

CHAPTER 4

Early Explorers

Why It Matters

The Spanish explorers found neither precious metals nor large numbers of Native Americans in Texas. Losing interest, Spain turned instead to present-day Mexico. It was not until the French appeared in Texas that the Spanish looked again at its northern possession.

The Impact Today

The Spanish were the first Europeans to explore Texas. Their writings about the great distances and natural beauty of Texas were printed in Europe. What they said about Texas influences the way many people think about the state today.



1519

★ Álvarez de Pineda explored the Texas coastline

1528

★ Cabeza de Vaca shipwrecked on what is believed to have been Galveston Bay

1541


★ Coronado led an expedition across northern Texas

1542

★ De Soto–Moscoso expedition reached East Texas across northern Texas

 Texas

 United States

 World

1490

1510

1530

1550

1570

1492

• Columbus reached the Americas

1519

• Cortés invaded Aztec empire in Mexico

1576

• The first permanent theater opened in London





This painting, *La Salle Discovering Louisiana*, by Theodore Gudin (1844) portrays La Salle's arrival in Matagorda Bay in 1685.



1685

★ La Salle established the first French settlement in Texas

1630

1650

1670

1690

1607

• Jamestown colony in Virginia founded

1608

• Samuel de Champlain founded Quebec

1620

• Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock

1643

• Taj Mahal completed in India

1676

• Influenza epidemic in England

1690

• New England Primer, first elementary book published



Cause-Effect Study Foldable Make this foldable to help you explain the causes and effects of Spain's interest or lack of interest in Texas.

Step 1 Fold a sheet of paper in half from side to side.

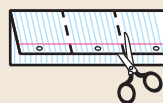


Fold it so the left edge lays about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from the right edge.

Step 2 Turn the paper and fold it into thirds.

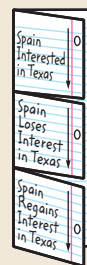


Step 3 Unfold and cut the top layer only along both folds.



This will make three tabs.

Step 4 Turn and label the foldable as shown.



Reading and Writing As you read, write what you learn about the first Europeans to explore Texas. Write key facts under the appropriate tabs of your foldable.

TEXAS HISTORY Online

Chapter Overview

Visit the texans.glencoe.com Web site and click on **Chapter 4—Chapter Overviews** to preview chapter information.

CLICK HERE

SECTION 1

First Steps in a New Land

Guide to Reading

Main Idea

Spain desired to establish an empire in the Americas in the 1500s. Explorers began to map out the region.

Key Terms

conquistador
friar
mission

Reading Strategy

Organizing Information As you read this section, complete a chart like the one shown here, noting the areas of exploration of each explorer.

Explorer	Areas of Exploration
Columbus	
Cortés	
Álvarez de Pineda	
Cabeza de Vaca	

Read to Learn

- why the Spanish conquistadores and friars explored Texas.
- whether the expeditions succeeded or failed.

Section Theme

Global Connections The Spanish came to Texas to seek wealth and adventure, to expand Spain's empire, and to build missions.

Preview of Events

1519

Álvarez de Pineda maps the Texas coast

1528

Cabeza de Vaca becomes first European to live in present-day Texas

A Texas Story



Armadillo

Some of the earliest Europeans to visit Texas were from the Coronado expedition. Pedro de Castañeda found a huge land, full of strange animals and wonderful sights. "Some make it an uninhabitable country, others have it bordering on Florida, and still others on Greater India . . . They [cannot] give any basis upon which to found these statements. There are those who tell about very peculiar animals, who are contradicted by others who were on the expedition."

—Journal of Pedro de Castañeda

Columbus Sights a New World

After sailing west across the Atlantic Ocean for 33 days straight, Christopher Columbus and the crews of his three small ships sighted land in October 1492. They saw several islands in the Caribbean Sea.

While searching for a new route to the riches of Asia, Columbus had reached a continent unknown in Europe.

Columbus was Italian, sailing under the flag of Spain. In the years following this first voyage, Spain established an empire in what the Europeans came to call the Americas. Most of South America, many islands in the Caribbean, Mexico, all of Central America, and part of the land that makes up the United States were claimed by Spain.

Columbus returned to the Americas three times after his first voyage. On his second visit, he established a permanent colony on one of the islands of the West Indies. From there, Spaniards sailed forth to explore the American mainland.

New Spain

Spanish soldiers, called **conquistadores**, sought riches and power for themselves and wealth and glory for Spain. With superior weapons, they made their way through the Americas. Where they defeated Native Americans, they strengthened Spanish claims. The conquistadores made it possible for others to follow after them and build towns, lay out roads, open mines, and develop farms and ranches.

Friars, members of Catholic religious orders, also helped Spain gain a foothold in the Americas.

Spain was a Catholic nation, and its rulers wanted to convert the Native Americans to the Catholic faith. As friars entered lands in the north, they established religious outposts called **missions**. Often the mission was the first Spanish settlement in an area.

