


UNIT
3
Age of Empresarios
Age of Empresarios: Vocabulary

Experience	Word	Definition
Life in the Texas Settlements	alcalde	a local official in the town council who acted as both a judge and a mayor
Life in the Texas Settlements	ayuntamiento	a local town council under Mexican law that helped govern the community
Life in the Texas Settlements	cash crop	a crop grown to be sold for profit, such as cotton, sugar cane, or corn
Texas and the Mexican War of Independence	Cinco de Mayo	a celebration of Mexico's victory at the Battle of Puebla in 1862, not Mexico's Independence Day
Austin's Texas Colony	colony	a settlement where a group of people moved to live in a new area under shared rules and leadership
Colonizing Texas, 1821–1830	colonization laws	rules made by Mexico that encouraged settlement in Texas and explained settlers' rights and obligations
Texas and the Mexican War of Independence	constitution	a plan for government that explains how it is organized and how it works
Life in the Texas Settlements	dog-trot house	a house with two living areas separated by an open passageway that helped keep the home cooler in the Texas climate
Colonizing Texas, 1821–1830	empresario	a leader who agreed to bring families to settle in Texas and, in return, could receive land from the Mexican government
Colonizing Texas, 1821–1830	entrepreneur	a person who starts and organizes a business or other project, usually by taking risks to make it succeed
Texas and the Mexican War of Independence	federal system	a system of government that shares power between a national government and smaller local governments
Conflict Between	free enterprise	an economic system in which people can make their own


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Texas and the Mexican Government		business choices about earning, buying, and selling; many Anglo settlers valued free enterprise
Life in the Texas Settlements	grist mill	a water-powered mill that grinds grain into flour
Colonizing Texas, 1821–1830	immigration	moving to a new country or region to live there, such as settlers moving from the United States to Texas
Conflict Between Texas and the Mexican Government	import	a product brought into one country from another country; Texans bought many imports from the United States
Texas and the Mexican War of Independence	independence	freedom from being ruled by another country, like when Mexico broke away from Spain in 1821
Conflict Between Texas and the Mexican Government	individual rights	freedoms and protections that belong to each person, such as freedom of speech, trial by jury, and protection of property; Anglo settlers wanted Mexico to honor these rights
Colonizing Texas, 1821–1830	land grant	a piece of land given by the government to settlers or empresarios
Life in the Texas Settlements	livelihood	the way a person earns a living or supports a family, such as farming, ranching, or working in a mill in the Texas settlements
Conflict Between Texas and the Mexican Government	loyal	faithful or supportive of a country or government; the lesson asks whether Texas settlers still saw themselves as loyal Mexican citizens
Life in the Texas Settlements	militia	a group of colonists organized to help defend the settlement from attacks or conflict
Austin's Texas Colony	moral character	showing honesty, responsibility, and good behavior; Austin wanted settlers with strong moral character


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Austin's Texas Colony	natural resources	useful things found in nature, such as fresh water, wood, and land for farming
Texas and the Mexican War of Independence	New Spain	the part of Spain's empire in the Americas that included Mexico and Texas before Mexico became independent
Colonizing Texas, 1821–1830	obligation	something a person is required to do, such as following Mexican rules or converting to Catholicism
Austin's Texas Colony	Old Three Hundred	the first group of about 300 families that settled in Stephen F. Austin's colony
Austin's Texas Colony	recruit	to persuade or gather people to join a group or move to a place, such as Austin bringing settlers to his colony
Texas and the Mexican War of Independence	representative government	a government in which people elect leaders to make decisions for them
Conflict Between Texas and the Mexican Government	slavery	the system of forcing people to work without freedom or pay; in this lesson, slavery was a major cause of conflict between the Mexican government and many Anglo settlers in Texas
Conflict Between Texas and the Mexican Government	tariff	a tax placed on goods brought in from another country; Mexico taxed imports from the United States, and many Texans opposed these taxes
Colonizing Texas, 1821–1830	Tejanos	Texans of Mexican heritage; in this lesson, the settlers in Martín de León's mainly Mexican colony
Texas and the Mexican War of Independence	viceroy	an official chosen by the Spanish king to govern New Spain