It is impossible to exaggerate the pleasant character, the beauty, and the fertility of the province of Tejas.

Father Antonio de San Buenaventura y Olivares

William Aiken Walker, Mission San José
Spanish Settlement in Texas

As You Read

From the late 1600s, Spain attempted to claim parts of Texas as its own by establishing permanent settlements there. However, Spain’s efforts to colonize Texas were challenged by the French and by Native Texan groups. The struggle over the eastern border of Texas would eventually be resolved by a treaty between France and Spain. Completing this graphic organizer for Chapter 6 will help you understand the order of events of Spain’s settlement efforts.

- Copy the sequence chart in your Texas Notebook.
- As you read the chapter, fill in the boxes in chronological order with five events relating to the settlement of Texas.
- Note at least two details that explain the significance of each event.

Before You Read

Imagine that your family has just purchased a piece of land in your hometown. How would you let others know that this property belongs to you? Would you build a house on the property or put a fence around it? There are many ways to demonstrate ownership. Writing your name on a homework assignment or placing a coat over a seat you want to save are two examples.

Think about

- the kinds of items that you own
- effective ways of showing others that these items belong to you
- effective ways of resolving conflicts over ownership

Organizing Information

Discovery of Fort St. Louis, 1689

Event: 
Time: 
Details:

Event: 
Time: 
Details:

Event: 
Time: 
Details:

Event: 
Time: 
Details:

Event: 
Time: 
Details:
Spain Responds to a French Threat

**TERMS & NAMES**

Alonso de León, San Francisco de los Tejas, presidio, Ramón expedition, San Antonio de Valero

**OBJECTIVES**

1. Identify important events, issues, and individuals related to the establishment of Catholic missions in Texas.
2. Identify important events, issues, and individuals related to European colonization of Texas.
3. Explain why the date 1718 is important to Texas history.

**MAIN IDEA**

Fierce rivals, Spain and France both wanted to claim Texas. Spain controlled the lands to the west. France controlled the lands to the east. Each country would have to establish permanent settlements in Texas to keep its rival out.

**INTERACT WITH HISTORY**

Imagine that you have been sent to establish a settlement in an area that your country wants to claim. After interviewing inhabitants of the area, you find the remains of an earlier colony. Upon your return, you are asked whether you think your own country should establish settlements in the same area. How would you respond?

**The Race to Claim Texas**

For France and Spain, two of the most powerful countries in Europe in the late 1600s, the race was on for control of Texas. Texas lay between Spanish Mexico and French Louisiana, and neither country had yet colonized the area. Both countries knew that their claims to the region would continue to be challenged until they permanently occupied the land. From the late 1600s through most of the 1700s, Spain moved to secure its claim to Texas.

Until the late 1600s, Spaniards had been busy settling parts of Mexico and New Mexico. However, after Spanish officials found out that La Salle had established Fort St. Louis for the French, they sent expeditions to Texas—by sea and by land. The goal was to find and destroy La Salle’s fort. In June of 1686 Alonso de León and an expedition party set off for Texas. They searched along the Rio Grande. De León traveled as far east as the Neches River, but he still found no sign of the French. Finally, on April 22, 1689, during his fourth land expedition, de León found Fort St. Louis abandoned and lying in ruins. Nearby the Spanish found the bodies of three French settlers, which they buried.
TEXAS VOICES

We went to look and found all the houses sacked, the boxes all broken, and the bottle cases also, the other furnishings that the settlers had had; more than 200 books (it seemed) in the French language, broken, and the pages thrown in the patios were rotten. We discerned that the aggressors of these dead had taken all that they had outside the houses, and divided it, and that which was of no use to them they destroyed.

General Alonso de León, journal, April 22, 1689

After destroying the remains of the fort, de León explored the region known today as East Texas. He visited with several Caddoes, whom he called the Tejas. He found the soil fertile, the climate good, and the native peoples friendly. Father Damián Massanet (mass•ah•NEH), who traveled with de León, visited with the Caddo chiefs and interpreted their friendliness as eagerness to become Catholics.

Spain Begins Building Missions

The viceroy of New Spain was encouraged by de León’s favorable report of the land and Father Massanet’s request to convert the Caddoes to the Catholic religion. He approved the colonization of Texas. De León and Massanet were asked to return to East Texas to found a mission.

In 1690 de León and Massanet set out with several priests and about 100 soldiers to colonize the “land of the Tejas.” Shortly after their arrival, the priests celebrated mass in the first mission in East Texas, Mission San Francisco de los Tejas. A second mission, Santísimo Nombre de María, was founded that same year a few miles away on the Neches River. After several Native Texans and a priest became ill and died, the Santa María, as it was known, was abandoned. Still, why did Spain locate missions in this area?
the Spaniards believed that the Caddoes’ friendliness and their trade network with other native groups would help spread the Catholic religion and secure Texas for Spain.

All appeared well at their first mission, and de León and Massanet returned to Mexico City to obtain supplies and government support. The viceroy of Spain sent Domingo Terán de los Ríos to build eight more missions in Texas. Terán de los Ríos was also told to explore the country and to look for any French explorers in the area. He was named governor of the new Spanish province of Tejas.