Reading Check Explaining What motivated Spanish soldiers to sail to the Americas?

Cortés Lands in Mexico

In February 1519, **Hernán Cortés** sailed from Cuba and landed his army of about 500 soldiers on the eastern coast of Mexico. Learning that the powerful Aztec people ruled a large empire, he led his army inland toward **Tenochtitlán** (teh•noch•tee•TLAHN), their capital. Along the way, Cortés persuaded thousands of Native Americans who had suffered under Aztec military rule to rebel.

At first the Aztecs welcomed Cortés to Tenochtitlán. They believed he was their legendary god Quetzalcoatl (kets•ahl•KWAHT•ahl), who had sailed east many years earlier with a promise to return. Tenochtitlán was perhaps the most spectacular city in the world at that time. The Spanish marveled at the palaces, zoos, and



Picturing History

Read Cortés's description of the city of Tenochtitlán on page 104 and look at the two images here that show the main temple and the layout of the city. [Using these sources, determine some of the daily activities in Tenochtitlán.](#)



complex art. In his own words, Cortés described the wonders of Tenochtitlán:

“The city has many open squares in which markets are continuously held and the general business of buying and selling proceeds . . . [T]here are daily more than sixty thousand folk buying and selling. Every kind of merchandise such as may be met with in every land is for sale there, whether of food and victuals [supplies], or ornaments of gold and silver, or lead, brass, copper, tin, precious stones, bones, shells, snails and feathers; limestone for building is likewise sold there, stone both rough and polished, bricks burnt and unburnt, wood of all kinds and in all stages of preparation . . .

Finally, . . . I will simply say that the manner of living among the people is very similar to that in Spain, and considering that this is a barbarous nation shut off from a knowledge of the true God or communication with enlightened nations, one may well marvel at the orderliness and good government which is everywhere maintained.”

In spite of his admiration of Aztec culture, Cortés and his forces imprisoned and killed the emperor, **Moctezuma**. They also tore down Tenochtitlán and plundered the city's treasure. Upon the ruins they built a new city and named it Mexico, after the Aztec name for themselves. Mexico City became the capital of New Spain.

The success of Cortés inspired other Spaniards to come to the Americas. Many journeyed into the uncharted lands in search of treasure. Some joined expeditions for adventure and out of curiosity. Other Spaniards explored for possibilities of settlement. Still others hoped to spread the Catholic faith among the Native Americans.

Reading Check **Examining** Why did the Aztecs first welcome Cortés?

Álvarez de Pineda Explores Texas

In 1519, the same year Cortés landed in Mexico, **Alonso Álvarez de Pineda** (ah•LOHN•soh AHL•vah•rays day pee•NEH•dah) became the first European to explore the Texas coast. As

he sailed along the uncharted coastline from Florida to Mexico, he observed and mapped the land. He stopped for 40 days at the mouth of a river, which he called the Río de las Palmas. Álvarez de Pineda reported his finds to his superior, Francisco Garay, governor of Jamaica, and returned to Mexico to begin a settlement. He died there in 1520 in a Native American uprising.

Shipwrecked in Texas

The first Europeans and Africans who came to Texas did not think they would stay. Chance and misfortune brought **Alvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca** (AHL•vahr NOO•nyays kah•BAY•sah day VAH•kah) and his companions to Texas. Cabeza de Vaca was a member of a large expedition sent to conquer the area between Florida and Mexico in 1527. The expedition, led by the conquistador **Pánfilo de Narváez** (PAHN•fee•loh day nar•VAH•ays), failed. Moreover, the ships that were to pick up the explorers never arrived. Stranded, de Narváez and his followers built five boats and sailed along the coast toward Mexico. However, in early November 1528, the boats were tossed in a terrible storm and driven aground near present-day Galveston. Cabeza de Vaca called the island *Malhado*, the isle of misfortune.

These survivors were the first Europeans to enter what is now Texas. The Karankawas, who

lived on the coast, were kind and generous to their cold and starving visitors. The Native Americans built fires and brought fish and roots for food. Within a few months, however, all but a handful of the shipwrecked explorers died from disease and exposure. Disease took a heavy toll among the Karankawas, too. In time, Native Americans would associate Europeans with disease and find both unwelcome.

Cabeza de Vaca and his companions survived by adopting the ways of the Karankawas. Cabeza de Vaca and **Estevanico** (ehs•TEH•vahn•nee•koh) from Morocco, who was the first known black man to enter Texas, became highly regarded shamans, or healers. Cabeza de Vaca was also a trader. As he made his way along the coast and into the interior, he learned much about the geography and the people of what would later be called Texas.

After spending nearly six years among the Native American people of South Texas, Cabeza de Vaca and his companions journeyed west toward Mexico. They traveled for many months, possibly passing through present-day South and West Texas and northern Mexico. Finally, in early 1536, they reached Culiacán (koo•lee•ah•KAHN), Mexico.

