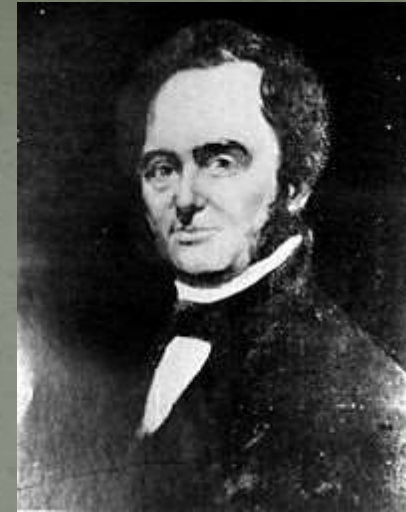




Texas

Colony to Revolution to Country to State
A Study Guide

- In the early 1800s there were few people, aside from Native Americans, living in what would become Texas.
- The residents of Texas were Tejanos, Mexicans who claimed Texas as their home.
- Spain wanted to populate this area so offered tracts of land to people who would settle in Texas.
- The people who obtained the land grants and recruited these settlers were called Empresarios.

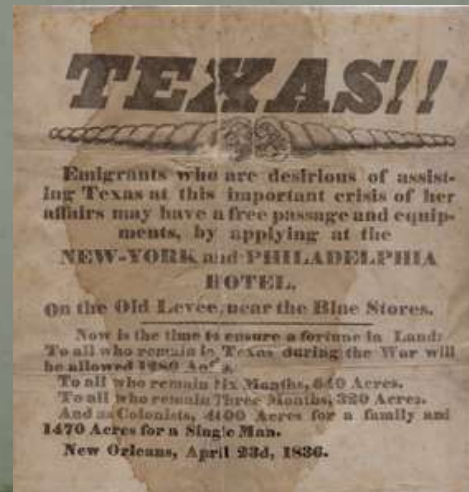


- In 1820, an American named Moses Austin asked the Spanish government for a land grant to establish a colony.
- Austin was the first empresario to receive a land grant in 1821.
- Austin died two months later.
 - On his death bed he gave the land and the job of setting up the Texas colony to his son Stephen.

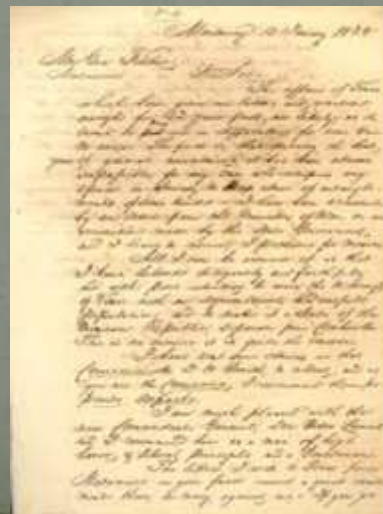




- Stephen Fuller Austin, took over the land and colony for his father.
- Before he could set up the colony Mexico declared independence from Spain.
- Austin now had to renegotiate his land grant with the new government of Mexico.
- After waiting a year, he was finally told his land grant would be honored and given permission to set up his colony.
- Stephen put out advertisements for settlers to join him and recruited 300 American families to settle in Texas.



- Mexico did impose certain restrictions on the settlers and they had to agree to these rules before getting their land. They had to
 - become Mexican citizens,
 - obey Mexican laws, and
 - join the Catholic church.
- The settlers agreed and Austin gave them directions to Texas.
 - In reality, many of the settlers were just pretending to follow the rules to get the land.



- Most of the settlers were from the south and hoped to eventually start their own cotton plantations.



- Times were tough, attacks by Native Americans plentiful and Austin almost went broke.