Spain’s First Missions Fail

In 1691 Terán de los Ríos and Father Massanet explored East Texas and visited a number of Caddoan villages. They also paid a visit to San Francisco de los Tejas. What they found was a mission in crisis. Crops had failed due to a drought, and disease had killed many Native Texans. As a result, some of the Native Texans in the area had become hostile. Also, most of the native peoples were not interested in giving up their way of life to help the priests clear land for crops or working to support the mission. As a result, supplies ran low. It soon became clear to Spanish officials and Father Massanet that the project could not succeed without a constant flow of supplies.
On October 25, 1693, Spain ended its first attempt to settle Texas. The missions had suffered many problems and had lost the support of the local people. Also, the French no longer appeared to be a threat in Texas. Deciding that the costs outweighed the benefits, Spain abandoned its Texas missions.

However, this first attempt to occupy Texas was not a total failure. The Spaniards had learned much about Texas and its native groups. Spain realized that it would have to establish settlements and provide military support if it wanted to occupy Texas permanently.

The French Return

For the next 20 years, Spain put little effort into colonizing Texas. However, when the French decided to return to the area, Spain became interested again. In 1699 France built a trading post at Biloxi, in present-day Mississippi. Three years later, it built another at Mobile, in present-day Alabama. From these two bases, the French established a presence in the region, developing trade relationships with Native Americans.

Realizing that the French were drawing nearer, one Spaniard decided to make a rather bold request. Father Francisco Hidalgo, who had been at Mission San Francisco de los Tejas, was concerned about the baptized Native Texans in that area. Without the missions, the Native Texans had no priest nearby and no church to attend. He was disappointed when officials in Mexico City denied his request to start another East Texas mission. In 1713 Father Hidalgo sent a letter to Lamothe Cadillac, the French governor of Louisiana. In it, he asked that French Catholic priests be sent to provide religious services to the local native groups. Hidalgo did not tell the Spanish government that he was making this request.

France was eager to move into East Texas. However, after the failure of La Salle’s colony, the French were interested mainly in trade. Also, they did not establish missions as the Spaniards did. The French usually got along well with Native Texans. They did not attempt to change the Native Texans’ way of life. They often learned the native languages. The French traded items such as guns and blankets. In exchange, they often received valuable furs and skins.

**Why were the Spanish concerned about French traders?**
Legend has it that a Native Texan from the Nacogdoche band of the Caddoes named both Nacogdoches, Texas, and Natchitoches, Louisiana. According to the legend, a chief sent out his twin sons from the group’s home on the Sabine River. One son was sent three days to the west. The other son was sent three days to the east. The settlement in the west was named Nacogdoches, which is the Spanish spelling for the Nacogdoche group. The settlement in the east was named Natchitoches, which is the French spelling for the same group.

An Unlikely Partnership

The Spanish government was alarmed by St. Denis’s presence. He not only had crossed into Spanish territory without permission but also had arrived at Mission San Juan Bautista with a large supply of goods to trade with the Spanish colonists. Both of these actions were against Spanish law.

Upon his arrival at San Juan Bautista, St. Denis was arrested by the commander of the presidio, Diego Ramón. While he was in custody, St. Denis won Ramón’s friendship and fell in love with his granddaughter, Manuela Sánchez. Nevertheless, St. Denis was sent to Mexico City to explain his presence in Texas. St. Denis pleaded his case to the Spanish viceroy. He explained that he was working with Father Hidalgo to help the native groups in East Texas. St. Denis assured the viceroy that France had no plans to build colonies in Spanish territory.

The viceroy set him free but strongly doubted that France would stay out of East Texas. To protect its claim on the region, Spain would have to establish a series of missions there. The viceroy commissioned Captain Domingo Ramón to lead an expedition. He appointed St. Denis to guide the group because of his knowledge of the land and his good relationship with the Native Texans. St. Denis also was allowed to marry Manuela before beginning his journey.

Spain Reclaims East Texas

The Ramón expedition left San Juan Bautista in June 1716 with 65 people, including soldiers, settlers, and priests. They also brought many cattle, sheep, goats, and horses. The group’s first order of business was to reopen Mission San Francisco de los Tejas. The mission was reopened only a few miles from the original site. It was renamed San Francisco de los Tejas. By the end of 1716, the Ramón expedition had established six missions from the Neches River eastward to near Natchitoches (NAK•uh•tawsh), Louisiana. The group also built a presidio on the Neches River across from the San Francisco mission.

In order to succeed, the new missions would need a steady stream of supplies. Spain began looking for a suitable midpoint for supply caravans traveling from central Mexico to East Texas. Father Antonio de Buenaventura y Oliva was stationed at Mission San Juan Bautista on the Rio Grande. He suggested that Spain should build the support post near the San Antonio River. He and Martín de Alarcón were given permission to establish the much-needed midpoint settlement.
On May 1, 1718, they established Mission San Antonio de Valero (vah•LAY•roh). Across the river from the mission, Alarcón established Presidio San Antonio de Béxar. About ten families settled around the presidio, calling the settlement La Villa (VEE•yuh) de Béxar. The settlement at San Antonio de Béxar would become the most important Spanish colony in Texas, and later the city of San Antonio. But Alarcón’s work was not yet finished. From San Antonio de Béxar, he traveled eastward and established another mission at the former site of Fort St. Louis.