 **Reading Check Explaining** How did Cabeza de Vaca and his men survive in Texas?

SECTION 1 ASSESSMENT

Checking for Understanding

- Using Key Terms** Write one or two sentences describing the different goals of the **conquistadores** and the **friars**.
- Reviewing Facts** How did the aims of Spanish explorers in Mexico and Texas differ?

Reviewing Themes

- Global Connections** Why was Cortés interested in conquering the Aztecs?

Organizing to Learn

- Sequencing** Create a time line like the one shown here. Place the following explorers on the time line in their proper sequence.

1490 1500 1510 1520 1530 1540 1550

- Cortés
- Columbus
- Cabeza de Vaca and Estevanico
- Cabeza de Vaca and Narváez
- Álvarez de Pineda

Critical Thinking

- Analyzing** What did the treatment of Cabeza de Vaca and his companions reveal about the Karankawas?

TAKS PRACTICE

Identifying Points of View

Although Cortés compared Tenochtitlán to Spain in some ways, he also described it as a “barbarous nation.” In Cortés’s opinion, why was Tenochtitlán barbaric?

Critical Thinking TAKS Skillbuilder



Analyzing a Topic

Why Learn This Skill?

Analytical questions help you find accurate information about your research topic. The two main purposes for asking questions are to make the topic more specific and to make it easier to find specific information.

Learning the Skill

There are three steps involved in writing useful questions:

- Brainstorm several questions about the topic.
- Decide if each question is related to the topic.
- Rewrite them as simpler questions.

Suppose you want to learn more about Cabeza de Vaca's experiences in Texas in the 1500s. Questions to make the topic more specific are:

- What were his experiences with the Karankawas?
- What happened after leaving the Karankawas?

Using the first question as your research topic, decide which questions below would help you find the right information.

- A** What food and shelter did the Karankawas have?
- B** How many ships landed in Texas?
- C** Where did Cabeza de Vaca grow up?
- D** Why did Cabeza de Vaca come to the Americas?

Question **A** is directly related to the chosen topic. Questions **B**, **C**, and **D** will not give you information about the chosen topic.

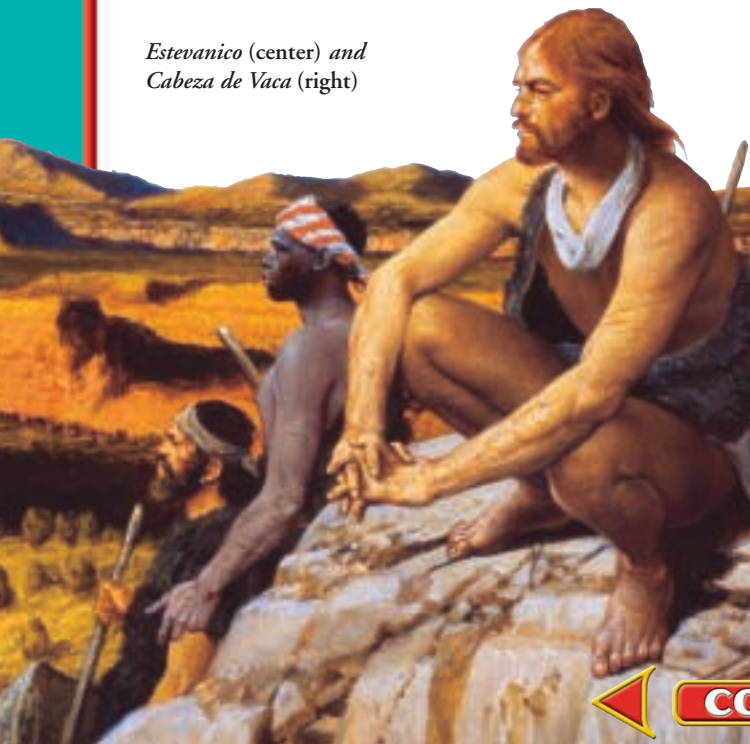
Practicing the Skill

Read below and decide which questions would be useful in researching this topic.

Topic: The life of a foot soldier exploring the Southwest with Coronado.

- 1 How far did soldiers travel in an average day?
- 2 Who put up the money for the expedition?
- 3 What were the greatest dangers of the trip?
- 4 Who chose Coronado to lead the expedition?
- 5 What type of food did the soldiers eat?

Estevanico (center) and Cabeza de Vaca (right)



TAKS PRACTICE

Analyzing a Topic Select a topic you would like to know more about. Then write five questions about this topic that would help you research it.

Glencoe's **Skillbuilder Interactive Workbook**, Level 1, provides instruction and practice in key social studies skills.



The Spanish Explore Texas

Guide to Reading

Main Idea

Tales of gold, gems, minerals, and fabulous cities lured the Spanish into further exploration of Texas.

Key Terms

viceroi
pueblo

Reading Strategy

Organizing Information As you read the section, complete a chart like the one shown here.

