio de Valero**. This mission was a simple structure made of branches, mud, and straw. The group then moved about a mile away and built a presidio named **San Antonio de Béxar**. The Spanish also established a small civil settlement called **Villa de Béxar**.

The San Antonio River area was a good location for a settlement. Winters were usually mild. Summers were hot but not very humid—unlike those in East Texas. Cottonwood trees dotted the landscape. One Spaniard called it “the most beautiful part of New Spain.” The Spaniards built several more missions along the San Antonio River. In 1720 Spanish missionary Antonio Margil de Jesús established San José y San Miguel de Aguayo. It was the finest mission in Texas. A two-story stone building served as the priests’ residence. As the years passed, the mission built a sugar mill, where workers made delicious brown sugar cones. Many Indian groups, including the Coahuiltecan, lived and worked at




Missionaries used noise-makers to call mission residents to church services.

1718

Martín de Alarcón establishes a mission and a presidio at the site of present-day San Antonio.

### Interpreting the Visual Record

**San Antonio.** The town grew as new settlers came to San Antonio, attracted by its good farmland and pleasant climate. **Based on this piece of art, what geographic factors do you think affected the growth of San Antonio?** 



## Biography



### Martín de Alarcón

(dates unknown)

Martín de Alarcón arrived in the Americas sometime before 1691. He later became the governor of Spanish Texas. After founding San Antonio, Alarcón set out on a dangerous trip to supply the missions in East Texas. He distributed supplies and talked with the French. Shortly after his journey to East Texas, Alarcón returned to Mexico. **How did Alarcón contribute to Spanish settlement in Texas?** ★ TEKS

the San Antonio missions. These missions soon became ranching centers, with many cattle roaming the area's pastures. They came to be the most successful missions in Texas.

Spanish officials developed a plan to bring immigrants to the San Antonio area. In 1731, 15 families of Canary Islanders arrived at the presidio. These 56 people eventually lived near the presidio in **San Fernando de Béxar**. This settlement had the first organized civil government in Texas. Together with the other missions and presidio, the area made up San Antonio de Béxar. It was commonly called Béxar or San Antonio.

San Antonio became the halfway point on the Texas part of **El Camino Real** (kah-MEE-noh ree-AHL), or "the Royal Road." This road led from the East Texas missions to the southern Rio Grande settlements. It then continued south to Mexico City. Some segments of the road began as trails linking American Indian settlements. Later, the Spanish traveled over El Camino Real to establish and then supply East Texas missions.

El Camino Real was a rough road. Governor Alarcón had traveled along the dangerous road to deliver supplies to the missions of East Texas in the early 1700s. Although the road was rough, the rivers he had to cross caused him even more problems. Alarcón almost drowned crossing one swollen stream. Despite its condition, the road was important because it linked the Texas settlements. It helped the growth of Spanish settlement in Texas, particularly in San Antonio.

★ **Reading Check Summarizing** What advantages did the San Antonio settlements have, and why was El Camino Real important to Spanish settlers?



## Section 3 Review



Questions 1, 2, 3a, 3b, 4

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Practice  
Online

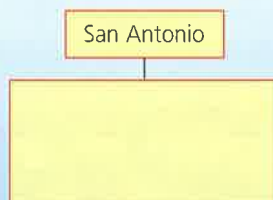
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### 1 Identify and explain:

- Francisco Hidalgo
- Louis Juchereau de St. Denis
- Domingo Ramón
- Nuestro Padre San Francisco de los Tejas
- Martín de Alarcón
- Antonio de San Buenaventura y Olivares
- San Antonio de Valero
- San Antonio de Béxar
- Villa de Béxar
- San Fernando de Béxar
- El Camino Real

### 2 Categorizing

Copy the graphic organizer below. Use it to identify the steps the Spanish took to settle San Antonio.



### 3 Finding the Main Idea

- a. Why did St. Denis go to Texas, and how did the Spanish respond?
- b. What did the Spanish hope to achieve in East Texas?

### 4 Writing and Critical Thinking



**Identifying Cause and Effect** Write a short story about why and how the Spanish founded the first mission and presidio in San Antonio in 1718.

