

LESSON 6

New Spain and Independence for Texas



 **BOUNCE**
TO ACTIVATE

 **VIDEO**

GET READY TO READ

START UP


The men in this painting were skilled with horses, roping, and caring for cattle. How are they similar to the American cowboy?

GUIDING QUESTIONS


- What were the causes and consequences of Texas independence?
- How did Mexican and American settlements affect the development of the Southwest?
- What was life like for the Spanish and American Indians who lived in California and New Mexico?

TAKE NOTES

Literacy Skills: Sequence

Use the Graphic Organizer in your  Active Journal to take notes as you read the lesson.

PRACTICE VOCABULARY

Use the Vocabulary Builder in your  Active Journal to practice the vocabulary words.

Vocabulary

Puebloan vaquero
Santa Fe Trail dictator
mission Alamo
self-sufficient siege

Academic Vocabulary

specify
generally

In the 1840s, New Mexico Territory included present-day Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada, and Utah, and parts of Colorado. California lay to the west. This huge region, ruled by Mexico, was southwest of the unorganized territory that the United States acquired through the Louisiana Purchase.

New Mexico Territory and California

The physical characteristics of the New Mexico Territory vary depending on location. Much of this region is hot and dry desert. There are also forested mountains. In some areas, thick grasses grow. Before the Spanish arrived, **Puebloans** (pweb LOH anz) farmed here using irrigation. Puebloans are American Indians who live in permanent towns made of mud, rock, and other materials. Other American Indians lived mainly by hunting and gathering.

Spain and New Mexico Territory The Spanish explorer Juan de Oñate (ohn YAH tay) claimed the region for Spain in 1598.

In the early 1600s, the Spanish founded the town of Santa Fe and made it the capital of the territory. With a bustling trade in horses, fur, and wool, Santa Fe grew into a busy trading center.

Some Americans were eager to settle in New Mexico. It was thinly populated but had good physical characteristics, including many natural resources. Spain, however, would not let Americans settle in Santa Fe or anywhere else in the territory. Only after Mexico became independent in 1821 were Americans welcome there.

William Becknell, a merchant and adventurer, was the first American to head for Santa Fe. In 1822, he led some traders from Franklin, Missouri, up the Arkansas River and across the plains to the New Mexico town. Other Americans soon followed Becknell's route, which became known as the **Santa Fe Trail**.

GEOGRAPHY SKILLS

Spain set up a series of missions, forts, and towns north of their earlier settlements in Mexico.

1. **Place** What common geographic feature do most of the Spanish settlements share?
2. **Draw Conclusions** Why do you think Spain built these settlements in these locations?

Spanish Settlements in California California, too, was ruled first by Spain and then by Mexico. In 1769, Captain Gaspar de Portolá led an expedition up the Pacific coast. With him was Father Junípero Serra (hoo NEE peh roh SEHR rah). Father Serra built his first mission at San Diego. He and other missionaries set up a string of 21 **missions** along the California coast. The Spanish built forts nearby.

Each mission complex included a church and the surrounding land. Each became **self-sufficient**, or able to produce enough for their needs. The missions had large herds of cattle and sheep as well as gardens and orchards. They produced enough food for their own needs and sometimes enough to supply neighboring forts and pueblos.

Spanish Territory in North America, 1820





Before the Spanish arrived, American Indians in California lived in small, scattered groups. As a result, they had little success resisting the Spanish soldiers who made them work on mission lands. They were forced to herd sheep and cattle and raise crops for the missions. In exchange they received no pay, only food and clothing. Many were forced to live at the missions and practice the Roman Catholic faith.

Mission life was harsh for the American Indians. They were forced to give up their culture. Families were often separated, and thousands of American Indians died from overwork and disease.

Culture and Tradition on Mexican Ranches In the 1820s, newly independent Mexico decided that California's economy was growing too slowly. Hoping to speed up growth, the government took land from the missions and gave it to individuals. These land grants were usually given to wealthy people. The landowners set up huge cattle ranches, called *ranchos*, and became *rancheros*, or ranch operators.