Frightened Spaniards Retreat

In East Texas the new missions were not very successful. Most Native Texans in the region had little use for the mission way of life. Accustomed to living freely and following their own rules, they refused to take orders from the priests or help with the daily chores at the missions. As a result, food and other supplies began to run low.

Meanwhile in Europe, France and Spain began to struggle over who would control the Mediterranean islands of Sicily and Sardinia. In 1719 war broke out between the two countries. When the French in Louisiana learned about the war, they turned to Lieutenant Philippe Blondel at the French post in Natchitoches. He and six soldiers were sent to capture the Spanish mission near present-day Nacogdoches.

The few priests and friars living at the mission were no match for Blondel and his men. The French soldiers looted the mission, taking livestock and other items of value. Blondel himself took a number of items, including several chickens that he tied to his saddle. When the lieutenant climbed into his saddle to leave, the chickens began squawking and flapping wildly. Blondel’s horse reared up, throwing the officer to the ground. As the other soldiers scrambled to help their leader, some of them were killed.

*Why do you think the missions were named after native groups?*
the Spaniards managed to escape. One of the friars was able to find his way to Presidio Dolores on the Neches River.

At the presidio, the friar greatly exaggerated the event. Instead of reporting seven French soldiers, he claimed that a large French force was invading Texas. As the news spread, families, missionaries, and soldiers in East Texas panicked. Even Captain Domingo Ramón began to worry. Realizing that he could never defend his people against a large military force, Ramón ordered all Spaniards to leave East Texas. In October of 1719, they retreated to La Villa at San Antonio de Béxar.

Without even trying, the French had run the Spaniards out of East Texas. The incident, which historians refer to as the “Chicken War,” proved that the Spaniards had a weak hold on East Texas. It also humiliated them in the eyes of many Native Texans. When the viceroy realized what had happened, he became more determined than ever to reclaim Texas.

**Organizing Information**

Using a chart like the one shown, list the pros and cons of establishing Spanish missions in East Texas.

| SHOULD SPAIN ESTABLISH MISSIONS IN EAST TEXAS? |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| **Pros** | **Cons** |
| | |

Which outweighs the other—the pros or cons?

**Critical Thinking**

1. Summarize Spain’s first two attempts to establish Catholic missions in East Texas.
2. Why did the Spaniards’ first two attempts at colonization fail?
3. What important mission was built in Texas in 1718? Why do you think this mission was important to Texas history?

**Interact with History**

Review your response to *Interact with History* in your Texas Notebook. After finding Fort St. Louis in ruins, Alonso de León reported to the viceroy that Spain should establish colonies in East Texas. What do you think was De León’s reasoning? Was his decision wise? Explain.

**ACTIVITY**

**Economics**

Spain went to great expense and risked many colonists’ lives to establish a presence in Texas. Debate whether or not you think Spain’s losses were worth the benefits of controlling Texas.
Learning Spanish Pronunciation

LEARNING the Skill
More than 6 million people in Texas—over 31 percent of the population—are Hispanic. Many Texans speak both English and Spanish, and more and more Texans are learning to communicate in both languages. Although there are many similarities between the English and Spanish alphabets, Spanish words follow a different set of pronunciation rules. Accent marks and other symbols, such as the tilde (~), help native speakers and learners of Spanish pronounce words correctly.

To pronounce Spanish words correctly, use the following guidelines:

- Words that end in n, s, or a vowel normally are stressed on the next-to-last syllable. Words ending in any other consonant usually have the stress on the last syllable. To show that a word does not follow the rule, the key vowel of the stressed syllable has an accent mark (´) placed above it.
- The vowel sounds are: a (ah), e (eh), i (ee), o (oh), u (ooh), y (ee).
- H is silent; j (and x in old Spanish) make the h sound (hat).
- G sounds like h before e and i.
- C makes the s sound before e and i; Z makes the s sound (song).
- C makes the k sound before o, a, and u; qu makes the k sound (kite).
- LL makes the y sound (year).
- Ñ sounds like ny (canyon).

PRACTICING the Skill
Review Section 1, Spain Responds to a French Threat. On a separate sheet of paper, copy the chart below that lists some Spanish names from Section 1. Then use the chart to complete the steps that follow.

APPLYING the Skill
Make a list of Spanish words and phrases that you hear or see on television, billboards, street signs, and in magazines and newspapers. Next to each item on your list, note where you found the word. Practice saying each word, using the guidelines in the Learning the Skill section. Use an audiocassette recorder to record yourself saying the words on your list. Think about the number of Spanish words that have “crossed over” into English speech. What does that tell you about the past and present influence of the Spanish language in Texas?
French dominance had long-lasting effects on Texas.