Consider the following:

- the location of San Antonio and other Spanish settlements
- the events surrounding the founding of the first mission and presidio in San Antonio

## Section

# 4

# War and Expansion

### Read to Discover

1. How did the war between France and Spain affect Texas?
2. How did the Apache and the Comanche respond to the mission system?

### Why It Matters Today

In the 1600s several European nations had many colonies in the Americas. Use [CNNfyi.com](http://CNNfyi.com) or other **current events** sources to learn more about these nations and their territories today. Record your findings in your journal.

### Identify

- Chicken War
- Marqués de San Miguel de Aguayo
- Aguayo expedition
- La Bahía

## The Story Continues

In 1699 a French captain sailed into Pensacola Bay on the coast of western Florida. He was looking for the mouth of the Mississippi River, where he hoped to establish a French colony. But the Spanish had already reached the bay. When the Frenchman asked for permission to explore the area, the Spanish captain refused. The Frenchman protested, but the Spaniard remained firm. Finally, the French expedition left the bay and set up a settlement at what is now Biloxi, Mississippi.



French sailors explored the Gulf Coast in large sailing ships.

## The Aguayo Expedition

Tensions between France and Spain had been high, and the two countries went to war in 1719. The war soon affected Texas. In June 1719 a French lieutenant and seven soldiers from Natchitoches attacked the nearest Spanish mission, San Miguel de Linares de los Adaes. The two Spaniards there quickly surrendered. The French soldiers gathered up supplies and raided the henhouse. Pleased with the capture of the chickens, the lieutenant tied several to his saddle. That was a mistake. The chickens squawked wildly, the horse reared, and the lieutenant was tossed to the ground. One Spaniard, seeing his chance to escape, ran into the woods. He made his way to a nearby mission. He claimed that French soldiers were marching on East Texas. The news of this **Chicken War** spread quickly. The frightened Spaniards left their missions and the



## Biography



### Antonio Margil de Jesús

(1657–1726)

Antonio Margil de Jesús dedicated his life to missionary work in New Spain. After serving in Mexico and Central America, he went to Texas. There he founded two missions in East Texas in 1717. The Spanish abandoned these missions during the Chicken War. Margil's work continued when he and the fleeing settlers arrived in San Antonio in late 1719. Margil kept the settlers busy. They had soon completed mission San José y San Miguel de Aguayo. In 1722 Margil returned to Mexico. He spent the rest of his life working for the Catholic Church. **Where in Texas did Margil establish missions?** 



### Analyzing Primary Sources

#### Identifying Points of View

How did the appearance of the American Indians affect the priest?

presidio and fled to San Antonio. The French did not attack any more missions, but the Spanish had already abandoned East Texas.

The Spanish did not abandon East Texas for long. The viceroy ordered the **Marqués de San Miguel de Aguayo**, the governor of Coahuila, to reoccupy the missions. The **Aguayo expedition** set out in 1720 with a large force of some 500 soldiers and 4,000 horses. It also included cattle, goats, and sheep. The expedition arrived in East Texas in 1721. The war between France and Spain had already ended, and the Spaniards quickly reoccupied the missions. Aguayo met with Louis Juchereau de St. Denis, the French commander in the area. The two agreed to separate control of French Louisiana and Spanish Texas. To keep the French out of East Texas, Aguayo built the presidio Nuestra Señora del Pilar de los Adaes. He staffed it with 100 soldiers. The Spanish settlements at the presidio and the mission San Miguel de Linares de los Adaes became known as Los Adaes. Eight years after the founding of the presidio, Los Adaes became the official capital of Spanish Texas.

From Los Adaes, Aguayo moved southwest. He established the mission Nuestra Señora del Espíritu Santo de Zúñiga near Matagorda Bay. A presidio was built nearby. Together these establishments came to be known as **La Bahía**. The mission was built to convert the Karankawa Indians of the area. It was moved farther inland several times in later years. Its final location is near present-day Goliad. After the Aguayo expedition, the Spanish once again had a presence in East Texas.