Explorer	Goals	Native Americans Encountered
Fray Marcos		
Estevanico		
Coronado		
Moscoso		

Read to Learn

- about early Spanish expeditions.
- what the explorers hoped to find.

Section Theme

Geography and History Spain was willing to fund the costly exploration of Texas in the hope of finding the vast wealth that was rumored to be there.

Preview of Events

1541 1542

Coronado journeys across Texas

Luis de Moscoso leads expedition into East Texas

1609

Spaniards set up colony on upper Rio Grande



Spanish soldier, circa 1530–1540

A Texas Story

Exploring was dangerous, as Pedro de Castañeda describes in his journal. “The army spent [2 weeks] here, preparing jerked beef to take with them. It was estimated that during this time they killed 500 buffalo. Many fellows were lost . . . Every night they took account of who was missing, fired guns and blew trumpets and beat drums, and built great fires, but some of them were so far off that all this did not give them any help.”

—Journal of Pedro de Castañeda

The Quest for Texas Gold

Cabeza de Vaca’s arrival in Culiacán and Mexico City astonished the Spanish. What he said excited them even more. He recounted tales of herds of huge “cows” with small horns. What he had seen were buffalo,

the first reported sighting of the animal by a European. He described Texas as “vast and handsome” and “very fertile.”

Cabeza de Vaca announced that he saw no gold. However, he passed on tales he had heard about cities with magnificent houses and lands rich with copper, emeralds, and turquoise. He suggested that an expedition be sent north to search for these treasures. Inspired by visions of gold and glory, would-be conquistadores throughout New Spain volunteered for the expedition to Texas.

Spain’s highest ranking official in New Spain was a **vicero**y, an official who represents the monarch. Viceroy **Antonio de Mendoza** heard Cabeza de Vaca’s report with interest. After the unexpected discovery of a new continent and of the rich Aztec empire, anything seemed possible to Mendoza. He had heard tales about mysterious lands to the north. Somewhere in those regions, he had heard, were seven fabulous cities containing vast treasures. Cabeza de Vaca’s report made Mendoza eager to investigate these stories. Because Cabeza de Vaca wanted to return to Spain, Mendoza had to find others to lead the search.

Fray Marcos Leads a New Expedition

Viceroy Mendoza wanted to organize a large expedition at once, but he decided to move cautiously. He selected a priest, **Fray Marcos de Niza**, to head an advance party to check on the stories. Estevanico accompanied Fray Marcos’s party as a guide and to ensure the friendship of Native Americans along the way.

In the spring of 1539 Fray Marcos and the advance party moved northward from Culiacán. Shortly after, Estevanico, who rode ahead, sent back exciting news: a land called **Cíbola** was 30 days away. Within Cíbola were seven cities, rich in gold, silver, and precious gems. Beyond Cíbola, according to Estevanico, were even richer lands.

Estevanico pressed on, but the Zuñi Indians killed him when he ventured onto their land, near present-day Gallup, New Mexico. Shaken by Estevanico’s death, Fray Marcos nevertheless continued northward until he saw Cíbola from a distance. Then he hastily returned to Mexico to report. Cíbola was actually a **pueblo**, a series of connected flat-roofed buildings. It was built near the present-day boundary of Arizona and



History Through Art

Francisco Vázquez de Coronado Making His Way Across New Mexico by Frederic Remington, 1905

Coronado’s expedition was made up of young soldiers from Spain, Portugal, Italy, France, Germany, and Scotland. **Why would men from other countries join a Spanish expedition?**



People of Texas

Cabeza de Vaca c.1490–c.1557



Alvar Nuñez Cabeza de Vaca's journey remains one of the most amazing feats of exploration in the Americas. In 1527 he left Spain as part of an expedition. After failing to find treasure and becoming shipwrecked near what is now Galveston, Cabeza de

Vaca and the other survivors were the first non-Native Americans to set foot on Texas soil.

Facing starvation, Cabeza de Vaca soon realized he needed the Native Americans. Although at first he fought them, by the end of his six-year

journey, he sympathized with and respected Native Americans, often trading with and relying on them. Cabeza de Vaca was one of the first Spaniards to live among the coastal Native Americans of Texas and survive to write about them.

New Mexico. However, Fray Marcos, who may have seen Cibola at sunset, claimed he got a glimpse of a golden city filled with treasures. It was, he said, "a land rich in gold, silver, and other wealth . . . great cities . . . and civilized people wearing woolen clothes."

✓ Reading Check **Inferring** Why did Fray Marcos believe Cibola had great riches?

Coronado Is Disappointed

Viceroy Mendoza organized a full-scale expedition at once, assembling more than 300 soldiers and several hundred Native Americans. He chose **Francisco Vázquez de Coronado**, a young, rich, and trusted noble, as leader

of the expedition. Fray Marcos accompanied the troops.

