

How do we know what we know? *Foundations*

Unit 3: The Spanish Colonial Era

Name:

Date:

Period:

Part I: Reading Guide & Introductory Passage

Pre-Reading Response	Post-Reading Response	Statement <i>Before you read the passage, read each statement and predict the correct answer. After you read, return to this chart to record the correct answer.</i>
T / F	T / F	1. Spain's primary goal for the Mission Presidio System was to settle the majority of its population in Texas.
T / F	T / F	2. Texas Indians had their own plans for missions that did not follow the Spanish goals.
T / F	T / F	3. There are many primary sources available to help us understand what happened at the Spanish missions.

The Spanish began establishing **missions** and **presidios** in Texas in the 1690s after they learned of the arrival of Robert La Salle. They hoped that having more Spanish settlers in Texas would discourage the French from moving into the area. They also wanted Texas Indians to **assimilate** into Spanish culture by giving up their Indigenous lifestyles and becoming like the Spanish.

From the very beginning, however, the missions and presidios faced a number of problems. The Spanish government typically did not provide them with the people, support, or supplies they needed to be successful. Additionally, Texas Indians were not interested in becoming Spanish. This often led to conflict between the Spaniards and Indians in Texas. This was especially evident at a mission called **San Sabá**.

How do we know what we know about the San Sabá mission? There are surviving **eyewitness accounts, official interviews, journal entries, and letters to the Spanish government** discussing what happened there on March 16, 1758. Sources like these exist for many different missions that operated throughout Texas in the 1700s. Today, we are able to use these primary source accounts to get an idea of what life was like at the Spanish missions of Texas.

Part II: Primary Source Activity

Directions: Use the excerpts to answer the accompanying questions.

Excerpt 1: A letter from Father Terreros to the Viceroy of New Spain dated February 13, 1758.

[The Apache] continue their good cooperation, but their promises of submission are sometimes pretexts for delay, some alleging illnesses and disagreements among them, while others in their perplexity make frivolous proposals and lack the unity to settle in the towns. But it is true that some evidences of particular friendliness continue to indicate favorable response to our efforts.

1. What is the best summary of the Apache actions, according to the author?
 - a. The Apache are eager to move into the San Sabá mission to assimilate into Spanish culture.
 - b. The Apache are friendly with the Spanish, but they give excuses for why they can't take part in the mission.
 - c. The Apache are hostile and aggressive to the Spanish.
 - d. ~~All answers are correct.~~

Excerpt 2: A letter from Don Toribio de Urrutia, the military leader of a presidio in San Antonio, approximately 125 miles from San Sabá to the Governor of Coahuila y Tejas, dated March 20, 1758.

Your Worship is hereby apprised of a letter, dated the sixteenth of the current month of March, from Colonel Don Diego Ortiz Parrilla, informing me that he is under attack by more than 2,000 Comanche Indians and other allied nations, all equipped with firearms. At the same time they attacked the Mission that is in his charge. He believes it to have been demolished and all the religious and other inhabitants killed, for it was impossible for the said Colonel to supply sufficient reinforcements.

1. **T / F** The Apache were abandoning the mission to make alliances with the Comanche.
2. **T / F** The Comanche had help from other Texas Indian tribes.
3. **T / F** Most of the people at the mission were probably killed
4. **T / F** The soldiers at the presidio were able to successfully defend the mission.

Excerpt 3: Excerpts from the official interview of Joseph Gutierrez, a 22-year-old Spanish shepherd living near San Sabá at the time of the conflict.

[Gutierrez] was then asked his reason for hurrying to this Presidio on the morning of the sixteenth of this current month of March. He replied that he was ordered to do so by the steward of the Mission for the purpose of warning me that a large and increasing number of Indians had surrounded the place since sunrise.

He further testified that he heard many of them say that they had come with the intention of killing the Apaches. Many of the Indian chieftains, he said, talked with the Reverend Fathers and with some of the soldiers. The Reverend Father President gave them presents of bundles of tobacco and other things. The Indians then said that they did not want to fight the Spaniards, but were looking for the Apaches.

Gutierrez was asked what kind of weapons they had. He replied: French firearms, bullet pouches, and very large powder horns. Others had pikes, and still others, bows and arrows; but most of them had muskets and cutlasses, and all wore the costumes that the Indians wear for wars and raids.

1. Gutierrez said that he went to the presidio because
 - a. Someone at the mission told him to go warn the soldiers.
 - b. He was a soldier stationed there, reporting for duty.
 - c. He was escaping the violence at the mission.
 - d. All answers are correct.

2. According to Gutierrez, why did the Comanche and their allies come the mission?
 - a. To take part in mission life.
 - b. To form an alliance with the Apache.
 - c. To trade horses and other supplies.
 - d. To kill the Apache.

3. Gutierrez described the Comanche's clothes and items they brought in his testimony. Based on his information, what can you infer about the Comanche's intentions at San Sabá?

Finish the sentence stem below to record your response:

I think the Comanche may have intended to

Part III: Analyze and Infer

1. Consider the author of each source we examined in the lesson. Whose point of view is missing from the narrative?
 - a. Spanish settlers around the mission are not included in the narrative.
 - ~~b. The Spanish military at the presidio is not included in the narrative.~~
 - c. The religious leaders at the Spanish mission are not included in the narrative.
 - d. The American Indian point of view is not included in the narrative.
2. Based on what we have learned about primary source materials in Texas history, why do you think the point of view in question number one is missing from the narrative?

I think the (a) **Spanish settlers'** (b) **Spanish military's** (c) **religious leaders'**
(d) **American Indian** point of view is missing from the narrative because _____

3. We read in the introduction that many Texas Indians had their own goals related to the missions. According to the passages, the Apache seemed to want a friendly relationship with the missions, though they didn't want to take part in mission life. What do you think their goals might have been in this case based on the information in the excerpts?
 - ~~a. The Apache probably wanted to build a strong trade relationship with the missions and presidios.~~
 - b. The Apache probably wanted a relationship with the presidios in particular to help protect them against their Comanche enemies.
 - c. The Apache probably wanted to take part in mission life while still maintaining their own culture and way of life.
 - d. The Apache probably wanted to trick the Spanish into a false alliance so they could attack the Spanish later.