

Colonies Take Root

How empresarios helped settle Texas

4.2.E “identify the accomplishments and explain the economic motivations and impact of significant empresarios, including Stephen F. Austin and Martín de León, on the settlement of Texas.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each empresario accomplishment, circle each economic reason, and number the sentences that explain how settlement changed in Texas.

Business, Land, and New Communities

- ① In the early 1800s, Mexico wanted people to settle Texas. The government gave empresario contracts to people who could bring families to the region. An empresario helped families receive land, organize new towns, and follow Mexican laws. In return, empresarios hoped to gain land, fees, business chances, or stronger ranches. Their work brought more settlers, farms, ranches, and trade to Texas.
- ② Stephen F. Austin took over his father's plan after his father died and received permission from Mexican officials to settle families in Texas. In 1821, Austin led the first of 300 approved families into his colony. He helped them find land and set up communities near the Brazos and Colorado Rivers. Austin expected his colony to grow, which could bring land and business opportunities. His colony increased settlement in Texas.
- ③ Martín de León was a Mexican rancher and empresario. In 1824, he founded the town of Victoria and brought families to his colony near the Guadalupe River. He wanted his ranching and trade businesses to grow, and a settled community could help them grow. The colony added homes, farms, ranches, and trade in south Texas. Austin and de León each helped turn sparsely settled land into communities.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Why did Mexico offer empresario contracts, and what did empresarios hope to gain?

2 What was one accomplishment of Stephen F. Austin? Explain how it affected settlement in Texas.

3 What economic reason did Martín de León have for building a settled community?

4 How did the colonies of Austin and de León have a similar impact on Texas?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a three-sentence museum label about Austin and de León. In sentence 1, name one accomplishment for each man. In sentence 2, compare their economic reasons. In sentence 3, explain their shared impact on Texas.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each empresario accomplishment, circle each economic reason, and number the sentences that explain how settlement changed in Texas. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why did Mexico offer empresario contracts, and what did empresarios hope to gain?	Mexico wanted people to settle Texas. Empresarios hoped to gain land, fees, business chances, or stronger ranches.
2	What was one accomplishment of Stephen F. Austin? Explain how it affected settlement in Texas.	Austin led the first of 300 approved families into his colony and helped them form communities. His colony increased settlement in Texas.
3	What economic reason did Martín de León have for building a settled community?	He wanted his ranching and trade businesses to grow. A settled community could help those businesses grow.
4	How did the colonies of Austin and de León have a similar impact on Texas?	Both brought families and helped turn sparsely settled land into communities. They added settlers, farms, ranches, and trade.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Stephen F. Austin led 300 approved families into his colony, and Martín de León founded Victoria. Austin sought land and business opportunities, while de León wanted his ranching and trade businesses to grow. Both empresarios helped bring settlers and build communities, farms, ranches, and trade in Texas.

Accept equivalent details from the passage that correctly connect an accomplishment or economic motivation to settlement. For the museum label, accept clear three-sentence responses that address both empresarios and their shared impact.