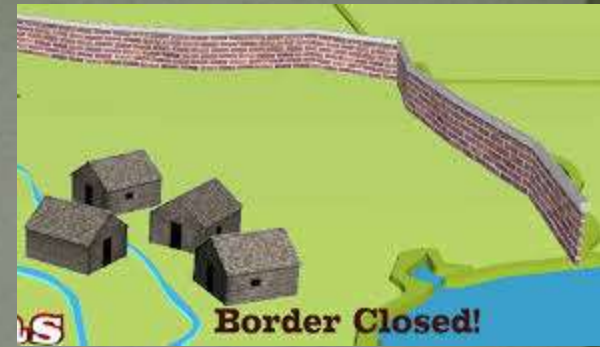
- But by 1830, his colony was thriving and Texas had about 20,000 residents, including squatters who just claimed land and moved in without permission or payment.

- Many of the later settlers refused to become Catholic, or follow the Mexican laws and this angered the Mexican government.



- By 1830 Americans far outnumbered Mexicans in Texas by about 10 to 1.

- In 1830, Mexico closed the border and forbid the immigration of any more Americans into Mexico.
- They also taxed all American goods entering Texas.
- Mexico began to strictly enforce Mexican laws, banned any religion except Roman Catholic, passed high taxes and limited and eventually banned slavery.
 - The one that bothered the settlers most was the ban on slavery. How could they achieve their dreams of owning a plantation without slaves.
- These policies enraged Texans
- The Texans formed the War Party and they were ready to fight to keep slavery and their land.



- Austin tried to use diplomacy and went to Mexico City to try to negotiate over the taxes and slaves.



- Unfortunately, he wrote some letters telling the Texans to be ready to declare independence if things didn't go well and some of his letters got back to the Mexican government.
- Austin was arrested and thrown in jail for a year and a half.
- It was a big mistake as he was the one person who might have kept the Texans from rebelling.
- After spending all that time in jail however, he was more than ready to fight the Mexican government for Texas



- In 1832, Mexico gained a new President, General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna.
- In 1833 President Santa Anna agreed to remove the ban on American Settlers, but refused to change Texas's political status.
- Santa Anna then became a dictator and overthrew Mexico's constitution.
- In 1835, Santa Anna took all rights away from the Texans.



- Also In October 1835, Texans drove back Mexican troops in Gonzales when they tried to take a cannon held by the Texans.
- In December 1835, Texans liberated the town of San Antonio from Mexican forces.



- Santa Ana, furious over the loss of San Antonio, marched north, reaching San Antonio in February 1836.
- A small force of Texans was barricaded inside the Alamo, a nearby mission.
- Jim Bowie was sent to destroy the Alamo so it couldn't be used to take back San Antonio but instead he tried to hold it.
- Santa Anna demanded they surrender and the American's opened fire.



- For 13 days Santa Anna's army bombarded the walls of the Alamo.
- When the walls of the Alamo were finally breached Santa Anna ordered every remaining Texan killed.
- On March 2, 1836, Texans met at Washington on the Brazos and declared their independence and established the Republic of Texas.



- Santa Anna then tried to take Goliad
- Sam Houston ordered a Texan retreat from the town but the men were overwhelmed by the Mexican troops and forced to surrender.
- The captured Texans were marched to Santa Anna who ordered them marched out of the city and shot.
- Santa Anna hoped the defeat at the Alamo and Goliad would crush the morale of the Texans and stop the revolution but it had just the opposite effect.
- The Texans used the defeats as a rallying cry as they went into battle “Remember the Alamo”, “Remember Goliad”. These cries encouraged the Texans to fight even harder.



Remember the Alamo

Remember Goliad!



- On April 21, 1836, Sam Houston organized his troops to attack Santa Anna who was with his troops in San Jacinto.
- The battle lasted 18 minutes with 600 Mexicans killed and 700 captured.
- Santa Anna was captured and forced to sign a treaty granting Texas its independence.
- The Republic of Texas still had problems:
 - Mexico did not accept Santa Anna's treaty and renounced it as illegal .
 - Texas was nearly bankrupt.



- Most Texans wanted the US to annex (add on or take control of) Texas to the Union.
- Most US southerners wanted Texas to be annexed, but most northerners did NOT want to add another pro-slavery state to the Union.
- President Andrew Jackson wanted to avoid war with Mexico so he decided not to annex Texas.
- The victory over Mexico by the Texans only gave them a small chunk of Mexican land. The vast majority of the southwest was still owned by Mexico.

