

Section

1

Spanish Settlements on the Frontier

Main Ideas

1. Spanish officials promoted the building of missions, presidios, towns, and ranches in the borderlands.
2. The Spanish established missions along the western Rio Grande during the 1680s.

Why It Matters Today

The crops that Spaniards and American Indians grew were important sources of food for the missions. Use current events sources to learn more about farming in Texas today.



TEKS: 1A, 2C, 2F, 8A, 10A, 19C, 21B, 21C, 22D

myNotebook

Use the annotation tools in your eBook to take notes on the types of settlements the Spanish built in Texas.

Key Terms

- missions
- presidios
- ranchos
- revolt

The Story Continues

Francis di Bernardone, an Italian knight from Assisi, fought his first battle when he was 20. Soon after, he became ill. As he lay sick in bed, he thought about the meaning of his life. When he recovered, he was a changed man. He gave up soldiering and devoted his life to religion. In 1209 he founded a religious group. Many of its members, called Franciscans, became missionaries. Some 400 years later, Franciscans came to Texas to convert American Indians to Catholicism.



The Mission-Presidio System

At first, the Spanish were the only Europeans settling in North America. But by the early 1600s other nations had founded settlements too. Royal officials wanted to protect New Spain's northern frontiers. Because few Spaniards lived in these borderlands, the Spanish sent missionaries there to establish **missions**, or religious communities. Alongside the missionaries, the Spanish sent soldiers and civilian settlers. The soldiers were to provide protection for their fellow Spaniards. The arrival of the first Spanish in Texas ushered in the Spanish colonial period.

Missions had two purposes. Primarily, they were intended to convert American Indians to Catholicism and teach them about the Spanish way of life. At the same time, missions helped create a Spanish presence in a territory. Some missions developed into larger settlements, increasing the Spanish occupation of the borderlands.

The Spanish built missions near rivers to ensure a good water supply. Each mission usually included a church, dormitories, workrooms, barns, fields, and gardens. The Spanish wanted local American Indians to live within the mission walls. With the support of Spanish civilians, missionaries could teach the Indians about Catholicism and farming. In time, many thought, the Indians would become Spanish citizens.

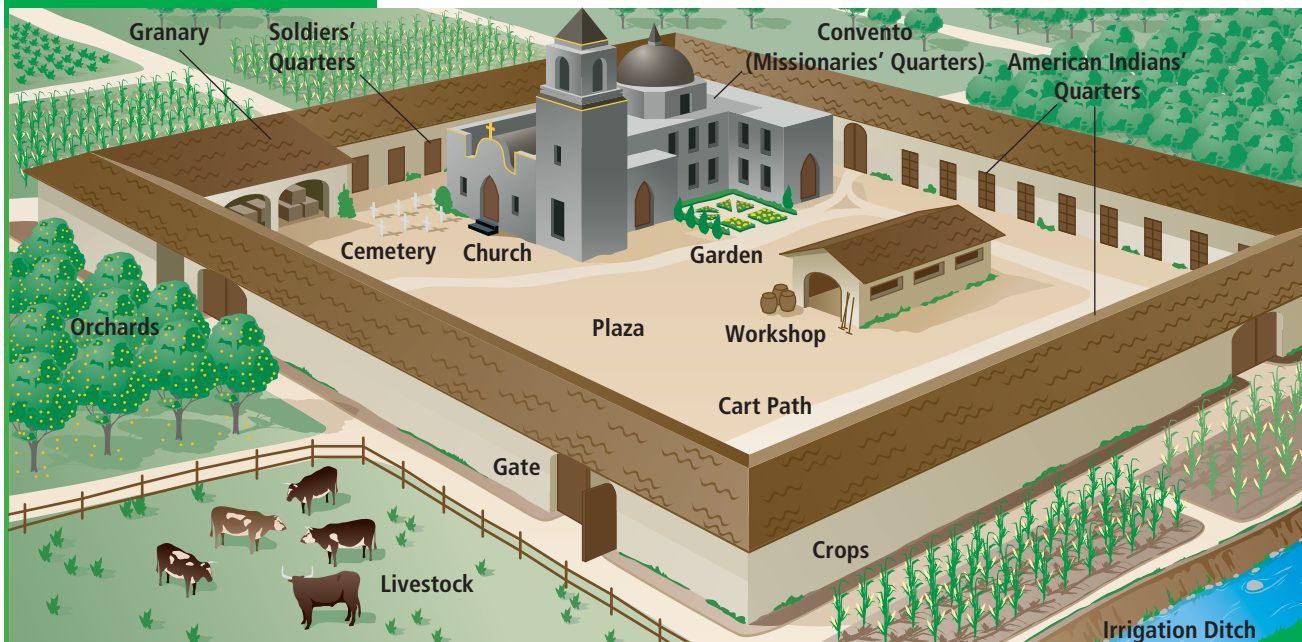
Many American Indians helped build and maintain the missions. But many other Indians did not want missions on their lands and opposed Spanish attempts to change their ways of life. To protect the missions from attack, the Spanish built **presidios**, or military bases, near the missions. Soldiers in these forts were generally responsible for protecting several missions. Many soldiers brought their families with them to presidios, which later became centers of settlement in Texas.

