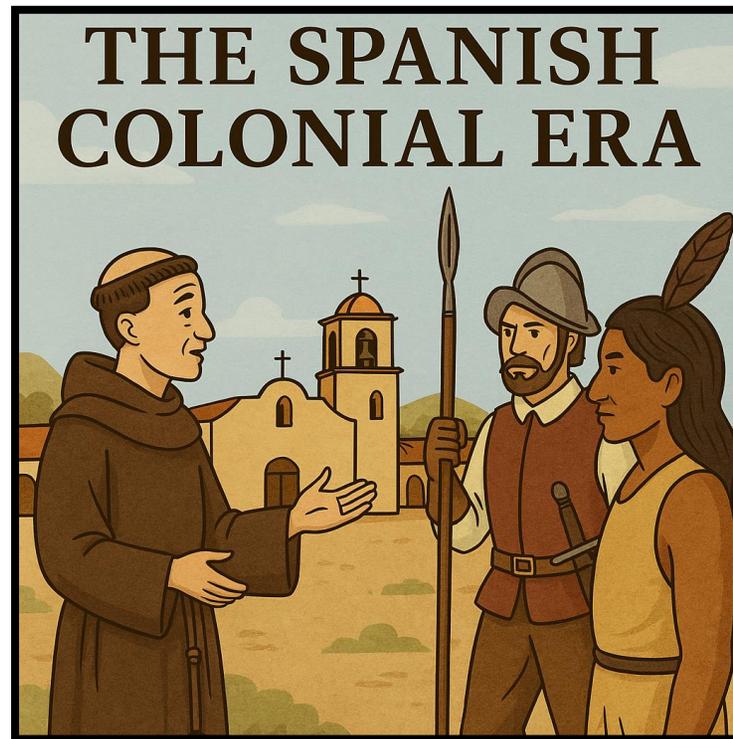


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## CONTENT STANDARDS

Below are the standards taught and assessed in this unit.

Exploration and Early Colonization		Connected Knowledge and Skills 7.1
<b>7.2 History.</b> The student understands how individuals, events, and issues through the Mexican National Era shaped the history of Texas.		
Readiness Standards	Supporting Standards	
7.1(A)^ identify the major eras in Texas history, describe their defining characteristics, and explain the purpose of dividing the past into eras, including ... Age of Contact; Spanish Colonial ...	7.1(B)^ explain the significance of the following dates: 1519, mapping of the Texas coast and first mainland Spanish settlement; 1718, founding of San Antonio ...	
7.8(C)^ analyze the effects of physical and human factors such as climate, weather, landforms, irrigation, transportation, and communication on major events in Texas	7.2(B) identify important individuals, events, and issues related to European exploration of Texas such as Alonso Álvarez de Pineda, Álvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca, the search for gold, and the conflicting territorial claims between France and Spain	
7.9(A)^ identify ways in which Texans have adapted to and modified the environment and explain the positive and negative consequences of the modifications	7.2(C) identify important individuals, events, and issues related to European colonization of Texas, including the establishment of Catholic missions, towns, and ranches, and the contributions of individuals such as Fray Damián Massanet, Antonio Margil de Jesús, and Francisco Hidalgo	
	7.18(C)^ identify examples of Spanish influence and the influence of other cultures on Texas such as place names, vocabulary, religion, architecture, food, and the arts	

## UNDERSTANDINGS AND QUESTIONS

Key Understandings
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Spain established the Mission-Presidio System to strengthen its control over Texas.</b> Spain sought to colonize Texas by converting American Indians to Catholicism and encouraging settlement through missions and presidios. These institutions served religious, military, and political purposes.</li><li><b>The mission system created complex relationships between Spanish colonists and American Indians.</b> While missions aimed to assimilate Native peoples into Spanish society, many American Indians resisted the cultural, religious, and economic changes imposed upon them, leading to cooperation in some areas and conflict in others.</li><li><b>Geography and environment played a key role in the success or failure of missions.</b> The placement of missions was influenced by natural resources, proximity to Indigenous populations, and strategic concerns. Environmental challenges, such as drought and disease, also shaped outcomes.</li><li><b>Tensions and threats from other nations weakened Spain's hold on Texas.</b> Spain faced challenges from France and later the United States, as well as internal threats from filibusters. These pressures, combined with limited resources, made it difficult to maintain control over the region.</li><li><b>The Spanish Colonial Era left a lasting legacy on Texas.</b> Spanish influence can still be seen today in Texas's place names, architecture, religion, food, and legal traditions. Many elements of modern Texas culture originated in this era of colonization.</li></ol>

## Key Questions

- ◆ **Why did Spain establish missions and presidios in Texas?**
  - ↳ Encourages students to explore Spain's religious, political, and territorial goals during colonization.
- ◆ **What challenges did Spanish missions face—and why did many of them fail?**
  - ↳ Promotes analysis of geographic, cultural, and political obstacles that limited the success of the Mission-Presidio System.
- ◆ **How did American Indians respond to life in the Spanish missions?**
  - ↳ Guides students to examine both cooperation and resistance, highlighting Indigenous agency and perspective.
- ◆ **What impact did the Spanish Colonial Era have on Texas today?**
  - ↳ Helps students connect historical developments to modern cultural elements such as language, religion, and architecture.
- ◆ **Whose voices are heard—and whose are missing—in the story of Spanish colonization?**
  - ↳ Supports critical examination of bias, power, and perspective in historical narratives.

