**Empresario Extension Activity *Grade Level***

*Unit 4: The Mexican National Era*

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| 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. Applicants should be
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 4 of the 6 applications to review. Record your observations below.

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| Name of Applicant |  |

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| Requirement | Yes | No | Unsure | Additional Notes if Necessary |
| Good Moral Character |  |  |  |  |
| Useful Job |  |  |  |  |
| Will follow slave laws |  |  |  |  |
| Able to cover fees |  |  |  |  |
| Mexican Citizenship |  |  |  |  |
| Mexican Culture |  |  |  |  |

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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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| Explain your decision. |

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| --- | --- |
| Name of Applicant |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Requirement | Yes | No | Unsure | Additional Notes if Necessary |
| Good Moral Character |  |  |  |  |
| Useful Job |  |  |  |  |
| Will follow slave laws |  |  |  |  |
| Able to cover fees |  |  |  |  |
| Mexican Citizenship |  |  |  |  |
| Mexican Culture |  |  |  |  |

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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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| Explain your decision. |

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| --- | --- |
| Name of Applicant |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Requirement | Yes | No | Unsure | Additional Notes if Necessary |
| Good Moral Character |  |  |  |  |
| Useful Job |  |  |  |  |
| Will follow slave laws |  |  |  |  |
| Able to cover fees |  |  |  |  |
| Mexican Citizenship |  |  |  |  |
| Mexican Culture |  |  |  |  |

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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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| Explain your decision. |

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| Name of Applicant |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Requirement | Yes | No | Unsure | Additional Notes if Necessary |
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| Mexican Citizenship |  |  |  |  |
| Mexican Culture |  |  |  |  |

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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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| Explain your decision. |