**Reading Check Identifying Cause and Effect** Why did the Spanish send Aguayo into East Texas, and what was the result?



## Clashes on the Frontier

The Spanish soon faced another conflict when American Indians attacked Spanish settlements during the 1730s and 1740s. The Spanish particularly feared the Apache, an Indian group that had moved into South Texas during the early 1700s. Armed with guns and riding horses, the Apache were a deadly enemy. One missionary described an attack.

### Texas Voices

“I saw nothing but Indians on every hand . . . arrayed [dressed] in the most horrible attire [clothing]. Besides the paint on their faces, red and black, they were adorned [decorated] with the pelts [skins] and tails of wild beasts, wrapped around them or hanging down from their heads, as well as deer horns.”

—Miguel de Molina, quoted in *Spanish Texas, 1519–1821*, by Donald E. Chipman

Central Texas missions and San Antonio were hard hit by raids. The attacks increased as the Spanish moved into Apache territory and the Comanche pushed the Apache south toward San Antonio.

Missionaries hoped to convert the Apache and other Central Texas Indians to Catholicism. The Spanish thought this might create more


peaceful relations. In 1746 the Franciscans began setting up three missions along the San Gabriel River. A presidio guarded these San Xavier missions. However, the missionaries and the presidio commander did not get along. The tension rapidly grew worse when a smallpox epidemic killed many of the mission Indians and a friar was murdered, probably by some presidio soldiers. With water in short supply and conflict brewing, the Spaniards moved the missions and presidio to another site in 1755.

Many supplies and soldiers from the failed San Xavier settlements ended up at Santa Cruz de San Sabá. This mission was established in 1757, and a presidio was built several miles away. The Spanish had little success converting the Apache, however. One March morning in 1758 a crisis occurred. About 2,000 American Indian enemies of the Apache, including some Comanche, appeared outside the mission gates. They attacked and burned the mission, killing two of the three missionaries. The presidio had fewer than 50 soldiers during the attack. They watched helplessly as survivors of the attack staggered into the presidio. The mission was never rebuilt.

The attack on San Sabá marked the beginning of warfare between the Comanche and the Spanish. The Comanche and the Apache fiercely resisted the Spanish threat to their land and culture. As a result, the Spanish were never able to maintain missions in the land of the Apache or Comanche. After a century of settlement activity in Texas, only a few locations were doing well. These included the San Antonio missions and settlements along the Rio Grande. Despite great effort and expense, Spain controlled only a few areas in Texas.



### Interpreting the Visual Record

**Presidios.** The presidio near Goliad once protected the mission Nuestra Señora del Espíritu Santo de Zúñiga. The presidio moved each time the mission was relocated. **What features might have helped this presidio protect both its soldiers and the Spanish mission?** 

 **Reading Check Analyzing Information** What problems did the Central Texas missions face?



## Section 4 Review



Questions 1, 2, 3a, 3b, 4



Homework Practice Online

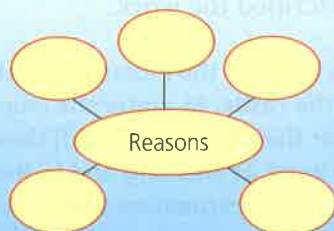
keyword: ST3 HP6

### 1 Identify and explain:

- Chicken War
- Marqués de San Miguel de Aguayo
- Aguayo expedition
- La Bahía

### 2 Summarizing

Copy the graphic organizer below. Use it to identify reasons that Spanish settlements had limited success in Texas.



### 3 Finding the Main Idea

- How did the conflict between France and Spain affect Texas, and what role did the Aguayo expedition play?
- How successful were the missions in converting the Apache and Comanche?

### 4 Writing and Critical Thinking

**Analyzing Information** Write two paragraphs identifying and describing some of the Texas missions and settlements founded after 1740. Consider the following:

- the missions along the San Gabriel River
- the settlements on the southern Rio Grande



# Life in Spanish Texas

## Read to Discover

1. What was life like in the Spanish missions and presidios?
2. What was life like for the residents of Spanish settlements?
3. How has Spanish culture influenced present-day Texas?

## Define

- *ayuntamiento*
- *alcalde*
- *vaqueros*

## Why It Matters Today

Many states in the American Southwest still show signs of a strong Spanish influence. Use [CNNfyi.com](http://CNNfyi.com) or other **current events** sources to identify one way this influence is felt today. Record your findings in your journal.