A new culture began to develop among the *rancheros*. Their lives centered on cattle raising and the selling of beef and hides. Cattle ranching grew to become the principal business in California. *Rancheros* gained great wealth and occupied a high social class. They married and socialized with other *rancheros* and with wealthy merchants.

A new culture also developed among some workers on the ranches—the culture of the **vaqueros**. *Vaqueros* were the Indian and Mexican cowhands who tended the cattle and other animals. They were excellent riders and ropers, and their traditions strongly influenced later cowhands throughout the West.

Analyze Images Many of the missions built by the Spanish remain and can still be visited, like the Mission San Carlos Borromeo del Rio Carmelo in Carmel, California. **Identify Main Ideas** Why did the Spanish build missions in California?

 **READING CHECK** Summarize Who were the *vaqueros*?

Analyze Images Vaqueros were skilled with horses and managing livestock.

Synthesize Visual Information How do this vaquero's clothing and equipment help him do his work?



Americans Colonize Mexican Texas

In the early 1800s, Texas was part of a Spanish province in the colony of New Spain, or Mexico. At that time, Texas had only about 4,000 Mexican settlers. As a result, Spain had difficulty keeping order, and settlers faced frequent raids by American Indian groups, such as the Comanche.


Spain Authorizes a Colony in Texas In 1820, Spain gave Moses Austin a land grant and permission to colonize Texas with 300 Catholic families. Although Austin died before he could set up a colony, his son, Stephen, took over the grant. Also around this time, in 1821, Mexico gained its independence from Spain.

Stephen Austin had no trouble finding settlers. By the 1820s, most of the land in the United States that was arable, or suitable for farming, was already occupied. There was a scarcity, or short supply, of affordable, fertile land, or land that is good for growing crops. When it was available, good farmland was expensive.

In Texas, by contrast, there was a large supply of fertile land that settlers could buy cheaply. Many Americans were eager to buy this land and settle in Texas.

Austin Finds a Colony Austin gathered the 300 families, and in late 1821, they began settling the colony. Many settlers came from the cotton country of the Southeast. Some built large cotton plantations and brought in enslaved African Americans to work the land.


Quest CONNECTIONS

How did the United States' relationship with Mexico develop after Mexican independence from Spain? Note your findings in your  Active Journal.

As Austin's colony grew, Mexico gave Austin several more land grants. Grants were also given to other entrepreneurs like Austin to attract settlers to Texas. Some of these settlers were from Mexico, but the largest number came from the United States. By 1830, about 20,000 Americans had moved to Texas.

 **INTERACTIVE**

The Settlement of Texas

 **READING CHECK Identify Cause and Effect** Why were American settlers eager to move to Texas?

Conflict With the Mexican Government

In return for their land, the Mexican government **specified** that Austin and the original American settlers must become Mexican citizens and worship in the Roman Catholic Church. Later American settlers, however, felt no loyalty to Mexico. They spoke little or no Spanish, and most were Protestant. These and other differences led to conflicts between the settlers and the Mexican government.