**TERMS & NAMES**
- Marqués de San Miguel de Aguayo, Los Adaes, suppress, Arroyo Hondo

**OBJECTIVES**
1. Describe important issues surrounding Spanish colonization of Texas.
2. Analyze why certain groups of people helped Spain colonize Texas.
3. Explain why important population centers developed in Spanish Texas.

**MAIN IDEA**
Embarassed by the French in the "Chicken War," Spain vowed to take back East Texas. Colonists and additional soldiers were brought in so life in the missions and presidios could resume. By firmly occupying Texas, Spain finally emerged the victor over France.

**INTERACT WITH HISTORY**
Twice Spain attempted to establish colonies in East Texas, failing both times. However, the Spaniards could not simply walk away. If they did not occupy Texas, the French would—bring them dangerously close to Spain's power base in Mexico. Imagine that the viceroy of New Spain has asked you how to establish strong, permanent Spanish colonies in East Texas. How would you overcome the problems that made the previous missions fail?

**Spain Returns with a Vengeance**

The "Chicken War" demonstrated Spain's weakness in East Texas, leaving the Spanish government angry and embarrassed. Although the French made no further aggressive moves into Texas, the Spaniards were determined to prove that they controlled the region. To prevent any future French interference, Spain knew it would have to occupy East Texas.

In 1721 the Marqués de San Miguel de Aguayo (uh-GWAY-yoh) took charge of the effort to reestablish Spanish authority in East Texas. He was made governor and captain general of the province of Texas. In return, he paid the cost of the expedition. With 500 men, 2,800 horses, 4,800 cattle, 6,400 sheep and goats, and plenty of supplies, Aguayo set out from Mexico. First he went to San Antonio. The previous year, he had authorized a new mission to be built there for the displaced East Texas priests. It had been named in his honor: Mission San José y San Miguel de Aguayo. This would one day become the most successful of all the Spanish missions in Texas. From there, Aguayo set out for East Texas.

At the Neches River, Aguayo met up with St. Denis, who was now in charge of the French settlement at Natchitoches. St. Denis knew that
Aguayo would not be pleased that French traders had moved into East Texas. At St. Denis’s request, Aguayo agreed not to attack the traders if they would immediately withdraw to Louisiana.

**Spanish Strongholds Are Established**

Aguayo reopened all six missions that had been abandoned after the “Chicken War.” At each mission, he left priests, supplies, and enough soldiers to impress the Native Texans in the area. Aguayo reestablished Mission Los Adaes (ah•DAH•ehs), named for the Adaes, a Caddo group. He also built a new presidio nearby, which he named Nuestra Señora del Pilar (pee•LAHR). One hundred soldiers and six brass cannons were stationed in the presidio as a show of Spanish force.

With its new mission, impressive military post, and small settlement, Los Adaes became the capital of the newly created province of Texas. Los Adaes was Spain’s easternmost establishment in Texas. It was to serve as Spain’s “eyes and ears” for French activity in the region. It also would allow the Spaniards to block any French invasion of Texas.

In the spring of 1721, Aguayo went to the site of La Salle’s old Fort St. Louis and found that Captain Domingo Ramón was building a new presidio there. Aguayo put Ramón in charge of 90 soldiers at the presidio and named it Nuestra Señora de Loreto. Nearby, Aguayo built Mission Espíritu Santo Zúñiga (ehs•PEE•ree•too SAN•toh SOO•nyee•gah) for the Native Texans on the Gulf Coast. With this last settlement, the Spaniards had established themselves firmly in Texas. Spain now had ten missions and four presidios at key points on the frontier. Texas was finally secured.

**New Colonists Arrive**

For its new colonies to grow and survive, Spain needed more settlers. But who would be willing to take such a risk? In 1719 Aguayo asked the viceroy to send 400 settlers to Texas from Spanish colonies in the Canary Islands; Galicia, Spain; or Havana, Cuba. Spain finally found volunteers in the Canary Islands. However, 12 years passed before all the details were worked out and the plan was put into action.

In the spring of 1731, 15 families—55 people in all—arrived at San Antonio de Béxar. There they built a small village, which they named San Fernando de Béxar. The Canary Islanders divided the land into lots for homes and farms. The Spanish government gave the settlers seeds, equipment, and supplies for one year. The colonists formed a church, organized a village government, and built the first school in Texas. They planted corn, beans, oats, cotton, melons, chili peppers, and other vegetables.
Spain Reexamines Its Outposts

Before the Canary Islanders arrived, Spain sent Brigadier General Pedro de Rivera y Villalón (ree•VEH•rah EE vee•yah•LOHN) to inspect the northern frontier. The general’s task was to recommend ways to reduce the cost of maintaining Spain’s hold on Texas. After inspecting New Mexico, northern Mexico, and Texas, Rivera y Villalón made several recommendations. He suggested that the East Texas missions be combined to reduce costs. He recommended that the mission and presidio near Fort St. Louis be moved to the Medina River near San Antonio. He also recommended that Spain reduce the number of troops at the presidios.