On July 7, 1540, after five months of travel, Coronado found Cibola—and disappointment. Instead of golden treasures, the expedition found only mud, stone, and angry Zuñi

warriors ready to defend their village. In disgrace, Fray Marcos hurriedly bid good-bye to Coronado and returned to Mexico City.

Rather than go back to New Spain empty-handed, Coronado, believing that treasure must lie somewhere in the vast wilderness, decided to stay and explore. He divided his forces. A small group traveled west across present-day New Mexico and Arizona and reached the Grand Canyon before returning to the main camp. Coronado's group traveled east, setting up camp at the village of Tiguex (TEE•gehs), near present-day Albuquerque, New Mexico. There Coronado and his troops met a Native American whom they called the Turk. The Turk told of a fabulous place called Quivira (kee•VEE•rah), said to be located farther east and filled with riches. A member of the expedition recorded the Turk's description:

“A river . . . [stretched] two leagues wide, in which there were fishes as big as horses . . . [T]he lord of the country took his afternoon nap under a great tree on which were hung a great number of little gold bells, which put him to sleep as they swung in the air. [The lord] also said that . . . jugs and bowls were of gold.”

TEXAS
HISTORY
Online

Student Web Activity Visit the texans.glencoe.com Web site and click on **Chapter 4—Student Web Activity** to learn more about early Spanish explorers in Texas.

CLICK HERE





People of Texas

Don Juan de Oñate 1550-1626



Don Juan de Oñate founded the first European settlement in the upper Rio Grande. In 1598 Oñate led a 4-mile-long expedition group that included 600 people, 83 wagons, and 7,000 animals.

After 3 months, Oñate's group celebrated their safe

arrival at the Rio Grande. They performed the ceremony "La Toma" (the Taking), which means that they were taking the new land for Spain. They also held a mass and a feast which could have been the first Thanksgiving in the nation, an event usually

credited to the Puritans.

Oñate is responsible for naming El Paso del Norte, the Path of the North.

In his honor, the largest equestrian bronze sculpture in the nation (over three stories high) is on display in downtown El Paso.

Some of the Spanish soldiers were skeptical. Coronado, however, decided to investigate the Turk's story. In the spring of 1541, the expedition set out, marching east.

The trek to Quivira brought Coronado's expedition to the plains of Texas. Several members kept records of the journey. The plains were so level that the sky appeared "like a bowl" over them. The horizon surrounded them on all sides. There were no trees "except at rivers," and the lakes were "round as plates."

Coronado's troops were always in danger of losing their way. The grass "never failed to become erect after it had been trodden down." Although Coronado's hunters and scouts left signs so they could find their way back, they got lost frequently, "wandering about . . . as if they were crazy."

The Spaniards were amazed by the "cows" of the plains. The cows they saw were buffalo, "in such numbers that nobody could have counted them." They also viewed with amazement the way the Plains people hunted and used the buffalo.

With the Turk leading the way, the Spaniards reached a great ravine, probably the Palo Duro Canyon, located near present-day Amarillo. Then the expedition continued northward to Quivira, near present-day Wichita, Kansas.

They found a Native American settlement built of sticks and skins, but they found no treasure. Angry and frustrated, Coronado put the Turk to death. After claiming the entire Wichita country for the King of Spain, Coronado began the long journey back. Led by Wichita guides, he returned to the Rio Grande. There, the expedition spent a terrible winter in Pueblo country with little food. Finally, Coronado issued the order to return to New Spain. In a report to the Spanish king, Coronado noted that Texas was "a country of fine appearance" and its soil promised good farming. Coronado also reported that "there is not any gold nor any other metal—nothing but little villages." No doubt, the viceroy was disappointed with this report.

✓ Reading Check Summarizing What did Coronado regretfully report to the Spanish king?

Moscoso Explores East Texas

As Coronado's expedition was traveling across the Great Plains, another Spanish expedition was marching west from Florida toward Texas. The expedition's leader, Hernán de Soto, had landed in Florida in 1539 with several hundred troops. After moving slowly westward, de Soto reached the Mississippi River in 1541. This



A Shared Past...

The Coronado and Moscoso expeditions occurred while England, Holland, and parts of Germany and France were breaking away from the Roman Catholic Church. This breaking away became known as the Protestant Reformation. The Spanish kings vigorously supported the Roman Catholic Church. They enacted laws to try to keep Protestants and Protestant books out of Mexico.



marked the first time a European expedition had reached the Mississippi. De Soto died there in the spring of 1542.

Luis de Moscoso then led the expedition as far west as the lower Brazos River. They met many Native Americans but found no riches. Finally, Moscoso led the expedition back to the Mississippi River. There they built boats and set off down river, eventually sailing along the coast to Mexico.

New Mexico Is Founded

Between 1528 and 1543, Spaniards had seen much of the land that is now Texas. No one had found treasures like those that had been found

in Mexico City. For this reason Spain's interest in Texas decreased. Spanish officials made few attempts to build settlements in Texas at this time, preferring to build towns in other areas.

