

The Last Conquistadors and the Arrival of the French

Voices of Texas History *Foundations*

Name:

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Primary Source Set I: De Soto's and Moscoso's Expedition

Hernando de Soto's expedition was documented by "the Gentleman of Elvas," who was most likely a Spaniard named Alvaro Fernandez. Fernandez wrote about the journey, the land they explored, and the American Indians they encountered from Florida to Texas and back.

Excerpt 1 Context: De Soto, and other conquistadors, often took American Indians captive along their expeditions as guides through the land. The first two excerpts are about one of the guides, who was often simply called "the youth." He guided them through the Carolinas.

<p><i>"[De Soto] menaced the youth, motioning that he would throw him to the dogs for having lied to him in saying that it was four days' journey, whereas they had travelled nine...The youth declared that he knew not where he was. Fortunately for him, at the time, there was not another whom Juan Ortiz understood, or he would have been cast to the dogs."</i></p>	<p>According to the excerpt, how would you characterize De Soto's treatment of the guide they called "the youth?"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. De Soto's treatment of "the youth" appears threatening and harsh.b. De Soto's treatment of "the youth" appears forgiving and accepting.c. De Soto's treatment of the "the youth" appears understanding and kind.
<p><i>"[The youth] wished to become a Christian, and asked to be baptized, which was done, he receiving the name Pedro; and [De Soto] commanded the chain to be struck off that he had carried until then."</i></p>	<p>What was the result when the guide asked to be baptized?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. The Spanish punished him.b. The Spanish removed his chains.c. The Spanish let him return home.d. The Spanish killed him.

Excerpt 2 Context: After Moscoso took over the expedition, he and his men entered Texas in a region inhabited by the Caddo. A violent conflict broke out between some Naguatex Caddo and the Spaniards. The Spaniards outnumbered the Caddo, defeated the small group, and even took one man captive, cutting off his nose and arm to send to the Caddo leader. The following day, the leader of the Naguatex arrived with a message as recorded by Alvaro Fernandez. An excerpt of the message is below.

<p><i>"I believe that you and yours must be immortal; that you are the master of the things of nature; since you subject them all, and they obey you, even the very hearts of men. Witnessing the slaughter and destruction of my men in battle, which came of my ignorance and the counsel of a brother of mine who fell in the action, from my heart did I repent the error that I committed."</i></p>	<p>What does the Naguatex leader seem to be saying in this excerpt?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. He is condemning the Spanish treatment of his people.b. He is threatening to attack Moscoso again.c. He is welcoming Moscoso to visit his community.d. He is apologizing for the fight and saying he made a mistake.
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Primary Source Set II: La Salle's Expedition

By the time the French explorer La Salle arrived in Texas, the Spanish had been exploring the region for nearly 150 years. The arrival of this new group of Europeans brought with it new goals, and new interactions with the Indigenous people. The excerpt below was written by a priest named Father Anastasius Douay who traveled with La Salle. He wrote here about the Kironas people somewhere in East Texas.

<p><i>"Here we were agreeably surprised to find a party of Indians come out to meet us with ears of corn in their hands and a polished, honest air. They embraced us, inviting us most pressingly to go and visit their villages. The Sieur de la Salle, seeing their sincerity, agreed."</i></p> <p><i>"Among other things, these Indians told us that they knew whites toward the west, a cruel wicked nation, who depopulated the country around them. (These were the Spaniards.)"</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. How would you characterize the initial meeting between La Salle and this tribe of American Indians?<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. It was hostile and angryb. It was welcoming and positivec. It was cold and cautiousd. All answers are correct 2. How did the American Indians describe the Spanish in general?<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. In a negative mannerb. In a positive mannerc. In a neutral manner
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*"We told them that we were at war with that people. When the news of this spread through the village, called that of the Kironas, **all vied with each other in welcoming us, pressing us to stay and go to war with the Spaniards of Mexico.**"*

*"We put them off with fair words, **and made a strict alliance with them, promising to return with more numerous troops.** Then after many feasts and presents, they carried us over the river in periaguas [dug-out canoes]."*

3. When La Salle tells the Kironas that the Spanish are his enemies, how do they respond?
 - a. They seem angry to learn that the French don't like the Spanish.
 - b. They seem happy to know that La Salle does not work with the Spanish
 - c. They hope La Salle can make an alliance with the Spanish
4. What do you think the author means when he says they "made a strict alliance with them?"
 - a. They promise to establish trade
 - b. They are forming a partnership
 - c. They refuse to work together in the future.
 - d. ~~They plan to go to war against each other.~~

Writing Activity: Choose from the multiple-choice options available to complete each statement about the excerpts above.

1. According to the excerpt from De Soto, it appears that in some cases the Spanish treatment of American Indians was **(A)** positive **(B)** negative **(C)** neutral.
2. Evidence from that supports my conclusion in the previous question is the quote,
 - a. *"...having lied to him in saying that it was four days' journey, whereas they had travelled nine"*
 - b. *"The youth declared that he knew not where he was."*
 - c. *"[The youth] wished to become a Christian, and asked to be baptized"*
 - d. *"[De Soto] menaced the youth, motioning that he would throw him to the dogs for having lied to him"*
3. According to La Salle, some American Indians felt that the Spanish were **(A)** mean and violent **(B)** peaceful and friendly **(C)** wealthy and inspiring.
4. **Finish the sentence stem:** While the Spanish appeared very _____ toward the American Indians, the French appeared to be more _____ toward them, according to the passages.