Rather than combine the East Texas missions, the Spanish government decided to save money by reducing its military forces in the region. The number of troops at Los Adaes was greatly reduced, and Presidio Dolores was closed entirely.

The reduction in troops left many of the missions vulnerable to attacks by Native Texans, especially the Apaches. Priests asked the Spanish government to suppress the Apache raids, but these requests were mostly ignored. The Apaches were fierce opponents with amazing battle skills. Even with its relatively advanced weapons, Spain knew it would not be able to defeat the Apaches.

Without military protection, however, the missions in East Texas simply could not survive. In 1731 the East Texas missions of San

**Spain established many missions in Texas.**

Near what rivers were these missions located?
Francisco, Concepción (kohn•sep•see•OHN), and San José were moved to San Antonio. In addition, Mission San Francisco was renamed San Francisco de la Espada, and Mission San José de los Nazonis became San Juan Capistrano.

In 1749 Mission Espíritu Santo Zúñiga was moved to a location near the city of Goliad on the San Antonio River. There it was called La Bahía del Espíritu Santo, or simply La Bahía (lah bah•EE•yah).

France No Longer Presents a Threat

With Spain so firmly established in East Texas, relations with the French began to take on a peaceful tone. The Arroyo Hondo, a stream between Los Adaes and Natchitoches, became the unofficial boundary between Spanish Texas and French Louisiana. The Spaniards focused on their missionary work and on developing colonies in the region.

The French continued to expand their trade network with the Caddoes and later with the Wichitas and Tawakonis in northern Texas. They also opened trade with the Orcoquizas (or•koh•KEE•sahs) and Bidais (bee•DAIS) along the San Jacinto and Trinity Rivers. Eventually the Spaniards would end French trading in Texas. But for the time being, an uneasy peace reigned.
Spanish Expansion in Texas

Why It Matters Now
Spanish control in Texas would forever change the lives of Native Americans.

TERMS & NAMES
- Nuevo Santander, Count José de Escandón
- expansion
- San Sabá, Marqués de Rubí
- alliance

OBJECTIVES
1. Explain why Spanish colonization was easier in some areas than in others.
2. Summarize the relationship between Spain and native groups to the north and west of Spanish Texas.
3. Analyze Spain’s choices regarding its Texas colonies.

MAIN IDEA
Now that France was no longer a threat, Spain could establish more missions and settlements in Texas. However, Native American groups challenged the Spaniards’ claim to the land in the north and west. Spain needed fewer, stronger colonies to protect its claim.

A REAL-LIFE STORY
In 1749 a new Spanish province was created in the south. Nuevo Santander was Spain’s name for this region, located south of the province of Texas. Count José de Escandón, military commander and governor of the new province, was sent to establish settlements in the area. Just six years later, Escandón had completed his work with great success.

José de Escandón, report to the viceroy of New Spain

Northward Expansion Fails
In 1745 Tonkawas living along the San Gabriel River in Central Texas asked Spanish officials to send missionaries and soldiers. The Tonkawas were not eager to settle into mission life, but they needed Spanish protection. Repeated raids by neighboring Comanche groups had left the Tonkawas desperate.

Spain saw this as an opportunity to help the Tonkawas and expand its northern boundaries. As part of its expansion, Spain established three missions in Central Texas over the next few years. Mission San Francisco Xavier de Horcasitas (ha•vee•YER de or•ca•SEE•tahs) was built in 1748,
and Missions San Ildefonso and Nuestra Señora de la Candelaria were built in 1749. By 1751 the Spaniards had also built a presidio, San Francisco Xavier. The three new missions and new presidio were usually called simply San Xavier.

Although San Xavier was a major new settlement, it was not successful. The priests in the missions began having disagreements with the commander of the presidio. A drought hit the Tonkawas hard, as did disease. To make matters worse, those Tonkawas who survived refused to help with the day-to-day work at the missions. Finally, an attack by the Apaches all but destroyed San Xavier. In the end, Spain was forced to abandon the settlement. By 1757 the missions had been relocated to the Guadalupe and San Saba Rivers.

**Expanding Spain’s Control**

In the mid-1700s the Spaniards began their last expansion program in Texas. Their two goals were to run the French traders out of East Texas and to secure Spain’s claim on South Texas by establishing settlements.

Although France was no longer threatening to take over Spanish lands, French traders were becoming a problem in East Texas. To keep them away from the Sabine and Trinity Rivers, Spain built Presidio de San Agustín de Ahumada (ah•oo•MAH•dah) and Mission Nuestra Señora de la Luz del Orcoquisac (or•koh•kee•SAHK) in 1756 near the mouth of the Trinity River. Near the mission, Spain also built a settlement called El Orcoquisac. The settlement was not successful. The Orcoquizas and Bidais refused to accept mission life. In 1767 a hurricane destroyed the community, and the Spaniards abandoned the site.

