Lesson 4: Immigrants Arrive

ESSENTIAL QUESTION
What makes a culture unique?

Terms to Know
- obtain: to gain or get something, usually by effort
- census: an official count of the people living in an area
- shift: to move or cause something to be moved to a different place
- antebellum: referring to the decades before the Civil War

What do you know?
For each statement, write a T for true or an F for false.

1. ______ At the time of statehood, most Texans were of Mexican descent.
2. ______ Most African Americans in Texas at the time of statehood were enslaved.
3. ______ There were no Native Americans living in Texas at the time of statehood.
4. ______ Most European immigrants in Texas at the time of statehood were Norwegians.
5. ______ There were over 1 million people living in Texas at the time of statehood.

New Arrivals from America
Guiding Question: How did Mexican Texans, African Americans, and Native Americans live during early statehood?

The population of Texas grew rapidly during the early years of statehood. This growth was part of a general trend of Americans moving west in order to obtain new land.

Many of those heading west settled in Texas, drawn by laws that encouraged new settlement. Since Texas still controlled its public lands, it could dispose of them as it wished. The Texas Homestead Law allowed settlers to obtain land by living on and improving it. Also, the Texas constitution protected a settler’s homestead from creditors.
The U.S. census of 1850 recorded 212,592 Texans. A census is an official count of the people in an area. Over the next ten years, the population nearly tripled to 604,215. As before, many new residents were from the Southern states.

However, Texas had a more diverse population than most Southern states. It had a history of Spanish settlement. It had many more European settlers who had come while it was a republic. Because much of the land was unsettled frontier, Native Americans continued to live there. African Americans were a large part of the population, as they were in the rest of the South.

One result of the U.S.-Mexican War was that the Texas border shifted. In 1848 the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo fixed the southern Texas border at the Rio Grande. As a result, Mexicans in the area between that river and the Nueces became Texans and Americans. The 1850 U.S. census of Texas counted about 14,000 Mexican Texans. Some Mexican Texans owned businesses or worked as craftspeople or servants, but most worked on farms and ranches. Some owned vast ranchlands.

Partly because of the Texas Revolution, many Mexican Texans faced hostility and prejudice. Competition for land was another cause of discrimination. Some Mexican Texan families, such as the De Leóns, lost their lands to Anglo Americans after the revolution. Martín de León had been an empresario in the 1820s with a ranch of over 20,000 acres. De León died in 1833, and his family fell victim to prejudice. Anglos took over his ranch and his family fled.

Despite these hardships, Mexican Texans maintained their Spanish language, Catholic religion, and Mexican traditions. In time, this Mexican culture mixed with Anglo American culture. Today most Mexican Americans are bicultural, practicing both Anglo and Mexican traditions, and they are bilingual, speaking both English and Spanish.

After Anglo Americans, African Americans were the largest group in antebellum, or pre-Civil War, Texas. The number of African Americans in Texas soared from about 13,000 in 1840 to 169,000 in 1860. Most were enslaved. Only about 400 to 1,000 were free. The state passed a law that prohibited more free African Americans from settling in Texas.

Native American groups were still in Texas. During the years of early statehood, conditions varied for different groups.
Native Americans in Texas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Native American Group</th>
<th>Relations with Texas</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lipan Apache</td>
<td>Signed treaty with Texas in 1838; peace broke and Lipan went to Mexico; made raids in Texas until 1870s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>Good relations with Texans; helped settlers in Runaway Scrape; in 1853 Texas gave them reservation land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coushatta</td>
<td>Good relations with Texans; helped settlers in Runaway Scrape; joined Alabama on reservation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tigua</td>
<td>Lived near El Paso during early statehood; recognized by Texas in 1967</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kickapoo</td>
<td>Took part in Córdova Rebellion in 1830s; fled to Mexico but made raids in Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comanche</td>
<td>Would not be forced onto reservations and raided Texas settlements</td>
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</tbody>
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New European Arrivals

Guiding Question  What led different European groups to come to Texas?

In 1850 the foreign-born people of Texas numbered about 17,000, or 8 percent of the population. That percentage was about the same in 1860, but the number was more than 40,000. Europeans came to Texas for several reasons. One reason was to own land. Another reason was to escape problems in their homelands.

Most European immigrants in Texas were from Germany. German Texans made up the third-largest part of Texas’s population and about 5 percent of the people. These numbers were a result of a strong effort by German individuals and companies. Johann Friedrich Ernst pioneered the immigration effort after acquiring land in Austin County in 1831. He wrote letters to friends in Germany praising Texas. Within a couple of years, other Germans immigrated. German Texans were a diverse group. They came from different parts of Germany and included Lutherans, Catholics, and Jews.
Writing
Check for Understanding

1. Expository  Why did Texas have a more diverse population than most other Southern states?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

2. Expository  The Alabama and Coushatta had a different experience in Texas than the Lipan Apache and Comanche did. Describe the differences.

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Irish immigrants were among the first Europeans in Texas. They had been part of Austin’s Old Three Hundred. By 1850, Texas had 1,403 people of Irish descent. Ten years later there were 3,480.

Immigrants came from other European countries, too. Josef Lesikar, a Czech, was a farmer, tailor, and journalist. In 1853 he brought his family and several others to Texas. Most of them were farmers. By the Civil War, some 700 Czechs lived in Texas.

In 1852 a Polish priest visited Texas. Father Leopold Moczygmba (LEE-oh-pohld moh-chee-GEHM-bah) urged Poles to come to Texas. Two years later, a few hundred immigrants founded Panna Maria. It was the first Polish American community in the country.

Jacob De Cordova was from a Jamaican family of wealthy Spanish Jews. He settled in Texas in 1839 and bought land to sell to settlers. He promoted Texas in New York City and Philadelphia. He also wrote guidebooks for new settlers.

Texas also attracted some Norwegians. John Nordboe was the first Norwegian to settle in Texas in 1841. He was a farmer and doctor and built his home in Dallas. In 1845 Norwegian traveler Johan Reinert Reiersen and his father founded a Norwegian settlement called Normandy in Henderson County. Later it became Brownsboro. Another Norwegian settlement was founded on the Kaufman and Van Zandt County line in the late 1840s.