Missionaries rang bells to call residents to morning chapel services.

## The Story Continues

The mission bells rang as daylight began to brighten the dark Texas sky. Rising from buffalo-skin mattresses, American Indians walked to the chapel. The priests counted the churchgoers as they entered. Then the congregation chanted and prayed. Later, the Spaniards and the Indians rose to sing a song called *El Alabado*. It told the churchgoers to “Lift your heart and exalt [praise] Him [God].” It was the start of another day at a Spanish mission in Texas.



## Life in the Missions

The Spanish wanted Texas Indians to live in the missions and learn the Spanish way of life. In the missions, life followed a daily pattern of worship and work. The day started at dawn with religious services. For at least an hour, priests taught mission Indians about the Catholic faith. Then the Indians’ workday began under the direction of the priests and soldiers. One priest described the work.

### Texas Voices

“The labor of the Indians is to plant the fields, look after the cattle, to water the crops, to clear away weeds, and to gather their grain, to [build] their dwellings and other buildings. . . . Some work at weaving and in the forges [ironmaking areas], and others work as carpenters and bricklayers.”

—Isidro Félix de Espinosa, quoted in *Spanish Expeditions into Texas, 1689–1768*, by Nancy Haston Foster

American Indian men tended crops of beans, corn, and cotton. The women made pottery, cared for the livestock, wove cloth, and ran the mission kitchen. The day ended with prayers and dinner—usually thin cereal. When they were not in church or working, mission Indians also learned Spanish songs and dances. The Spanish hoped these lessons would encourage Indians to abandon their traditional celebrations. This strategy rarely worked, as one missionary complained. “When the ministers are not watching them they [the Indians] go off to the woods, and there hold their dances.” Some Indians also left the missions during hunting or fishing seasons. Most Texas Indians attempted to keep their own culture and traditions despite pressure from the missionaries.

Mission life was often harsh. Typically, the dwellings were uncomfortable, with dirt floors and open windows. People living at the mission sometimes went hungry. In the East Texas missions food was often scarce. One missionary wrote about the lack of food. “The meals consisted of nothing more than a little purslane [a wild herb] seasoned with salt and pepper.” He noted that Indians sometimes helped in needy times. “Once in a while the Indians would give us a little corn, beans of a certain kind, and some wild fruits.”

Conditions were better at other missions, particularly in San Antonio. By 1750, one mission had 2,000 cattle and 1,000 sheep. Mission Indians there harvested 2,400 bushels of corn that year. By 1780, Indians were irrigating the mission’s crops. Missions near present-day El Paso and San Antonio thrived because Indians there adopted Spanish cultures. Other missions, such as those in East Texas and La Bahía, helped the Spanish gain a presence in the borderlands.

**★ Reading Check Evaluating** How did some Texas Indians adapt to Spanish culture while maintaining their Indian traditions?



## CONNECTING TO THE ARTS

### Mission Architecture

Many of the early mission chapels in Texas were simple, rough structures made of wood. As the Spanish continued to settle in Texas, they began using stone to build mission villages. The buildings had baroque, or fancy, details. Carvings and sculptures decorated arched windows and doorways. Soaring bell towers stood high against the Texas sky. Mission San José in San Antonio is often called the Queen of Texas Missions. It includes a domed chapel and bright wall paintings. It also has a sculpted window known as Rosa’s Window.

**Why might Spanish missionaries have wanted to create beautiful and fancy chapels?** **★ TEKS**

## ★ Life in the Presidios

Missions were more likely to succeed if they had a presidio nearby. These military outposts were built of adobe, stone, and timber. Presidios had a chapel, barracks for soldiers, storage rooms, and a headquarters building. Sometimes a stockade, or wall, surrounded these buildings.

The soldiers in the presidios had several duties. They guarded the missions and helped supervise the American Indians who lived there. At times, the soldiers disagreed with the missionaries about how to treat the mission Indians. The missionaries and soldiers also argued about who had the higher authority in the borderlands. This tension added to the hardship of living in the small, isolated presidios.