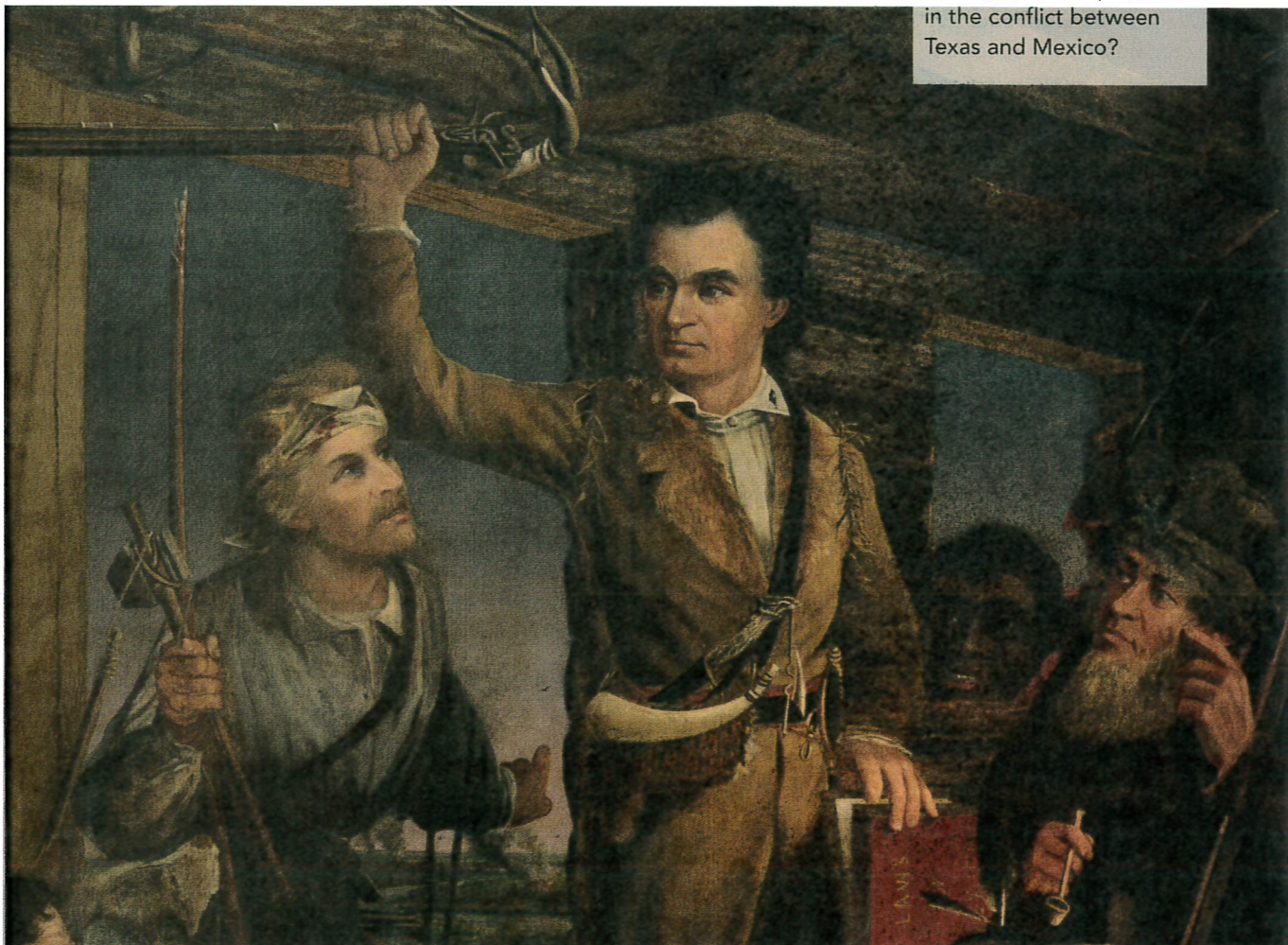
Mexico Tightens Its Grip on Texas In 1830, Mexico barred any more Americans from settling in Texas. Mexico feared that the Americans would try to make Texas a part of the United States. The United States had already tried twice to buy Texas from Mexico.

To assert its authority, Mexico sent troops to enforce laws requiring Texans to worship in the Catholic Church and banning slavery. American settlers opposed these laws. The law against slavery was a serious problem for them. Many had brought enslaved people with them and relied on enslaved workers to grow cotton.

Academic Vocabulary

specify • v., to name something exactly and in detail

Analyze Images This painting shows Stephen F. Austin rallying Texas colonists to fight Karankawa Indians. Austin's slave, Richmond, looks in through the window. **Identify Main Ideas** What role did the slavery question play in the conflict between Texas and Mexico?