Spain’s expansion effort in South Texas was led by Count José de Escandón. In 1748 he set out with 3,000 settlers, soldiers, and priests to settle the lands between the Rio Grande and the Nueces River. In this area, Escandón established 15 missions. He also moved the La Bahía mission and presidio from the Guadalupe River to the present-day site of Goliad. By 1755 Escandón had placed almost 6,000 people in over Spain controlled a large part of what is now the state of Texas.

Why was Texas such a key area for Spain to develop?

Missions in Texas were constructed using a unique blend of European, Mexican, and South American architecture. Most missions contained a bell tower and a long hallway that was crossed at one end by a smaller hallway to form a cross. Many of the best-known missions were built of simple materials, resulting in a plain outward appearance. To make up for their dull exteriors, most missions were beautifully decorated on the inside. Iron, copper, and silver from Mexico were used to craft decorative fixtures. Many chapels contained frescoes, or paintings made on freshly spread moist plaster.

How do you think mission-style architecture developed?
20 towns throughout Nuevo Santander. One of these towns, built on the north bank of the Rio Grande, was Laredo.

Much of the land in Nuevo Santander was granted to Spanish ranchers who lived south of the Rio Grande. Many of these people came north of the river and established profitable ranchos, or ranches, in what is now the Rio Grande Valley of South Texas. The families of some of these early ranchers still live and ranch in South Texas today.

Spain Encounters Trouble in the West

Unsuccessful at northward expansion, Spain now looked toward the northwest. Would it be able to bring the vast prairies of West Texas under Spanish control? In 1757 Colonel Diego Ortiz Parilla (pah•REE•yah) and Father Alonso Giraldo de Terreros (hee•RAHL•doh deh teh•REH•rohs) took steps to find out. Near present-day Menard, they established Presidio San Luis de las Amarillas (ah•mah•REE•yahs) and Mission San Sabá de la Santa Cruz, known as San Sabá.

To survive in West Texas, the Spaniards would have to establish peaceful relationships with the native groups in that region. They hoped this goodwill would begin with the Lipan Apaches. The Lipans had requested a mission to protect them from their enemies, the Comanches and the Wichitas. In return, the Lipans had promised to adopt mission life.

Once the San Sabá mission was built, however, the Lipans would visit only briefly—usually to accept food and gifts from the priests. Then they would leave to hunt buffalo. When they returned, they often stole horses or other property. The Spaniards were not able to convert the Lipans to Christianity.

In March of 1758, after learning about the protection arrangement between the Lipan Apaches and the Spaniards, some 2,000 Comanches arrived at San Sabá. Claiming that they had come in peace, the Comanches were allowed inside—a deadly mistake. Inside the mission, the priests rushed to greet the chiefs with gifts, but the Comanches opened fire. They burned the buildings and killed eight of the Spaniards at the mission, including Father Terreros.

Determined to drive out the Spanish invaders, Comanche warriors struck the settlement again the next year. This time, they killed 20 soldiers and stole more than 700 head of cattle, horses, and mules.
Spanish Settlement in Texas

**Spaniards Seek Revenge**

The attack at San Sabá left Spain shocked and angry. Native Texans had destroyed one of its missions. To avoid appearing weak to other native groups, the Spaniards decided they must seek revenge against the Comanches.

In 1759 Colonel Ortiz Parilla led over 500 Spanish soldiers and native allies to attack and punish the Comanches. The two sides met on October 7, when Parilla’s men fought with a force of Comanches and Wichitas near San Sabá. Despite the Spaniards’ confidence and advanced weapons, Parilla and his men were defeated. Realizing that the Comanches could not be conquered, Parilla abandoned Mission San Sabá permanently.

Missionary activities for the Lipan Apaches were moved south to Mission San Lorenzo de la Santa Cruz and Mission Nuestra Señora de la Candelaria del Cañón (kah•NYOHN). These two missions were established in 1762. The Lipans were still not interested in adopting mission life, and the Spaniards’ patience grew thin. In 1769 the Spanish government abandoned both missions. Presidio San Luis de las Amarillas was maintained for another ten years before it was abandoned in 1770.

**More Problems Arise**

For the most part, Spain’s attempts to expand north and west of San Antonio were a failure. Missionary efforts on the San Gabriel and San Saba Rivers were a disaster, and the Spaniards had been humiliated by native groups in the north. Spain’s only successes were the relocation of La Bahía to Goliad and the founding of Nuevo Santander.

Other events blocked Spanish expansion in Texas. After the French and Indian War, which ended in 1763, Spain acquired all of French Louisiana west of the Mississippi. This new territory was so large that Spain could neither develop it nor defend it. Before long, settlers from the United States would begin invading Spanish territory.

**Rubí Inspects Spanish Territory**

In 1764 King Carlos III of Spain realized changes would be necessary to maintain control of Spain’s northern frontier. First, however, he...
would need to take stock of the situation. The king commissioned a Spanish officer, the Marqués de Rubí, to inspect Spanish claims. Rubí started in New Mexico, crossed Sonora, and moved eastward to Coahuila and Texas. He made a quick tour of all major settlements in Texas as far east as Los Adaes.