### Interpreting the Visual Record

**Dances.** To take a break from the rough work of ranching and maintaining early settlements in Texas, Spaniards went to dances. Based on the clothing the men are wearing, what type of work do you think they did?

Although their work was risky, the soldiers received low wages. Many soldiers fell into debt because their pay was late in coming. In addition, the soldiers had poor equipment. Their uniforms were often worn and ragged. Despite the harsh conditions, some soldiers brought their families with them. Eventually, a few of these families moved from the presidios and helped start Spanish settlements.

**Reading Check Comparing** How was life in the presidios similar to life in the missions?

## ★ Life in the Settlements

Texas settlements had a diverse population of Spaniards, American Indians, and African Americans. Most of the Spanish had moved north from Mexico in search of good land for farming or ranching. Some settlers were former soldiers who had married Texas Indians. Although a few free African Americans lived in the settlements, most African Americans were brought to Texas as slaves.

A few permanent Texas towns grew from the mission system. These towns were scattered over a huge area. As they grew, these Spanish settlements shared some similarities with modern towns. Many had well-defined streets leading past houses and government buildings. There were many different stores, including bakeries and candle shops. In San Antonio, by far the largest settlement, dams were built to create an irrigation system of canals. San Antonio was the first town that allowed people to participate in their government. When the Canary Islanders first came, they were given lands and a charter for their settlement, San Fernando de Béxar. The **ayuntamiento** (ah-yoon-tah-MYEN-toh), or

governing council, enforced royal and local laws. The **alcalde** (ahl-KAHL-day), served as mayor, sheriff, and judge of small cases. The viceroy in Mexico City had authority over all settlements in New Spain, including Texas. The governor represented the viceroy in Texas.

The economy of the settlements was mostly based on farming and ranching. Both men and women helped with the planting and harvesting of crops. The cattle business helped San Antonio and other towns grow. **Vaqueros** (vah-CARE-ohz), or cowboys, worked on ranches near the settlements. Vaqueros were well known for their skilled horse riding and cattle handling. The Spanish also used their skills at horse riding to provide entertainment. Horse racing was a popular event. Most social activities centered around the family and the church. Religious holidays offered opportunities for worship and socializing. On other special occasions, residents gathered at fandangos, or dances. As the Spanish settlements grew, they developed more cultural activities.

The Spanish strongly influenced the culture and history of Texas. Some Spanish missions are still active churches. The restored La Bahía presidio can be seen near present-day Goliad. The Spanish also laid out the first Texas roads, such as El Camino Real. Many of the place-names of cities and natural features such as rivers are Spanish.

Texas traditions reflect their Spanish influence. For example, the Spanish had introduced horses and cattle ranching to the Americas. They settled in Mexico and then moved north, bringing cattle with them. Cowboys later used the equipment developed by the vaqueros. Spanish law was also handed down. For example, early Spanish laws protected the property rights of women. Women continued to benefit from these laws when Texas became part of the United States. Spanish architecture, art, food, language, and music are alive in Texas today.

## CONNECTING TO Music

### Romances Corridos

*Romances corridos*, or folk songs, were very popular in Spanish settlements in the 1700s. These songs, sometimes accompanied by guitar, dealt with many different subjects—love, heartbreak, and bravery. *Romances corridos* continue to appeal to many Texans. The tunes have new words. Even so, they can be traced to the songs that Spanish settlers sang to entertain themselves on the frontier. **How are romances corridos from frontier times similar to many popular songs of today?**



The Metropolitan Museum of Art

**★ Reading Check Drawing Inferences and Conclusions** What influence did the Spanish have on Texas place-names and the cattle industry?



## Section 5 Review

★ TEKS Questions 2, 3a, 3b, 4

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Practice  
Online

keyword: ST3 HP6

### 1 Define and explain:

- *ayuntamiento*
- *alcalde*
- *vaqueros*

### 2 Comparing and Contrasting

Copy the graphic organizer below. Use it to compare and contrast the defining characteristics of life in Spanish Texas with present-day Texas.



### 3 Finding the Main Idea

- What were some elements of life in the missions and presidios?
- What was life in the Spanish settlements like?