Analyze Images As a young officer in the Spanish army, Antonio López de Santa Anna fought against Mexican independence. Later, he became president of Mexico. **Summarize** What was Santa Anna's role in Texas history?

In 1833, General Antonio López de Santa Anna gained power in Mexico. He rejected the Mexican constitution and attempted to govern the nation as dictator. A **dictator** is a ruler with absolute power and authority.

Texans Rebel By October 1835, Americans in Texas decided that the time had come for action. They had the support of many Tejanos (teh HAH nohs), people of Mexican descent born in Texas. Tejanos did not necessarily want independence from Mexico. However, they did want to be rid of the dictator, Santa Anna.

In October 1835, Texan settlers in the town of Gonzales (gahn ZAH les) clashed with Mexican troops. Two months later, Texan settlers occupied the town of San Antonio. Determined to stamp out the rebellion, Santa Anna marched north with a large army.

READING CHECK **Identify Cause and Effect** Why were U.S. settlers opposed to Mexican laws?

Independence for Texas

While Santa Anna was on the move, a group of Texans declared independence for the Republic of Texas on March 2, 1836. Sam Houston took command of its army. Volunteers from the United States and other nations, along with African Americans and Tejanos, joined the fight for Texan independence.

Siege at the Alamo By the time Santa Anna reached San Antonio, the Texans had taken up positions in an old Spanish mission called the **Alamo**. A young lieutenant colonel, William B. Travis, was in command. Among the volunteers at the Alamo were the famous frontiersmen Jim Bowie and Davy Crockett. Poorly equipped and badly outnumbered, the rebels waited for the Mexican attack.

On February 23, 1836, Mexican troops began the **siege** of the Alamo. In a siege, enemy forces try to capture a city or fort by surrounding and often bombarding it. The Texan defenders barely held out as cannons pounded the walls for 12 days.

At dawn on March 6, Mexican cannons finally shattered the mission walls. Thousands of Mexican soldiers poured over the broken walls, shouting "Viva Santa Anna!" ("Long live Santa Anna!"). In the end, about 180 Texans and almost 1,500 Mexicans lay dead. Most of the few Texans who survived were executed.



INTERACTIVE

The Defenders of the Alamo

The Battle of San Jacinto The fall of the Alamo sparked Texan cries for revenge.

On April 21, 1836, the Texans caught their enemies by surprise camped near the San Jacinto (juh SIN toh) River. With cries of “Remember the Alamo!” Texans charged into battle.

Although the Texans were outnumbered, they were victorious. They captured Santa Anna and forced him to sign a treaty granting Texas independence.

 **READING CHECK Identify Cause and Effect** What was the key to the Texans’ victory at San Jacinto?

The Republic of Texas Is Born

After winning independence, Texas declared itself a republic. A constitution was written using the United States Constitution as a model.

Issues Facing the New Country Texas’s new constitution treated Mexicans in Texas harshly. It denied Mexicans citizenship and property rights if they could not prove that they had supported the revolution. Many chose to give up their lands and flee.

Analyze Images In this painting, Texans defend the Alamo against the Mexican siege. Twelve feet high and two feet thick, the Alamo walls were good protection but unable to endure days of bombardment. **Hypothesize** How might the defenders’ confidence have changed during the siege?





INTERACTIVE

Texas: From Settlement to Statehood

Academic Vocabulary

generally • *adv.*, in most cases

The new country faced other problems. First, the government of Mexico refused to accept the treaty that Santa Anna had signed. Mexicans insisted that Texas was still part of Mexico. Second, Texas was nearly bankrupt.

Third, Comanche and other Indian groups threatened to attack small Texan communities. Most Texans thought that the best way to solve these problems was to become part of the United States.

