

Paths to Texas

Trace how explorers' actions shaped later settlement.

4.2.B "identify the accomplishments and explain the impact of significant explorers, including Cabeza de Vaca; Francisco Coronado; and René Robert Cavelier, Sieur de la Salle, on the settlement of Texas;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each explorer's accomplishment. Circle the words that explain how that accomplishment affected later settlement in Texas, then draw a line between each underlined idea and its circled impact.

Explorers and Settlement

- ① In 1528, Álvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca was shipwrecked near the Texas coast with other Spaniards. For about eight years, he traveled on foot through parts of present-day Texas and beyond. He learned about the land and Native peoples, then told Spanish leaders what he had seen. His reports made Spain more interested in the region. That interest helped lead to later Spanish journeys and, over time, efforts to settle and control Texas.
- ② In 1541, Francisco Coronado led a large Spanish expedition across the Texas Panhandle while searching for wealthy cities. The expedition did not find the gold it expected and did not build a permanent town. Still, Coronado's travels added to Spain's knowledge of northern Texas and supported Spain's claim to the area. This claim later gave Spain a reason to send settlers, soldiers, and missionaries into Texas.
- ③ More than forty years later, René Robert Cavelier, Sieur de la Salle, led a French colony to the Texas coast. In 1685, colonists built Fort St. Louis near Matagorda Bay. The colony struggled with disease, shortages, and conflict, and it ended after a few years. Even though it failed, the French settlement alarmed Spain. Spain responded by sending expeditions and building missions and presidios, or forts, in East Texas to defend its claim.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What did Cabeza de Vaca report to Spanish leaders? What did his reports help lead to in Texas?

2 What did Coronado's expedition not build? How did Coronado's travels later support settlement in Texas?

3 Why did La Salle's failed French colony affect Spanish settlement in Texas? Name two kinds of places Spain built in response.

4 How were Coronado's and La Salle's impacts on Texas settlement different?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write three sentences that explain one accomplishment and one settlement impact for each explorer. Use the names Cabeza de Vaca, Coronado, and La Salle.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each explorer's accomplishment. Circle the words that explain how that accomplishment affected later settlement in Texas, then draw a line between each underlined idea and its circled impact. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What did Cabeza de Vaca report to Spanish leaders? What did his reports help lead to in Texas?	He reported what he had seen about the land and Native peoples. His reports helped lead to later Spanish journeys and, over time, efforts to settle and control Texas.
2	What did Coronado's expedition not build? How did Coronado's travels later support settlement in Texas?	The expedition did not build a permanent town. Its travels added to Spain's knowledge and supported Spain's claim, giving Spain a reason to send settlers, soldiers, and missionaries.
3	Why did La Salle's failed French colony affect Spanish settlement in Texas? Name two kinds of places Spain built in response.	The French settlement alarmed Spain and threatened its claim. Spain built missions and presidios, or forts, in East Texas.
4	How were Coronado's and La Salle's impacts on Texas settlement different?	Coronado's travels gave Spain knowledge and supported its claim, which later encouraged settlement. La Salle's colony directly alarmed Spain, causing Spain to send expeditions and build missions and presidios.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Cabeza de Vaca traveled through Texas and reported what he learned, helping lead to later Spanish settlement efforts. Coronado explored northern Texas, and Spain later used its claim to send settlers, soldiers, and missionaries. La Salle built Fort St. Louis, and Spain answered the French threat by building missions and presidios in East Texas.

Accept accurate cause-and-effect explanations that connect each explorer's accomplishment to later settlement actions. Students may describe presidios as Spanish forts and may state that Cabeza de Vaca's impact was indirect and happened over time.