In 1609 a group of Spaniards set up a permanent colony on the upper waters of the Rio Grande where Native American tribes had settled. They named the colony New Mexico and established its capital at Santa Fe. Over the years, several expeditions set out from New Mexico and explored the area around present-day San Angelo.

Spaniards visited and traded with the Jumano people and set up a temporary outpost on the San Sabá River. One of the legends that arose during this time involves the story of María de Jesús de Agreda, known as the Lady in Blue. She was a Spanish nun who claimed that her spirit made 500 trips from 1620 to 1631, all without physically leaving Spain. The Jumanos in eastern New Mexico and West Texas, as well as the Caddos in East Texas, told numerous stories of having been taught by the legendary Lady in Blue.

In spite of the large number of Jumanos who accepted Christianity, the Spaniards abandoned the outpost and did not return to the land of the Jumanos for many years.

Reading Check **Explaining** Why did Spain's interest in Texas diminish?

SECTION 2 ASSESSMENT

Checking for Understanding

- Using Key Terms** Write a short paragraph explaining why the **vicero**y was a powerful figure.
- Reviewing Facts** Why did Spanish explorers search for Cíbola and Quivira, and what did they find?

Reviewing Themes

- Geography and History** Select one explorer and estimate his travels in terms of miles.

Organizing to Learn

- Comparing** Create a chart like the one below to identify discoveries that encouraged the explorers and the setbacks that disappointed them.

Explorers	Discoveries	Setbacks
Cabeza de Vaca		
Coronado		
Moscoso		

Critical Thinking

- Analyzing** What motivated the Spanish explorers to leave home for these daring expeditions to the Americas?

TAKS PRACTICE

Distinguishing Fact From Fiction

In their search for cities of gold and wealth throughout Texas, what other resources did Spanish explorers fail to recognize and appreciate?

La Salle Awakens Spanish Interest

Guide to Reading

Main Idea

When the French established a presence in Texas, it forced Spain to renew its interest in the area.

Key Terms

stockade
sandbar

Reading Strategy

Organizing Information As you read this section, complete a chart like the one shown here.

European Nation	Location of Colonies in North America
England	
France	
Spain	

Read to Learn

- how France challenged Spain's claim to Texas.
- about La Salle's expeditions.

Section Theme

Geography and History La Salle claimed vast territories for France, but his plans for colonization failed.

Preview of Events

◆ 1685

French flag flies over Texas

◆ 1700

late 1600s
Spain decides to settle Texas



Monument of La Salle near present-day Fort St. Louis

A Texas Story

When the French tried to settle along the Texas coast after Coronado's expedition, Spain renewed its interest in this area. "I always notice that when we have something valuable in our hands . . . we do not value it or prize it as highly as if we understood how much we would miss it . . . After we have lost . . . we have a great pain in the heart and we are all the time trying to find ways and means by which to get it back again."

—Journal of Pedro de Castañeda

France Challenges Spanish Claims

In the early 1600s, other countries began to conquer land in the Americas. England founded colonies along the Atlantic coast of North America, while France established the colony of Quebec in Canada.

Some years later, France tried to challenge Spain's claim to Texas.

The leader of the French quest for an empire in Texas was **René Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle** (reh•NAY roh•BEAR kah•vel•YAY soor duh lah SAHL). In 1682 La Salle led the first European expedition that navigated the Mississippi River south to the Gulf of Mexico. He claimed the entire inland region surrounding the Mississippi and named the land Louisiana in honor of the French king, Louis XIV.

When La Salle returned to France, he proposed that a French colony be founded at the mouth of the Mississippi River. Possibly La Salle hoped that from there he could capture some of the rich silver mines in northern New Spain. The king agreed, and La Salle organized the expedi-

tion. On August 1, 1684, four ships carrying about 280 colonists set sail for Louisiana on what would become a very difficult journey.

La Salle, not an easy person to get along with, quarreled with the ship captains. Spanish pirates captured one of the vessels. The other three ships were separated in a storm. Worst of all, the expedition missed the mouth of the Mississippi and sailed 400 miles to the west, along the coast of Texas.

After sailing west and south along the coast of Texas, searching in vain for the Mississippi in early 1685, La Salle decided the expedition must go ashore. He chose a spot on the shore of **Matagorda Bay**. During the landing, one of the ships wrecked, losing badly needed supplies.

Reading Check Evaluating Why did La Salle propose an expedition to the New World?



TEXAS FICTION

Though they are an important symbol of the state, longhorn cattle are not native to Texas. The Spanish first brought long-horned cattle to the Americas in 1493. Many years later, their descendants would be grazing the ranges of Texas. They were well suited for long drives, able to go great distances without water. In 1927, recognizing the importance of Texas longhorns, the U.S. government set aside wildlife refuges for them.