The United States Considers Annexation In the United States, people were divided over whether to annex, or add on, Texas to the Union. The arguments reflected sectional divisions in the country. White southerners **generally** favored the idea. Many northerners opposed it. The main issue was slavery. By the 1830s, antislavery feeling was growing in the North. Because many Texans owned enslaved people, northerners feared that Texas would join the Union as a slave-owning state, strengthening support for slavery in the U.S. government.

In addition, President Andrew Jackson worried that annexing Texas would lead to war with Mexico. As a result, Congress refused to annex the Republic of Texas.

GEOGRAPHY SKILLS

After a brief yet bloody war, the Republic of Texas won its independence from Mexico.

- Movement** Describe the movement of Mexican and Texan forces after the battle at the Alamo.
- Use Visual Information** What disadvantage would Santa Anna's army have had in the Texas War?




Should the United States Annex Texas?

REASONS FOR	REASONS AGAINST
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Texans voted for annexation.• Statehood would guarantee defense against Mexican attacks and Native American raids.• The Republic would not survive for long as an independent nation.• The United States would benefit economically.• Britain might annex Texas if the United States did not.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tension between the North and South would increase if Texas were added as a slave state.• Mexico would see annexation as an act of war.• Annexation would heighten existing conflict between the Whig and Democratic parties.• Mexico might recognize Texas with the help of U.S. diplomacy, and the Republic of Texas could remain independent.

For the next nine years, leaders of the Republic of Texas worked to attract new settlers. The new Texas government encouraged immigration by offering settlers free land. During the Panic of 1837, thousands of Americans moved to Texas.

Settlers also arrived from Germany and Switzerland. They helped the new nation grow and prosper. By the 1840s, about 140,000 people lived in Texas, including many enslaved African Americans and some Mexicans. The Republic of Texas remained an independent country until the United States annexed it in 1845.

 **READING CHECK** **Summarize** the three problems that faced the new Republic of Texas.

Analyze Images After gaining independence from Mexico, many Texans wanted to join the United States. **Evaluate Arguments** Do you think the argument for or against annexation was stronger? Why?