Rubí inspected all of Spain’s northern frontier—from California to Texas—in less than two years. His report had a great effect on Texas. Rubí recommended that all Spanish settlements in East Texas be moved to San Antonio. The French were no longer a threat, he reasoned, so the East Texas missions and presidios were no longer needed.

These settlements were not Spain’s only weak points in Texas, in Rubí’s eyes. He also saw no reason to maintain missions or presidios in West Texas. Like the East Texas missions, these western outposts were too small and isolated. They would not have the resources to convert Native Texans or develop a stable economy. On the other hand, San Antonio and La Bahía were successful. For these reasons, Rubí recommended that the capital of the province be moved from Los Adaes to San Antonio.

**TEXAS VOICES**

The villa of San Antonio will remain as our most advanced frontier in the province of Texas. . . . [It is necessary] to keep this villa in a respectable state of defense until its security can be affirmed by a growth of its population and by those settlements that spring up in its vicinity owing to this same protection.

*Marqués de Rubí, report on Texas*
Finally, Rubí recommended a change in Spain's policies regarding the northern native peoples. He believed that the Lipan Apaches were the real threat to Spanish authority in Texas. Therefore, it would be wise to form an alliance with their enemies, the Comanches and Wichitas. With these groups' help, Spain could wipe out the Lipan Apaches in Texas.

**Spain Makes Changes**

In 1772 King Carlos III adopted all of the Marqués de Rubí's recommendations, but they were not easy to carry out. The abandonment of the East Texas missions was particularly upsetting to Spanish settlers in that region. However, by 1779 a group of settlers led by Gil Ybarbo (HEEL ee•BAR•boh) had returned to East Texas and founded a community at Nacogdoches. In time, the settlement grew into the second most prosperous town in Spanish Texas.

In the western part of Texas, troubles with the Lipan Apaches continued. To set Rubí's plan into action, the Spaniards turned to a French army officer and part-time trader named Athanase de Mézières (ah•tha•NASS de meh•ZYER). He was friendly with many of the northern native groups. He set in motion a plan that led the Comanches to declare war on the Lipan Apaches in 1779. Just one year later, Lipan Apache leaders came to the Spaniards seeking a peace agreement. There was an uneasy peace on the Spanish frontier in the years that followed, with only a few setbacks.

**Terms & Names**
- Nuevo Santander
- Count José de Escandón
- expansion
- San Sabá
- Marqués de Rubí
- alliance

**Organizing Information**
Use a cluster diagram like the one shown to explain where Spain attempted to expand its boundaries in Texas and why Spanish expansion failed.

**Critical Thinking**
1. Why do you think Spanish expansion in Nuevo Santander was more successful than in other areas?
2. Describe the relationship between Spain and the Apaches, and also between Spain and the Comanches. How did these relationships affect Spanish expansion?
3. The Marqués de Rubí concluded that the colonies in East Texas should be abandoned. Do you think he was right? Why or why not?

**A Real-Life Story**
Review A Real-Life Story on page 130. Escandón’s task was to get Spanish colonists to settle north of the Rio Grande. Research how the Rio Grande Valley of Texas maintains its cultural heritage today. Compile your information into an oral report.

**ACTIVITY**

**Culture**
Divide your class into two groups: Native Texans of East Texas and Native Texans of West Texas. Research your group’s relationship to the Spaniards. As a class, discuss what you learned.

**alliance** an association between people to advance their common interests
I was a tree of fair beauty and grace when the Spaniards in a very strange attire appeared on the horizon and spying me made way to the hill where I stood. They rested under my friendly shade. How eagerly I listened to their talk! . . . They were on their way to the north and east to find some place which they called Florida, and which the leader said was the land of perpetual spring . . .

After this I often saw such men under my shade. Sometimes kind old men in long robes, with long strings of beads about their waists, sat under my shade and read little books. These readings were prayers to my Great Master, and songs of praise for His goodness. These men treated the naked Indian with the same tenderness that they accorded their own men who, although garbed in another manner, spoke their language, and rode strange beasts who liked my beans.

Then these long-robed men began a regular session of trips, sometimes going north, then again going south. At first there were only a few of them. Then later there were greater numbers of them. They took with them some new kind of beasts that they called oxen and cows. Everyone called these kind, long-robed men Fathers.

Once, two of these men, Padre Margil and Padre Antonio, sat for hours deliberating as to how to trail a road from their new settlement on a large river they called “El Bravo” to a place far inland where flowing waters were suitable for a settlement or mission which would serve as a center for their work among the Indians. Father Margil was for establishing a mission center in the largest “ranchería” they knew. Father Antonio was for going from one ranchería to another and teaching the Indians in their own grounds.

“We will need additional priests and equipment to be able to do as you say, Father Margil.”

