

Answer Key: What's the story?

Warm-up

Responses may vary. The following can be used as a guideline.

What do you think could have CAUSED the event?	Event	What could a possible EFFECT of the event be?
Spain had never provided enough support to settlements in Texas, and the War for Mexican Independence destroyed the Texas economy and decreased the already small Tejano population.	Spain, and later Mexico, opened Texas to immigration from Anglo-Americans from the United States.	Anglo-American immigrants move to Texas for cheap land and to take part in plantation agriculture growing cotton. Students may speculate on the outcome of this.
Answers will be similar to the reasons in the above cause as to why Texas was underpopulated.	Under Mexico's constitution, Texas didn't have enough people to become its own state in Mexico.	Texans could be dissatisfied over their limited representation in the state congress.
Some of the Anglos who immigrated to Texas might not have wanted Texas to be part of Mexico.	A small group of American immigrants in Texas tried to claim that the land they settled on in Texas was free from Mexico.	This will likely cause great concern in the Mexican government over having Anglo immigrants in Texas.

Lesson

How students record the following information may vary if they paraphrase. The responses below are taken specifically from the available options in the Foundations work and should act as a general guide for Advanced and Grade Level work.

1. The Economy and the Cotton Revolution
 - a. When: 1819 Financial Crisis
 - b. What happened: (A) Many American cotton farmers couldn't afford land in the U.S.A. (C) Spanish Texas was underpopulated and had a weak economy.
 - c. Significance: Cotton could provide a solution to Tejano and Anglo struggles.

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2. The Empresario System and the Old 300

- a. When: 1821 Stephen F. Austin settled first Anglo immigrants in Texas
- b. What happened: (A) Moses Austin proposed Anglo-American immigration to Texas (C) Stephen F. Austin settled the “Old 300” in Texas with Tejano support.
- c. Significance: Tejanos and Anglos worked together to bring Anglo cotton farmers to Texas

3. Political Challenges in Texas

- a. When: 1827 The State Constitution of Coahuila y Tejas was passed
- b. What happened: (A) Texas was joined with the state of Coahuila because the people of Texas didn’t want their own government. (B) Distance and less representation were challenges for Tejano and Anglo representatives in the state government.
- c. Significance: Texas’ weak position in its state government meant Anglos and Tejanos had little control over what happened in the state.

4. Trouble in Texas: The Fredonian Rebellion

- a. When: Dec. 1826 – Jan. 1827
- b. What happened: (A) Some Anglos in east Texas led a rebellion against the Mexican government. (C) Stephen F. Austin helped Mexico end the Fredonian Rebellion.
- c. Significance: The Fredonian Rebellion caused the Mexican government to grow concerned about Anglo immigrants in Texas.

5. The Mier y Terán Report

- a. When: 1828 Mier y Terán Report, 1830 Law of April 6, 1830
- b. What happened: (A) Mier y Terán’s report on Anglos in Texas greatly worried the Mexican government. (B) Mexico passed a law restricting Anglo immigration based on Teran’s report.
- c. Significance: In response to the perceived threat of Anglos in Texas, Mexico passed restrictions on Anglo immigration.

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6. Growing Challenges to the Empresario System
 - a. When: 1834 Stephen F. Austin arrested
 - b. What happened: (A) Issues grew in Texas, including the arrest of Stephen F. Austin for treason. (C) Texas Anglos were angry with the centralist takeover and wanted to join the civil war.
 - c. Significance: Tension continued to grow in Texas over restrictions on Anglo immigration and the national conflict between centralists and federalists.
7. Political Challenges in Mexico
 - a. When: 1835 Centralists took over the Federalist government.
 - b. What happened: (A) Mexico faced many economic and political challenges which led to instability. (C) Antonio López de Santa Anna switched from federalist to centralist and took over the government in 1835.
 - c. Significance: Mexico continued to face many challenges leading to a centralist takeover of government that caused a civil war.

Significance of the Mexican National Era

Note: Students are directed to identify and explain between three to five significant events of the era on the Grade Level and Advanced work. Foundations work provides options to choose from. The responses included here are from the Foundations work. Grade Level and Advanced work may vary in the events they choose to explain.

- Mexico became a Federal Republic but was later taken over by Centralists including Santa Anna.
- Texas was joined with the more populated state of Coahuila, causing Texas to have less power in its state government.
- An Anglo rebellion in East Texas caused Mexico to investigate empresarios there and then pass laws to restrict Anglo-American colonization in Texas.
- Moses Austin settled the first 300 families in Texas, with the help and support of the Tejano leadership in the state. These families were known as the “Old 300.”

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Part II: Questions

1. The Tejano motivations for supporting Anglo immigration to Texas were to increase the population and improve the economy of the state. The Anglo motivations for supporting immigration to Texas were to have their own opportunities for cheap land in plantation agriculture growing cotton.
2. Tejanos and Anglos had less power in their state government because it was combined with the more populated state of Coahuila; The country was divided politically between Centralists and Federalists who were often in conflict for control of the government.
3. Some challenges that faced the Empresario System in Texas were that not all Anglo-empresarios followed the laws established by the Mexican government; the people of Texas had little power over their own state government because of the small population of Texas and the fact that it was joined with the much larger Coahuila; the Fredonian Rebellion caused the Mexican government to become very concerned about Anglos in Texas, and the Mier y Terán Report alerted Mexico to the fact that many Anglos were breaking the laws; The Laws of April 30, 1860 placed significant restrictions on Anglo immigration.

Student predictions about how these issues might be overcome will vary.

Exit Ticket

1. D