Lesson Check

Practice Vocabulary

1. Why did Santa Anna lay **siege** to the Alamo?
2. In what way were the California **missions self-sufficient**?

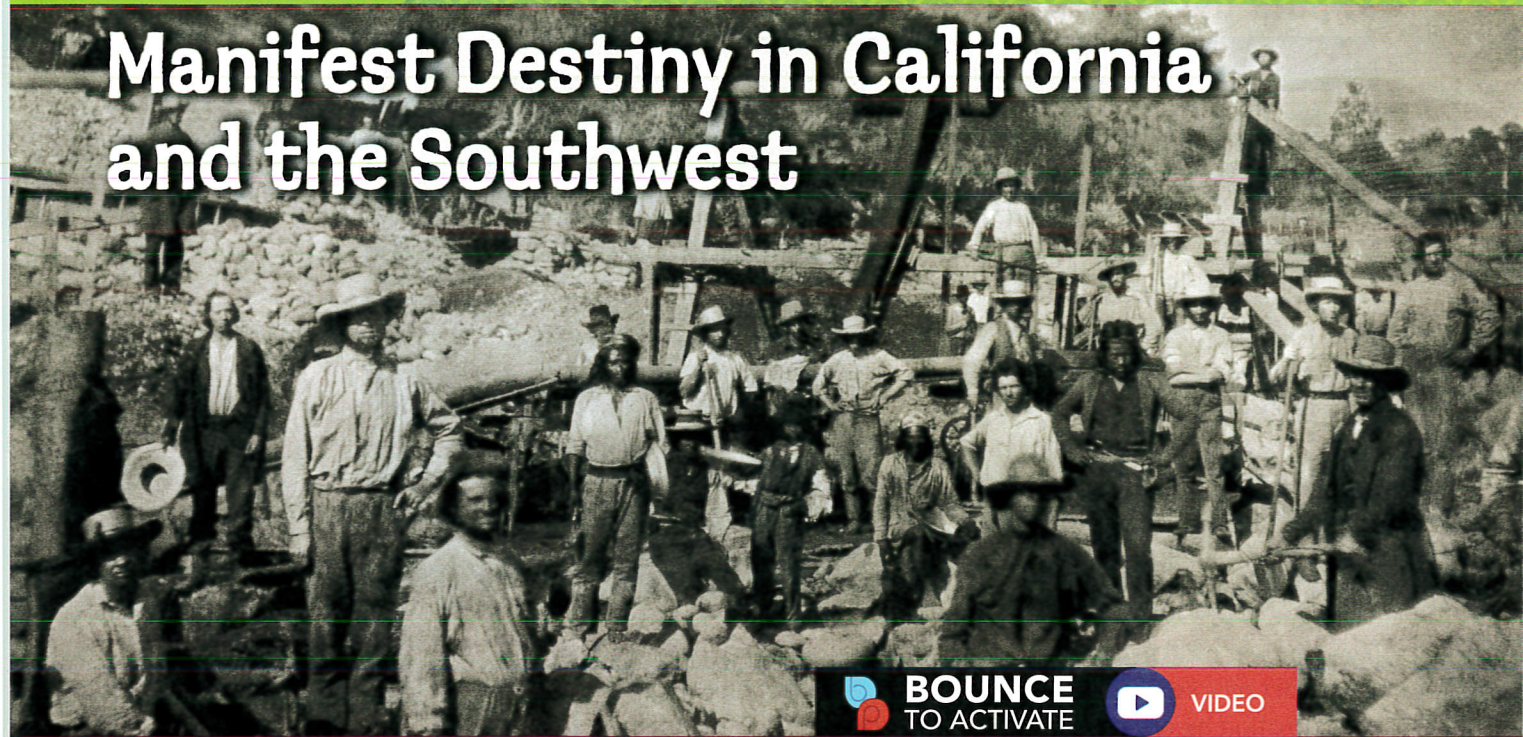
Critical Thinking and Writing

3. **Identify Cause and Effect** Why did the Republic of Texas remain an independent country for nine years?

4. **Summarize** How did the arrival of the missionaries affect American Indians living in California?
5. **Writing Workshop: Use Descriptive Details and Sensory Language** In your  Active Journal, revise one of the passages you have written about an event that occurs on your journey west. Include descriptive details and sensory language to make your narrative more vivid and specific.

LESSON 7

Manifest Destiny in California and the Southwest



BOUNCE
TO ACTIVATE



VIDEO

GET READY TO READ

START UP


Write three questions you might like to ask these miners at work during the California gold rush.

GUIDING QUESTIONS


- How did Manifest Destiny contribute to American expansion?
- What were the causes and consequences of the Mexican-American War?
- How did Utah and California grow?
- How did the gold rush and migration affect life in California?

TAKE NOTES

Literacy Skills: Identify Cause and Effect

Use the Graphic Organizer in your  Active Journal to take notes as you read the lesson.

PRACTICE VOCABULARY

Use the Vocabulary Builder in your  Active Journal to practice the vocabulary words.

Vocabulary

Manifest Destiny Mexican
Bear Flag Republic Cession
Treaty of Guadalupe- forty-niner
Hidalgo

Academic Vocabulary

allocation
consequently

In the mid-1840s, only about 700 people from the United States lived in California. Every year, however, more Americans were moving west.

Manifest Destiny

There were many economic, social, and political causes for this westward expansion. On several occasions, the United States government offered to buy California from Mexico. Some officials were eager to gain control of the ports at San Francisco and San Diego. Soon westward expansion became a major priority for the nation.

The Roots of Manifest Destiny

In the 1840s, an editor named John L. O'Sullivan created the term **Manifest Destiny**. The term meant that the United States had the right to spread across the continent. *Manifest* means clear or obvious. *Destiny* means something that is fated to happen. The social roots of Manifest Destiny lay in the belief that Americans had the right and the duty to spread their culture across the continent all the way to the Pacific Ocean.