### 4 Writing and Critical Thinking

**Evaluating** Write a newspaper article describing examples of Spanish influence on place-names or towns in Texas.

Consider the following:

- architecture, food, and music in some towns
- languages spoken there



# CHAPTER 6 REVIEW

## The Chapter at a Glance

Examine the following visual summary of the chapter. Then use it to create an oral presentation describing life in Spanish Texas. ★ TEKS



Spanish Missions in Texas

Missions were built to spread the Catholic faith to American Indians and to gain control of the frontier.



Presidios in Texas

Presidios were built to protect the missions and guard against French forces and American Indians on the frontier.



Spanish Settlements in Texas

Spanish settlements grew near missions and presidios, providing valuable supplies. These settlements reinforced the Spanish presence in Texas.

### Identifying People and Ideas

★ TEKS

Use the following terms or people in historically significant sentences.

- missions
- Pueblo Revolt
- La Salle expedition
- San Francisco de los Tejas
- Francisco Hidalgo
- Domingo Ramón
- San Antonio de Valero
- El Camino Real
- Marqués de San Miguel de Aguayo
- ayuntamiento*

### Understanding Main Ideas

★ TEKS

#### Section 1 (pages 112–114)

- How did the Spanish try to control the borderlands?

#### Section 2 (pages 115–119)

- How did René-Robert Cavalier, Sieur de La Salle change Spanish policy in Texas?

#### Section 3 (pages 120–124)

- Why is 1718 an important year in Texas history?

#### Section 4 (pages 125–127)

- How did the Chicken War lead to the Aguayo expedition, and what were the effects of this expedition?

#### Section 5 (pages 128–131)

- What was life like for the Spanish and American Indians in the missions?
- Identify some examples of Spanish influence on modern-day Texas.

### You Be the Historian

★ TEKS

#### Reviewing Themes

- Culture** How did the Spanish attempt to change American Indian culture?
- Geography** How did San Antonio's climate and location help the settlement become successful?
- Global Relations** How did the war between France and Spain affect Texas?



TAKS

### Practice: Thinking Critically

★ TEKS

- Comparing** Compare how the French and Spanish interacted with Texas Indians.
- Sequencing** Identify the order in which the Spanish built missions in the different regions of Texas, and what prompted them to build in those regions.
- Identifying Points of View** How did the missionaries' beliefs affect Spanish settlement in Texas?

**Interpreting Maps** ★TEKS

Study the map below. Then use the information on the map to answer the questions that follow.



- Which of the following statements is correct?
  - France and Spain claimed the same area.
  - England and Russia claimed the same area.
  - Spain and France shared a border.
  - Spain had no territory in present-day Texas.
- Which countries claimed parts of present-day Texas?

**Analyzing Primary Sources** ★TEKS

Read the following quote about the presidio at San Sabá. Then answer the questions.

“The ease with which the enemy has been seen to maintain himself in its vicinity [area] . . . will someday suggest to them the ease with which this presidio can be surrounded. . . . Their numbers will not be small; the captain states that at times as many as three thousand [American Indians] have come to attack the presidio.”

- Which of the following statements best describes the author’s point of view?
  - The American Indians might soon realize how easy it would be to capture the presidio.
  - The Spanish should not abandon the presidio because it is easy to defend.
  - The Spanish outnumber the Indians.
  - The Indians will never attack the presidio.
- Based on the chapter, do you think the author’s concerns were reasonable?

**Alternative Assessment**

**Linking to Community** ★TEKS

Create a list of all the things in your community that have Spanish place-names. Pick four of those names. Then do some research about the origins and meanings of these names. Finally, create a visual display about the place-names you have found. If the place-name is named for someone, be sure to include information about that person. Include any interesting facts related to the place-names. Present what you have learned to your class.



**BUILDING YOUR Portfolio**

**Internet connect**

**Internet Activity:** go.hrw.com  
 KEYWORD: ST3 TX6 ★TEKS

Access the Internet through the HRW Go site to research how people from different racial, ethnic, and religious groups maintain their cultural heritage while adapting to the larger Texas culture. Complete the interactive activity on cultural diversity. Write your answers in the text box provided. Be sure to use standard grammar, spelling, sentence structure, and punctuation.