“But it will be worth while. We can establish schools, build churches, teach them trades, and improve their general condition. We can also combine several of the friendly tribes. As I see it, Father Antonio, this country is very vast. Our superiors in Querétaro do not know it, and we who are learning it must do our best. At present we have a very
good beginning at Mission San Francisco, near the 'Bravo'; the Indians of the valley are our friends, but there is a tribe [the Karankawas] just across the next river that is very treacherous. . . . But we have to pass through their lands, and use their fords. . . . I have with me the patents that will guarantee that we will not settle any of our people among them. Their leader is ready to accept this as a treaty. He will help us, but in no manner are we to attempt to approach his people. I have agreed to do this; as for the present we are not in condition to refuse his terms. This leader claims that the Karankawas, his Indians, are the oldest residents of this section and that he does not want to be driven out of his lands as other Indians have been driven in the South . . .

This spring the rains have been very abundant and I will have a very small crop of beans, as the rains ruin my blossoms. . . . There are millions of small yellow flowers, which spread like mantles all over the prairies. I am very proud now; the Fathers have decided to build a corral near me. This, they said, would do to hold the stock during the nights when they rested. . . .

The men who stopped at my shelter today called me “La Posta del Palo Alto”. That is “The Post or Stop of the High Tree”.

TERMS & NAMES

Explain the significance of each of the following:

1. Alonso de León
2. San Francisco de los Tejas
3. San Antonio de Valero
4. Marqués de San Miguel de Aguayo
5. Los Adaes
6. Arroyo Hondo
7. Nuevo Santander
8. Count José de Escandón
9. San Sabá
10. Marqués de Rubí

REVIEW QUESTIONS

Spain Responds to a French Threat
(pages 118–124)

1. Missions in Texas served two purposes for Spain. Explain these two purposes.
2. Spain and France had different reasons for colonizing the Americas. What were the motives of these two countries?

France Loses the Race for Texas
(pages 126–129)

3. Why do you think Aguayo established such a large military force at Los Adaes?
4. Why do you think France lost the race to colonize Texas?

Spanish Expansion in Texas
(pages 130–135)

5. At one time, both the Lipan Apaches and the Comanches were enemies of the Spanish colonists. How did Spain get the Comanches to help defeat the Lipan Apaches?
6. What were Marqués de Rubí’s three main recommendations to Spain regarding Texas?

READING SOCIAL STUDIES

After You Read

Review your completed sequence chart with a partner. Explain how each event in the chronology leads to the next. Were Spain’s methods of claiming Texas successful? Why or why not?

CRITICAL THINKING

Drawing Conclusions

1. How did the war in Europe between Spain and France ultimately affect the colonization of Texas?

Making Predictions

2. Do you think French forces at Natchitoches could have forced the Spaniards out of East Texas? Why or why not?

Identifying Cause and Effect

3. Explain why you think Spain decided to return Louisiana to the French. How did this decision affect Spain’s claim on Texas?
MAP & GEOGRAPHY SKILLS
Applying Skills

Describe the location of the two presidios shown on this map. Which one was established by the Ramón–St. Denis expedition?

SOCIAL STUDIES SKILLBUILDER
Learning Spanish Pronunciation

On the 13th, the river was crossed. The whole day was spent doing this... It was to be noted that at this point four rivers were crossed which now run in one stream: the Guadalupe, the one called San Marcos on the road that leads to Tejas, the Alarcón, and the San Raphael.

Fray Francisco Celiz, expedition diary

1. Write the Spanish words from the diary excerpt on a sheet of paper.
2. Underline the words with the stress on the last syllable.
3. Circle the words with the stress on the next-to-last syllable.
4. With a partner, practice pronouncing these words correctly.

CHAPTER PROJECT
Assessing Spanish Colonization

Although Spain succeeded in claiming much of Texas, the price was great. Many colonists and native peoples lost their lives. Settlements were built, destroyed, rebuilt, abandoned, and reestablished. The Spanish crown lost a fortune in money and materials. Considering Spain’s successes and failures in Texas, was colonization a good idea? In your Texas Notebook, list the pros and cons of colonizing Texas. Then, in groups of four or five students, compare your lists and discuss whether the benefits outweighed the costs. Finally, share your conclusions as a class.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & SOCIETY ACTIVITY
Comparing Building Technologies

Even building a simple shelter could be a challenge for early Spanish colonists in Texas. In the words of Count José de Escandón, many of the settlers’ first homes were “constructed of sticks and palms because new establishment would not permit anything else.” Spanish architecture in Texas from this time period reflects a mixture of European styles and technology borrowed from Native Texans. Structures built by Native Texan groups often reflected their lifestyle—whether nomadic or settled—and used materials made from local plants and animals. Research the types of buildings constructed by Spanish colonists and Native Texan groups as well as the materials they used. Using your findings, compare and contrast Spanish and Native Texan building technology.

Go to www.celebratingtexas.com to research this topic.

CITIZENSHIP ACTIVITY
Resolving Conflicts Peacefully

After inspecting Spain’s northern frontier, the Marqués de Rubí recommended that Spain wipe out the Lipan Apaches in West Texas. While this might have solved some of the Spanish settlers’ problems, few people would consider this solution acceptable today. As a class, discuss the flaws in Rubí’s plan. Then discuss more effective and peaceful methods for resolving problems between neighbors or other groups.