

Empresario Extension Activity *Foundations*

Unit 4: The Mexican National Era

Name:

Date:

Period:

Picture it:

It's 1829 in Texas. Stephen F. Austin has hired you to help him review some new applications from people hoping to settle in his colony. He has made a list to help you understand all the criteria set by him, by the state of Coahuila y Tejas, and by the Mexican government.

1. **Applicants should be of good moral character.** We want people who are honest and hard-working. We don't want people who lie, steal, cheat, gamble, or drink too much. We'd prefer not to have any debtors. It's important that applicants prove this through their own writing as well as through the writing of a letter of reference.
2. **Applicants should have a useful job that can benefit the community and economy of Texas.** Cotton farming is not a requirement, but that particular profession is sure to make Texas economically successful!
3. According to Article 13 of the Coahuila y Tejas state constitution, **slavery is now ILLEGAL** throughout our state. Bringing enslaved people into the state is prohibited.
** Contract workers brought from the United States are allowed per Decree 56 **
4. Applicants need to have enough money to pay the surveying fees for their land (approximately \$500. **This can be paid over time in cash, items like livestock or equipment, or signing over a portion of their land to Mr. Austin.**)
5. **Applicants will become citizens of Mexico.** Applicants will swear an oath to Mexico and promise to uphold the laws of Mexico. Anglo-American applicants will give up their U.S. citizenship when they settle in Texas.
6. **Applicants will support Mexican culture:** Anglo colonists must learn the Spanish language and become Catholic – the official religion of Mexico. **Note from Austin: Mexico will likely not be checking on each settler's religion.*

Directions: Choose any 3 of the 6 applications to review. Record your observations below.

Name of Applicant			
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Requirement	Yes	No	Unsure
Good Moral Character			
Useful Job			
Will follow slave laws			
Able to cover fees			
Mexican Citizenship			
Mexican Culture			

Circle your recommendation for this applicant. Explain your decision in the space below.

Accept	Deny	Accept with Conditions
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Name of Applicant			
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Requirement	Yes	No	Unsure
Good Moral Character			
Useful Job			
Will follow slave laws			
Able to cover fees			
Mexican Citizenship			
Mexican Culture			

Circle your recommendation for this applicant. Explain your decision in the space below.

Accept	Deny	Accept with Conditions
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Name of Applicant			
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Requirement	Yes	No	Unsure
Good Moral Character			
Useful Job			
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Circle your recommendation for this applicant. Explain your decision in the space below.

Accept	Deny	Accept with Conditions
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