The French Flag Flies Over Texas

La Salle and the colonists built a crude **stockade**, or an enclosure of posts made to form a defense, on the banks of a small river. This outpost became known as Fort St. Louis. Overhead they flew the flag of France, which displayed golden lilies on a field of white. Later the settlers built huts and a small chapel.

La Salle then ordered some of the colonists to stay and defend Fort St. Louis while he explored the area. Finding no European settlements to the west, La Salle returned to discover that during his absence disaster had struck. Overwork, poor food, and conflicts with Native Americans had claimed the lives of many of the French colonists. One of the ships from the expedition

had sailed back to France. The other had wrecked on a **sandbar**, a ridge of sand built up by currents in a river or coastal waters. The colonists were effectively stranded in the wilderness. Crops failed. Disease struck one colonist after another. Others died fighting with Karankawas. By the summer of 1686, fewer than 40 of the original 280 settlers remained alive.

La Salle then decided to head east to try to find the Mississippi. On a second expedition, he ventured into East Texas, perhaps in present-day Grimes County. There members of the expedition refused to continue the search and murdered La Salle on March 19, 1687.

Without La Salle's leadership, the French colony was lost. Some of the colonists were taken into Karankawa camps.

Historians believe there were about 20 people left behind. These included individuals that La Salle, for whatever reason, did not want with him on the expedition—women, children, and the disabled. An eyewitness account remains, written by Jean Baptiste Talon. He recorded that the Karankawas staged a surprise attack on the outpost sometime around Christmas of 1688. Among those captured were Talon's two younger brothers and one younger sister. Five children were adopted by the Karankawas, but most of the colony was killed. (These children were later rescued by Alonso de León and raised as servants in the house of the viceroy of Mexico.)

Causes and Effects of Spanish Settlement of Texas

Causes

- Spanish explorers hope to find riches in Texas.
- Spanish priests want to spread Christianity.
- Spain feels threatened by growing presence of French in Texas.

Effects

- Spanish interest in Texas is renewed.
- Spain makes strong effort to establish colonies and force out French.

Graphic Organizer Skills

Spain wanted to colonize Texas for several reasons.

Making Inferences Do you think Spain would have delayed settling Texas if La Salle had not explored the region?



Six of the 17 colonists who had left Fort St. Louis with La Salle decided to try to find their way to the French settlement of Quebec in Canada. They eventually made it safely to Canada, and some in the party decided to travel onward to France. Another small group remained behind in East Texas. For many years afterward, rumors were heard that some members of La Salle's ill-fated colony who had been spared in the Fort St. Louis massacre were still living among the Native Americans.

Although Fort St. Louis failed as a permanent settlement, La Salle's efforts bore many results. For France, it led to establishing trade with Native Americans of the Mississippi Valley and, although the French never did any real settling in Texas, they kept the claim to Texas alive in the French imagination. The most direct result for Texas was that it shifted the focus of Spanish interest from western Texas to eastern Texas. The Spanish began an extensive exploration of the northern Gulf shore. For many years after, every Spanish move in Texas and the borderlands came as a reaction to a French threat, real or imagined.

La Salle's journeys in Texas also provided the United States with a reason to claim Texas as part of the 1803 Louisiana Purchase. Some of the



A Shared Past...

In 1685 the nations of Europe operated their economies according to an economic idea called *mercantilism*. Under mercantilism, governments believed that a nation's strength lay in its wealth and in its strong military. Colonies were created to increase the wealth of European countries. Spain, France, Holland, Sweden, Britain, and Russia established colonies in North America.

Americans argued that France had considered Texas part of the Louisiana Purchase. It was not a claim with much merit, and it provided more emotional than legal support to the Americans. Because of this claim, however, for many years the United States and Spain argued about the location of the border between American and Spanish territories.

✓ Reading Check Analyzing Would you consider La Salle's expedition successful?

SECTION 3 ASSESSMENT

Checking for Understanding

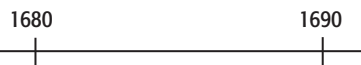
- Using Key Terms** Use the following words in a sentence that demonstrates your understanding of the terms: *sandbar*, *stockade*.
- Reviewing Facts** When the French colonists established Fort St. Louis in 1685, they expected to make it a permanent settlement. Why did Fort St. Louis fail?

Reviewing Themes

- Geography and History** Although Fort St. Louis failed as a permanent settlement, the French efforts in Texas had a number of important results. Describe some.

Organizing to Learn

- Relative Chronology** Place the events of La Salle's Texas expedition on the time line in their proper sequence.



- La Salle's ship sails too far west and south.
- La Salle is murdered.
- La Salle searches for other settlements.
- Fort St. Louis is built.
- La Salle intends to establish a Mississippi River colony.

Critical Thinking

- Analyzing** What are some of the reasons why King Louis XIV was willing to approve and finance La Salle's expedition to the Americas? Make a poster or visual aid that summarizes some possible motives for exploration and colonization.



