

## Section

# 4

## The Expansion of Spanish Settlement

### Main Ideas

1. The Aguayo expedition reopened missions in East Texas.
2. José de Escandón helped settle the Rio Grande valley.
3. Missions in Central Texas were attacked by the Apaches.

### Why It Matters Today

In the 1600s several European nations had many colonies in the Americas. Use current events sources to learn more about these nations and their territories today.

### Key Terms and People

- Aguayo expedition
- Los Adaes
- La Bahía
- José de Escandón

## The Story Continues

In June 1719 a band of French soldiers surprised the two Spaniards at a mission near what is now Robeline, Louisiana. The French took supplies, including several chickens from the mission's henhouse. Pleased with the raid, the French lieutenant tied several chickens to his saddle. But the chickens scared his horse and it threw the lieutenant to the ground. In the confusion, one of the Spaniards ran off. He raced to a nearby mission and told the people there of the incident, which has become known as the Chicken War.



**TEKS:** 2C, 21A, 21B, 22D

### myNotebook

Use the annotation tools in your eBook to take notes on the expansion of Spanish settlement in the early to mid-1700s.



## The Aguayo Expedition

The Chicken War was an extension of a conflict between France and Spain in Europe. Although it was a minor incident, it had significant effects in Texas history. Fearing that the raid on the mission indicated the possibility of a large-scale French attack, the Spanish in the area decided to flee. Because of a small band of soldiers, the Spanish pulled out of East Texas entirely.

The Spanish did not stay gone for long, though. On orders from Spain, the viceroy of Mexico set out to retake and fortify the region. He sent the Marqués de San Miguel de Aguayo, the governor of Coahuila and Texas, to drive the French from the region and rebuild the missions. The **Aguayo expedition** set out in 1720.



## BIOGRAPHY

### José de Escandón

(1700–1770) José de Escandón was born in Spain but moved to Mexico at age 15. He joined the army and rose through the ranks to become a respected commander, known for his victories over hostile Indians. In 1747 he was sent to inspect the region around the mouth of the Rio Grande, an area later named Nuevo Santander. The next year he was named governor of Nuevo Santander and began to recruit colonists to move to the area. For his efforts in settling this area, Escandón has been called the father of the lower Rio Grande valley. **Why is José de Escandón called the father of the lower Rio Grande valley?**

By the time the expedition arrived in East Texas in 1721, the war between France and Spain had already ended. The few French troops remaining in Texas quickly agreed to withdraw to Louisiana. The well-equipped Spaniards quickly reoccupied the missions that had been abandoned. Aguayo also built a number of new missions nearby and new presidios to guard them.

Before the Aguayo expedition, East Texas had only two active missions and one presidio. By the time he left, it had 10 missions and four presidios. Among the presidios he founded were two that later played important roles in Texas. One was Nuestra Señora del Pilar de los Adaes. **Los Adaes** later served as the capital of Spanish Texas. The other was Nuestra Señora de Loreto de la Bahía del Espíritu Santo, or **La Bahía**. La Bahía, later known as Goliad, became one of the largest settlements in Texas.

The Aguayo expedition strengthened Spanish control of East Texas. As a result, the French never again threatened to take over the region.

**Reading Check Evaluating** Was the Aguayo expedition successful? Why or why not?



## New Settlements on the Rio Grande

The Aguayo expedition had secured East Texas for Spain. However, a long stretch of the Gulf Coast south of Texas remained inhabited only by American Indians. Spanish officials were concerned that an enemy—such as the French or English—could sail in and claim that territory. They needed a way to secure their hold on the land.

In 1746, the Spanish turned to a military officer named **José de Escandón** to solve their problem. Escandón thought that the best way to secure Spain's claim was to establish a colony in the region. His first action was to move La Bahía, which Aguayo had founded some 20 years earlier, to a new location. Now located on the San Antonio River, La Bahía thrived in its new setting. The population grew, and a ranching industry developed. The missionaries at La Bahía also improved Spain's relationship with the Karankawa Indians, who lived nearby.

Escandón also established a series of settlements along the Rio Grande. To lure colonists from other parts of Mexico to the region, he offered them free land. The first settlements, built in 1749, were successful, and more colonists moved to the area. As the population grew Escandón built more settlements farther south, away from the river. In all, he founded 24 settlements in just six years. Among them was Laredo, settled in 1755. He also built 15 missions and two mining camps. More than 6,000 people lived in Escandón's colonies. In comparison, the settlements of Texas all together had only 1,800 Spanish settlers.

**Reading Check Summarizing** How did José de Escandón contribute to the Spanish presence in Texas?

## ★ Clashes on the Frontier

Well north of Escandón's settlements, other Spaniards dreamed of establishing more missions. Eager missionaries hoped to convert the American Indians of the region to Catholicism. In addition, some Indian groups had asked to be taught Spanish culture. In the eyes of the missionaries, both sides would benefit from increased missionary work.

An early attempt to build a mission along the San Gabriel River failed due to squabbling and disease. However, the missionaries did not give up. When some Apache chiefs asked to be taught about Spanish life, a group of Franciscans seized the opportunity. In 1757, they built a mission called San Sabá. A presidio was built several miles away.

The Spanish had little success converting the Apaches, however. Many Apaches came to the mission, but they did not stay. They left to hunt and to raid their enemies. Then in March of 1758, some of those enemies decided to retaliate. They decided to attack the Apaches and their allies at San Sabá. About 2,000 enemies of the Apaches, including Comanches, Caddos, Tonkawas, and other groups, attacked. Many were armed with weapons they had gotten from the French. The attackers burned the mission, killing a number of people, including two of the three missionaries. A few weeks earlier, they had stolen many of the presidio's horses, leaving the soldiers there unable to ride to the mission's assistance. The Spanish later sent a counterattack against the Indians, but it failed to drive the Indians away.

The attack at San Sabá spelled the end of Spanish attempts to spread into Central Texas. Their missions and presidios were not sufficient to protect settlers from American Indians in the region. Even as areas to the south were flourishing under Spanish control, Texas remained largely empty of Spanish settlements.

**Reading Check Analyzing Information** What problems did the Central Texas missions face?



### Interpreting Visuals

**Presidios.** This presidio near modern Goliad protected the mission La Bahía. **What features might have helped this presidio protect the Spanish mission?**



## Section 4 Review



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ONLINE QUIZ

### 1. Identify and explain

the significance of each of the following in Texas history:

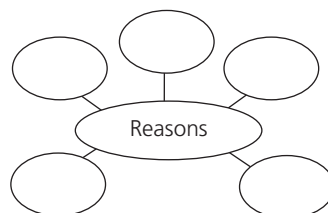
- Aguayo expedition
- Los Adaes
- La Bahía
- José de Escandón

### 2. Locate on a Texas map:

- Goliad (La Bahía)

### 3. Summarizing

Copy the graphic organizer below. Use it to identify reasons that Spanish settlements had limited success in Texas.



### 4. Finding the Main Idea

- How did the conflict between France and Spain affect Texas, and what role did the Aguayo expedition play?
- How successful were the missions in converting the Apaches and Comanches?

### 5. Writing and Critical Thinking

myWriteSmart

**Analyzing Information** Write two paragraphs identifying and describing some of the Texas missions and settlements founded after 1740. Consider the following:

- the missions along the San Gabriel River
- the settlements on the southern Rio Grande