Background Essay Questions

1. In what year did the first Spaniards see the Texas coast?

2. How many years later did Mexico become independent from Spain?

3. What was Cabeza de Vaca’s dream for Texas?

4. Why did Coronado’s expedition cause Spain to lose some interest in the Texas region?

5. What was Spain’s strategy for developing Texas?

6. Why is the Rubi Report evidence that Spain was discouraged about developing Texas?

7. Define each of the following:
   - "cows"
   - missions
   - Franciscan friars
   - presidio
   - Rubi Report

1521 – Spanish destroy Aztec city of Tenochtitlán and establish what will be known as Mexico City
1682 – First Spanish mission in Texas, Corpus Christi de la Isleta, near El Paso
1718 – Founding of San Antonio de Valero mission. Later called the Alamo
1730s – Comanches move into Texas from the north
1731 – 55 settlers from the Canary Islands arrive in San Antonio
1776 – American colonies declare independence from England
1821 – Mexico declares independence from Spain