TAKS PRACTICE

Finding and Summarizing the Main Idea La Salle established a French settlement in Texas. Why did Spain view a French Texas as a threat?

Chapter Summary

Early Explorers

Spanish 1492

- Christopher Columbus sights the new world.

1519

- ★ Cortés lands in Veracruz, Mexico. Álvarez de Pineda is the first European to map the Texas coast.

1528

- ★ Cabeza de Vaca becomes first European to set foot in Texas.

1540

- Coronado reaches Cibola but finds no gold.

1541

- ★ Coronado reaches Quivira but finds no gold.
- De Soto explores the Mississippi River.

1609

- Spanish establish a colony at Santa Fe, New Mexico.

French

1685

- ★ La Salle establishes Fort St. Louis near Matagorda Bay.
- The French flag flies over Texas.

1687

- Spain is concerned by French presence in Texas.
- Fort St. Louis settlement fails.

Reviewing Key Terms

Examine each group of terms below. Explain the similarities and differences among the terms in each group.

1. conquistador, friar, viceroy
2. pueblo, mission, stockade

Reviewing Key Facts

3. Why did Spain fund the expensive expeditions to the New World?
4. Why was Texas a disappointment to the early Spanish explorers?
5. What were the settlements of the friars called, and how did they differ from other settlements?
6. Who were the first Europeans to enter Texas? Who helped them survive, and what did the Europeans learn from these Native Americans?
7. Name two of the fabled cities of gold and tell why the explorers were so willing to believe the rumors about them?
8. Was Coronado's expedition a success?
9. Where did Moscoso lead his expedition?
10. Why was 1519 a significant year in the history of Mexico and Texas?
11. Who led the French into Texas, and what settlement did he try to establish?
12. Why did the French presence motivate the Spanish to return to Texas?

Critical Thinking

13. **Drawing Conclusions** La Salle was a difficult man to get along with, yet without his leadership the French colony struggled. Why do you think this happened?
14. **Analyzing** What did Pedro de Castañeda mean when he wrote in his journal, "[W]hen we have something valuable in our hands . . . we do not value it or prize it as highly as if we understood how much we would miss it . . . after we have lost it."
15. **Making Inferences** Why were European countries attempting to establish colonies in the New World at similar times?
16. **Understanding Cause and Effect** What effect did La Salle's expedition have on Spain?

Cause	Effect
La Salle's Expedition	



Geography and History Activity

The paths of the explorers have been drawn on the map above. Write the letter of the path that each explorer followed on a separate piece of paper.

17. ___ Alonso Álvarez de Pineda 1519
18. ___ Alvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca 1528–1536
19. ___ Francisco Vázquez de Coronado 1540–1542
20. ___ Luis de Moscoso 1542–1543
21. ___ Juan de Oñate 1598

Cooperative Learning Activity

22. **Writing a Report** Working in groups, write a report about one of the expeditions in Texas. Include a map tracing the expedition's path and how the expedition affected the settlement of the Americas. Each member of the group should present a part of the report to the class.

Practicing Skills

23. **Analyzing a Topic** Suppose you want to learn why early French settlements in Texas were unsuccessful. Explain why each of the following sentences does or does not relate to the research topic.
 - a. In what year was the colony of Quebec established?
 - b. Were Native Americans friendly to French settlers?
 - c. Over what route did the French travel to Texas?
 - d. Who was the first European to travel through Texas?
 - e. What kinds of conditions did the French settlers experience?



Self-Check Quiz

Visit the texans.glencoe.com Web site and click on **Chapter 4—Self-Check Quizzes** to prepare for the chapter test.

CLICK HERE



Portfolio/TAKS Writing Activity

24. **Making Generalizations** Use proper punctuation and full sentences in answering the following question. *How did the success of Cortés inspire other Spaniards to travel to Texas?*



Building Technology Skills

25. **Using the Internet for Research** Use an electronic encyclopedia or the Internet to find a picture of one of the following: Moctezuma, Hernán Cortés, Cabeza de Vaca, Estevanico, Francisco Vázquez de Coronado, or La Salle. Print the picture. Describe the person's attire, his expression, any activity in the picture, and whether you think it is a positive or negative image. If time permits, present your picture and summary to the class.



Use the passage *and* your knowledge of Texas history and culture to answer the following question.

"Their horns are small . . . [and] the hair is very long . . . Of the small hides the Indians make blankets to cover themselves with, and of the taller ones they make shoes and targets. These cows . . . are found all over the land for over four hundred leagues."

—Alvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca

Cabeza de Vaca was one of the first Spaniards to see Texas. In this passage, he describes —

- F** cattle farmers **H** how native people made shoes
G herds of buffalo **J** the mouth of the Rio Grande

Test-Taking Tip:

Sometimes passages use *figurative language*, language that does not mean literally what it says. Always check each answer choice within its context to make sure it is consistent with the passage.