

Unit: Western Expansion
Lesson #7 Southwestern
Footholds

Essential Questions:

- What reasons did America have for colonizing the Spanish/Mexican land of Texas?
- What agricultural and/or environmental reasons did the author put forward?

Sourcing--

Have a student on the overhead display the following:

- Circle who wrote the ordinance...
- Underline twice when the document was written
- Put a box around the area that gives a general purpose for **why** the document was written

Contextualization—

Read Moses Austin: A Man of A Mission

Discuss the following questions:

- How was Moses Austin successful in expansion before Texas?
- What did Austin gain from the land in Spanish Missouri?
- What do you think Austin feels he stands to gain in Texas?

Comprehension—

Create an advertisement that is trying to bring people in to be one of the first 300 hundred families in the new colony in Texas...use the reasons in the application that Moses gives for wanted to inhabit the land.

Corroboration—

Brownsville Uprising of Juan Cortina, 1859

Address of the Honorable S. F. Austin,
Delivered at Louisville,
Kentucky, March 7, 1836

Declaration of the People of Texas, 1835

Moses Austin's Application for Colonization
December 26, 1820

Political Boss Moses Austin, from the province of Connecticut in the United States of America and resident in that of the Missouri with every respect says,

In regards to the Louisiana Territory, that was once a French nation and was left to the United States, as stated in the Louisiana Purchase, we take note that you may feel that some of the land belongs to you. We would like to live upon the without trying to take it over or separate from your interest or properties of your families that have lived there for centuries. Our hope is to savor the political constitution of Spain and get ourselves acquainted with the families already living there.

If you do not object to this request for permission to establish residence in this Province we hope to set up an appropriate understanding of the areas cotton, wheat, sugar, corn and other important agricultural items. If that is successful, we then will have a purpose to begin to work the land.

I plan to bring 300 families with me that have the same objective that I have set forth. They are voluntarily seeking this journey and want nothing more than to be a part of this established community.

Through this application, the families have compromised to bring credentials and testimonies certificates of their homelands. All or most are people of the United States and will continue to follow the rules of the United States President.

Spanish against Indians or adventures of other kinds of hostile agreements that call us to obey the laws and statues of our kind, we respectfully choose to stay out of. I reckon the just will be found with necessary means.

Moses Austin- A Man on a Mission

Colonization in Spanish Missouri and Texas

Westward Migration to Spanish Missouri

Moses Austin, a Connecticut-born lead mine operator in [Virginia](#), in 1796, found himself in a failing business situation when his lead mines played out. After hearing of other lead mine prospects to the west, and getting written permission from the Spanish Minister to the [United States](#) to investigate these lead mine prospects, he and his party of miners and [slaves](#) set out for [Missouri](#). Moses Austin was just past thirty and already a successful businessman when he migrated westward to [Missouri](#) at a time when this area was still a Spanish province. In [St. Louis](#), Missouri, Austin was granted from the Spanish Commandant a square league of land and the lead mines discovered at a place called Mine A Burton near St. Genevieve in January of 1797. He also received the right to settle thirty families there from the United States.

First Permanent Settlement in Washington County, Missouri

Moses Austin created the first permanent settlement in Washington County, Missouri. He erected smelting furnaces, and developed the lead deposits. He was now considered an excellent Spanish subject until Upper [Louisiana](#), of which Missouri was a part of, entered the United States in 1804. He then resumed his American citizenship and became one of the founders and principal stockholders of the Bank of St. Louis.

National Depression Ruins Business

Moses Austin's continuing success and fortune seemed assured, then came the first great national panic, or depression. By 1818 land values had drastically dropped. Banks everywhere were broke, including the Bank of St. Louis. Austin, now in his fifty-fourth year, was bankrupt but he was not willing to remain that way.

Austin Looks Towards Texas

What Austin now needed was new land on which to make a new beginning. After some long discussions with his son Stephen, Moses set out for [Texas](#). Eight hundred miles later, he entered San Antonio de Bexar. It was the fall of 1820.

Prior to Austin's arrival in Texas, General Arredondo, the Commandant of the eastern internal provinces, had ordered [Texas](#) governor Martinez not to let any Americans stay in Texas. The governor, upon learning that Austin was an American, refused to talk to him. That Austin had been a loyal Spanish subject previously made no difference. He was told to leave at once and to cross back over the Sabine River. If he stayed overnight in Bexar he would be arrested. Except for a surprising twist of fate, this could easily have been the beginning and the end of American colonization in Texas, at least for many years to come.

Austin Secures Spanish Land Grant in Texas

When Moses Austin crossed the plaza to his horse he happened to see an old friend. Felipe Enrique Neri, known in Texas as Baron de Bastrop, was a Hollander who had previously served in the Prussian army. Having migrated to [America](#), then to Texas from Louisiana, he was now a citizen of Spain. Austin and the Hollander had been friends in Louisiana. After agreeing to serve as Austin's agent, Bastrop, within a week, had obtained a petition requesting permission for Austin to settle three hundred families in Texas. On January 17, 1821, Moses' Texas land grant was secured.

Source:

Fehrenbach, T. R. *Lone Star: A History of Texas and the Texans*. Macmillan Publishing Company, New York, 1968.

Read more: http://americanhistory.suite101.com/article.cfm/moses_austin#ixzz0PzxKsVCX

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TEXAS ADVERTISEMENT:

