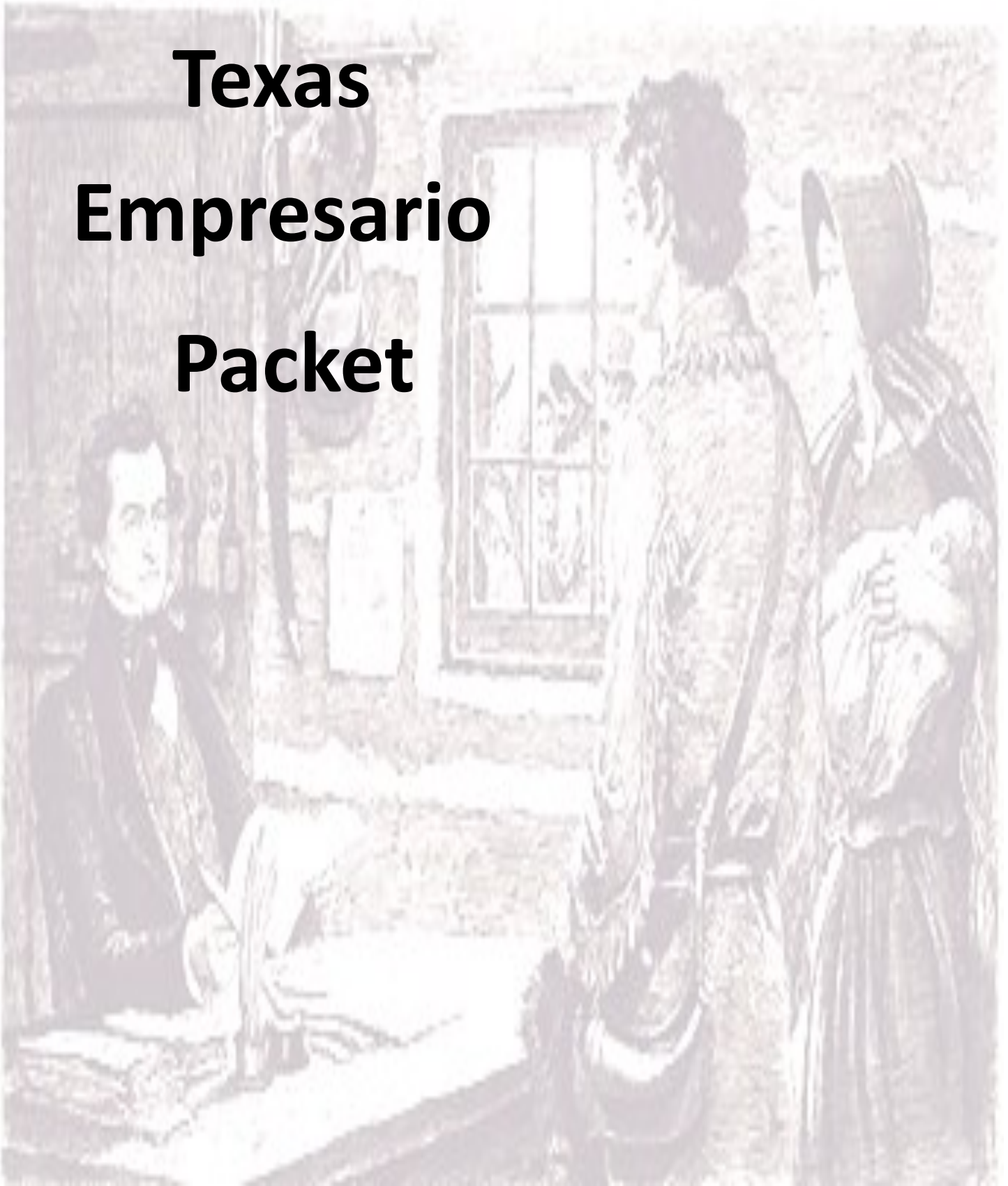


Texas Empresario Packet



Name _____

Texas Empresario Simulation

Selecting Land and People

When Stephen F. Austin took over his father's job of creating an Anglo colony in Texas, he was faced with two difficult tasks. The first of these tasks was to choose the site for his colony; the second was to select colonists that would be acceptable to the Spanish – and later, Mexican rulers.

As to the matter of choosing land, Austin could not simply take any land in Texas. He had to select a site that would appeal to the southern farmer type. The land he selected had to resemble in many ways, the lands with which these people were familiar. If the lands selected were radically different, colonists would be hard to find.

As to the matter of selecting colonists, Austin had to choose carefully. He was ultimately responsible for the people he was bringing in. Not only did he have to follow guidelines set down by the host country, but he also had to exercise a fair amount of judgment in determining the true character of those wishing to come.

In the following exercise, you will be placed in the role of Austin. In the first portion of the exercise, you will have to select a site for your colony; in the second, you will be selecting colonists. Remember to choose both carefully. Your future and the future of Texas are in your hands!

Letter from Zeke Johnson of Tennessee

Dear Josiah,

I heard tell that they was openin' up land fer settlin' in Texas. It shore sounded right nice if'n it were good land. I remember when my pa cleared the land. It were good land with rich soil and it weren't too far from the river. The problem was jist too danged many trees. Course I realize that a feller needs trees fer building hisself a home, but clearin deep forest were jist too hard. Why, it liked ta break my Pa's back a pulling all them stumps. Course, livin' in a forest, ya always had to worry about Injuns ahidin' in the woods. Woods was always good fer Injuns to hide in.

I hopes that the land in Texas is good fer farmin', but farmin' shore is a lot of hard work. Now, if'n some of the land were clear enough fer raisin' beef critters, then a man might be able to put a few gold pieces in his pocket. Here at home, there ain't enough land fer raisin' beef critters. They is jist too dang many trees an' neighbors.

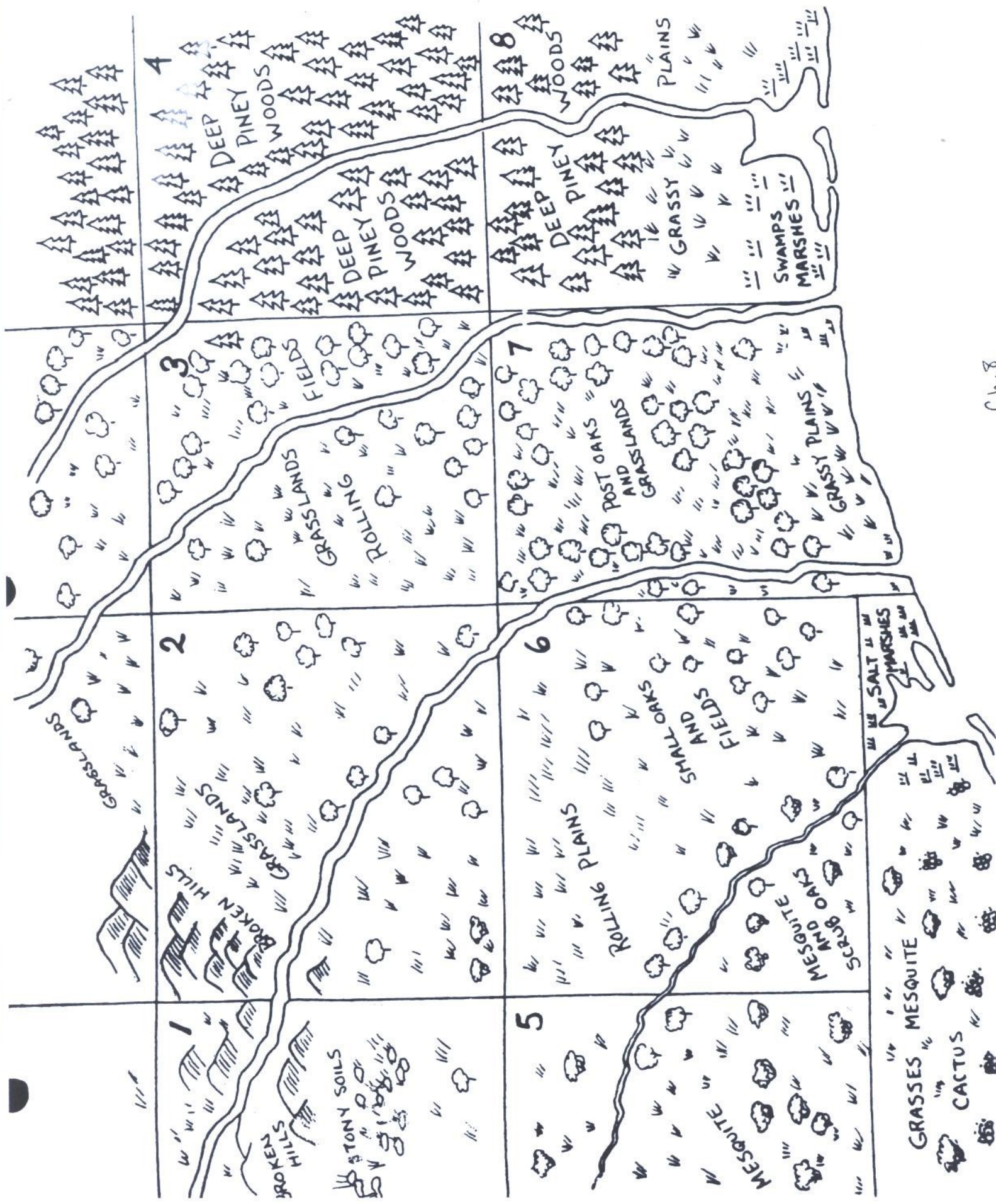
Course, I been a thinkin' of some other way which a body might earn hisself a good keep. If'n they was a good sized river in that there Texas, then I reckon that I could maybe build a mill a some sort; you know, a corn grinding mill, or maybe even a sawmill. It might be kinda nice ta do somethin' different for a change.

Maybe that ther land in Texas is what I'm lookin' fer. Course, I heard tell they was all kinds a land in Texas, even deserts. If'n I was ta move ta Texas, I shore wouldn't want to live in no desert. I jist hopes the land that there Austin feller choose is jist what me an' the family been prayin' fer. I guess only time will tell.

Yours most respectkfully,

Zeke Johnson

(his mark)



Empresario Letter

In this box, you will write a formal letter to the central government in Mexico City requesting the land you chose to settle your colony. Using the information in the book from Ch. 7 and your notes, explain to the government where the land is located based on the map and colonist letter provided. Give reasons explaining why you think this is the best area to settle your colonists. Remember to take into consideration what the colonists will be looking for in land they want to purchase.

***Your letter should be AT LEAST 3 paragraphs long with AT LEAST 4 sentences in each paragraph.
Be sure and address the letter to the Central Government, and to sign your name! Good luck!***

Date: _____

To: _____

Empresario Advertisement

Pretend you are an Empresario in 1826. You have been granted land in Texas to settle with colonists from the United States. Using the information in your book, create an advertisement using pictures and text to convince colonists to come to your colony.

Remember to include information on land, prices, and the type of colonists you want to bring to your colony. Be sure to make it colorful and attractive to better convince settlers to move to your colony

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for the student to create their advertisement. The box is currently blank.

Ch 7 People Identification.

Using the information providing Ch 7 of the book, identify the people being described below. You must use first AND last names. The names should also be capitalized and spelled correctly

1. _____ First Anglo-American to secure permission from Spain to bring American settlers to Texas
2. _____ Last Spanish governor of Texas who met with Moses Austin in San Antonio
3. _____ Friend who Moses Austin met on the street of San Antonio after he was ordered to leave Texas. Helped Austin secure permission to settle American colonists in Texas.
4. _____ Moses Austin's son who took over his task of settling American colonists in Texas. Became the most successful empresario in Texas and settled hundreds of families in Texas.
5. _____ Leading citizen of San Antonio who escorted Stephen Austin to meet with Governor Martinez in 1821.
6. _____ The first settler to enter the land claimed by Stephen Austin. He set up a ferry across the Brazos River.
7. _____ The wealthiest of the settlers to come to Austin's colony. He was a planter and lumberman from Alabama.
8. _____ The first three hundred families to settle in Austin's colony. Most came from Southern states they selected the best land available in the colony
9. _____ Emperor of Mexico who was overthrown in 1823.
10. _____ People who believed that government power should be concentrated in the National, or central, government in Mexico City.
11. _____ People who believed in the sharing of governmental power between the states and the national government
12. _____ The next most successful empresario behind Stephen Austin. He settled his colonists west of Austin's colony. By 1831 he had settled 166 titles of land.
13. _____ Mexican-born empresario who received permission to settle Mexican settlers in Texas. His colony was located along the gulf coast.
14. _____ Along with her husband, she helped to establish the city of Victoria in her husband's colony.

Ch. 7 Questions

Using the information provided in Chapter 7 of the book answer the questions on this page and the following page. Be sure that you read the question and provide a complete answer for each.

1. Who was Moses Austin?
2. What did Moses Austin request from the Spanish Government in Texas? What was the first reaction of the Spanish governor?
3. What made the Spanish governor's first reaction change?
5. What happened to Moses Austin?
6. How did Stephen F Austin's react to his father's death?
7. What training and experience did Stephen Austin have?
8. Where in Texas did Austin decide to set up his colony?
9. Based on the information in the book, why do you think he decided to set it up there?
10. How much land were Austin's colonists able to buy?

11. How much did the land cost?

12. What rules did settlers have to follow?

13. What happened in March of 1822? What did it mean for Austin?

14. What did Austin do in response to the Mexican Revolution?

15. What was the result of his journey?

16. What problems did the colony have?

17. How did Austin solve the problems?

18. Who were the "Old 300"?

19. Name 3 people who were members of Austin's "Old 300".

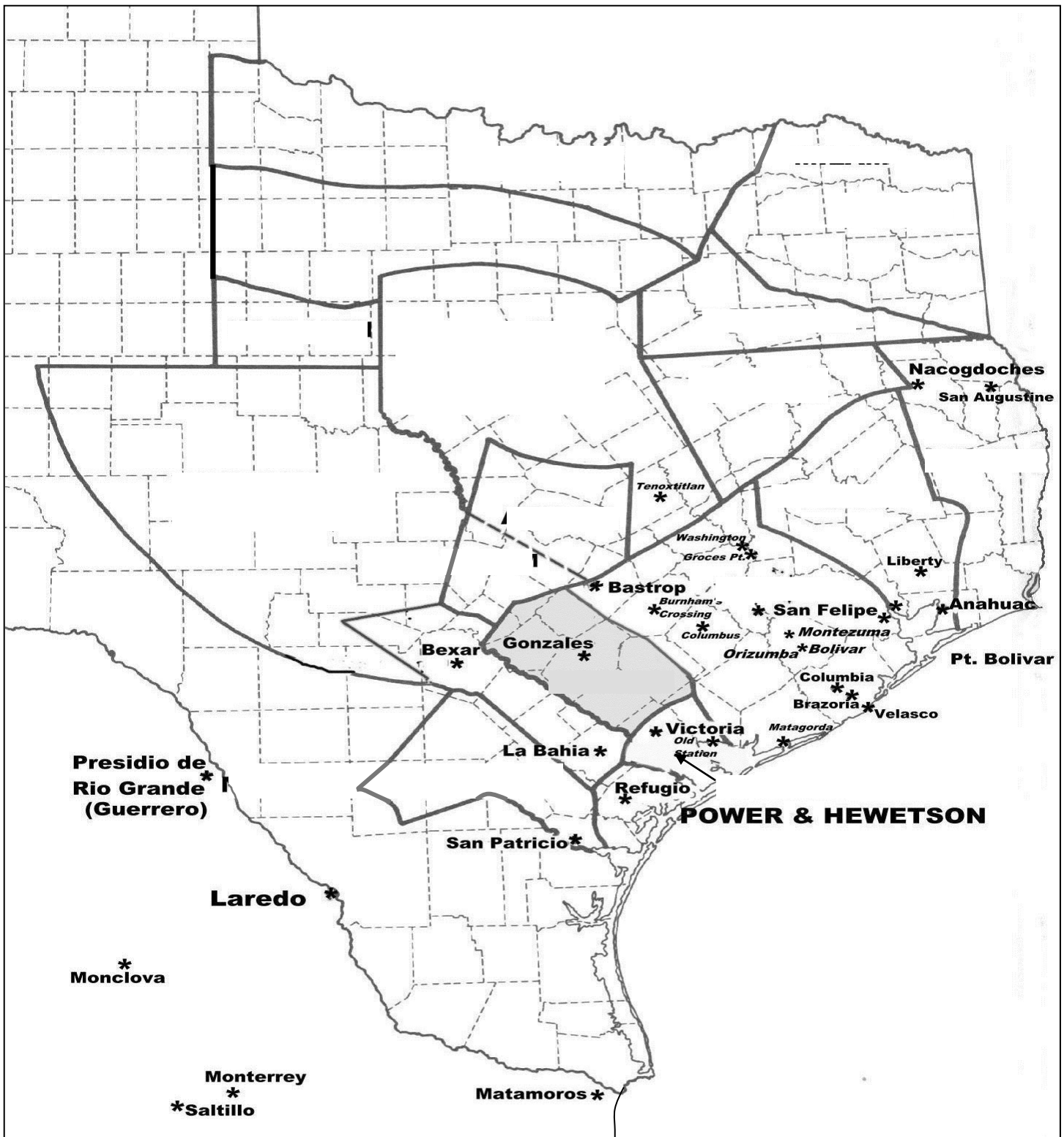
20. What was the name of the capital of Austin's colony?

Empresarios Graphic Organizer

Using the information from Chapter 7 Section 2 as well as the map on mg 173, fill in the following chart using the clues that are proved for you.

Name of Empresario(s)	Year their Grant was established	Number of families brought to Texas	Capital, major town, or relative location
Stephen F Austin	1824		
	1828	200 Irish Immigrants	
		400	Gonzales
McMullen and McGloin		200	
	1831	800	
			Bastrop

Map: Empresario Contracts



For this exercise:

- Color all of Stephen F. Austin's empresario grants *green*
- Color each of the other empresario's grant using a different color
- Label each grant with the empresario's last name(s) in black ink
- Create a Compass Rose
- Color all rivers and other major bodies of water that are on the map blue, and label each according to map rules
- Color other Mexican/Texan territory outside of the grants brown a different color
- Color the United States territory yellow
- Create a key to designate colors for Mexican lands, U.S. Lands

Choosing Colonists Activity

THIS ACTIVITY WILL BE DONE AS A GROUP ACTIVITY IN CLASS

For your colony, not just anyone may be given land. The Spanish, and later the Mexican government, is looking for certain types of people to settle in Texas. Basically, they are looking for decent, law-abiding family men who will respect the laws of Spain. They should know something of farming or have a skill that will be useful to the colony. Men who own machinery that will be of use to the new colony are especially welcome. Settlers must also be Catholic or at least silent about any other religious beliefs.

There are several things to avoid. No people of low moral character should be accepted. People, who want land, but are not willing to stay and farm it, must be turned down. Remember, you are bringing people to settle, you aren't just giving land away. The Spanish are also very sensitive to anyone who may have been linked with the U.S. army or government. They are not fond of filibusters, or their friends, for fear of their plots. They are also not fond of pure adventurers. As the Catholic faith is the main one in Mexico and Spanish Texas, they are sensitive to those who do not respect this fact. Remember, as an empresario, you are the one who, in the end, is responsible to the Spanish government. If your people go wrong, the authorities will blame YOU! CHOOSE WELL!

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Reason for or against</u>
1. William Wyler			
2. "Buffalo" Jones			
3. Rev. Eli Richardson			
4. James Renbow			
5. "Blackjack" Martin			
6. Louis Tabor			
7. Richard McNally			
8. Josiah Willis			
9. Clayton Johnson			
10. Robert Cooper			
11. Plato T. Leeson			
12. Arthur Benson			
13. Thomas Jennings			
14. Wynn Taylor			