When civilians came to the borderlands, they built settlements near missions and presidios. Some of these settlements became small towns. Farmers and merchants in these towns provided products and services for the missions and presidios. Other Spaniards lived on **ranchos**, or ranches. Some ranchos belonged to missions, while others were privately owned. Over time, some of these ranches grew into small settlements, increasing the Spanish presence in the borderlands.

Reading Check Analyzing Information How did the Spanish try to establish control of Texas?

Life in a Spanish Mission

Spanish officials established missions to spread Catholicism and encourage settlement. Missionaries and American Indians built churches, grew crops, and created irrigation systems. This model shows a well-established mission after several years of settlement.



Visualizing History

1. Geography In what ways did early missions change the environment in parts of Texas?

2. Connecting to Today How can you see the influence of Spanish missions in Texas today?

Spanish Place Names

The evidence of early Spanish exploration and settlement in Texas can be seen today. Many names of Texas cities and rivers, such as Amarillo and the Rio Grande, are Spanish. In the 1600s various teams of Spanish explorers named the rivers they crossed as they headed to East Texas. Among them were the San Antonio and Guadalupe rivers, both named for religious figures. **How did many cities, rivers, and places acquire Spanish names?**

New Settlements along the Rio Grande

In the 1600s the Spanish settled along the upper Rio Grande in New Mexico. They built missions among the Pueblo Indians as well as ranches and towns, including Santa Fe, founded in 1610. Tensions arose when the Spanish tried to make the Pueblos grow food for them. In addition, missionaries attempted to stop the Pueblo from practicing their traditional religious beliefs. In 1680 a Pueblo spiritual leader named Popé (poh-PEH) led a **revolt**, or revolution, against the Spanish. This Pueblo Revolt forced the Spanish settlers out of northern New Mexico.

The Spanish survivors of the Pueblo Revolt fled south along the Rio Grande. Some 2,000 refugees settled at El Paso del Norte, which had been made a part of New Mexico. Included among these refugees were about 300 Pueblos who had sided with the Spanish. The governor of New Mexico decided to establish settlements for these new arrivals.

By 1684 five settlements had been established along the south bank of the Rio Grande. Among these settlements was Ysleta (ees-LEH-tah), established as a home for Tigua Indians. The settlement included a mission church and homes for both Spanish and Indian families. Ysleta was founded on the south bank of the Rio Grande, but flooding altered the river's course in the 1800s. This left Ysleta on the north bank, in what is now Texas. As a result, it is considered the oldest Hispanic settlement in the state.

In the midst of this activity, however, the Spanish received some shocking news. The French had entered the Gulf of Mexico—Spanish waters. The Spanish quickly focused their attentions on protecting their territory along the Gulf Coast.

Reading Check Finding the Main Idea Why did the Spanish build settlements along the Rio Grande?



Section 1 Review



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ONLINE QUIZ

1. Define and explain:

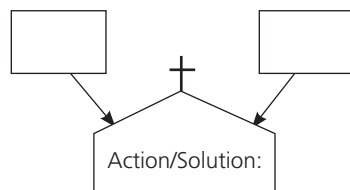
- missions
- presidios
- ranchos
- revolt

2. Locate on a Texas map:

- Ysleta

3. Identifying Cause and Effect

Copy the graphic organizer below. Use it to describe Spain's goals for the borderlands and how Spain tried to accomplish those goals.



4. Finding the Main Idea

- What types of settlements were in the borderlands? Why was each built?
- How is early Spanish influence still seen in West Texas?
- Based on the model, what were the parts of a mission?

5. Writing and Critical Thinking

myWriteSmart

Supporting a Point of View Write a letter to an official in Mexico City requesting a new presidio. Include reasons for your request. Consider the following:

- the functions of a presidio
- the Pueblo Revolt