

This lesson was made possible through a generous grant from Humanities Texas

TEKS:

7.1C, 7.3B, 7.3C, 7.21B, 7.21B, 7.21D, 7.21F, 7.22A, 7.22B

ASSESSMENT:

Based on your analysis of this letter, write a summary paragraph predicting what actions you think the Mexican government will take regarding the American settlers.

► "The Hate They Bear Us": American Settlers in Mexican Texas

Objective

Building a silent conversation.

Procedure:

Step 1:

Place students in groups of 4 and provide markers.

Step 2: Explain the assignment.

Show students the letter written by a Mexican Army officer in 1830 giving his opinion about American settlers in Texas. Tell students they are going to analyze this letter in sections by rotating groups every four minutes so they can read and analyze all 7 sections of the letter.

Step 3: Model.

Ask students to read their section **silently**. After reading the section, each group "conversation" will be written on the big paper. This silent conversation may include statements as well as questions. Students can draw lines connecting a comment to a particular question, theme, etc. If someone writes a question another group member may comment. Group members may write on the paper at the same time.

Step 4:

Still working in silence, students quietly leave their group, rotate to the next group and read that group's section of the letter, making additional comments or asking questions with their markers. This is repeated until all groups have been visited.

Step 5:

Students return to their section. At this point the silence is broken. Groups can now have a verbal conversation about their own comments as well as the comments written by the other 6 groups.

Step 6: Class discussion.

• In groups, answer these questions:

1. *Having read and discussed the comments and questions from your classmates at your station, what did your group learn about the situation in Texas from Colonel Piedras' point of view?*
2. *What specific information does Piedras provide to General Mier y Teran that would worry the Mexican government?*

• After discussion, ask each group to answer the Assessment and predict how they think the Mexican government will respond regarding the American settlers. Have each group share their predictions with the class.

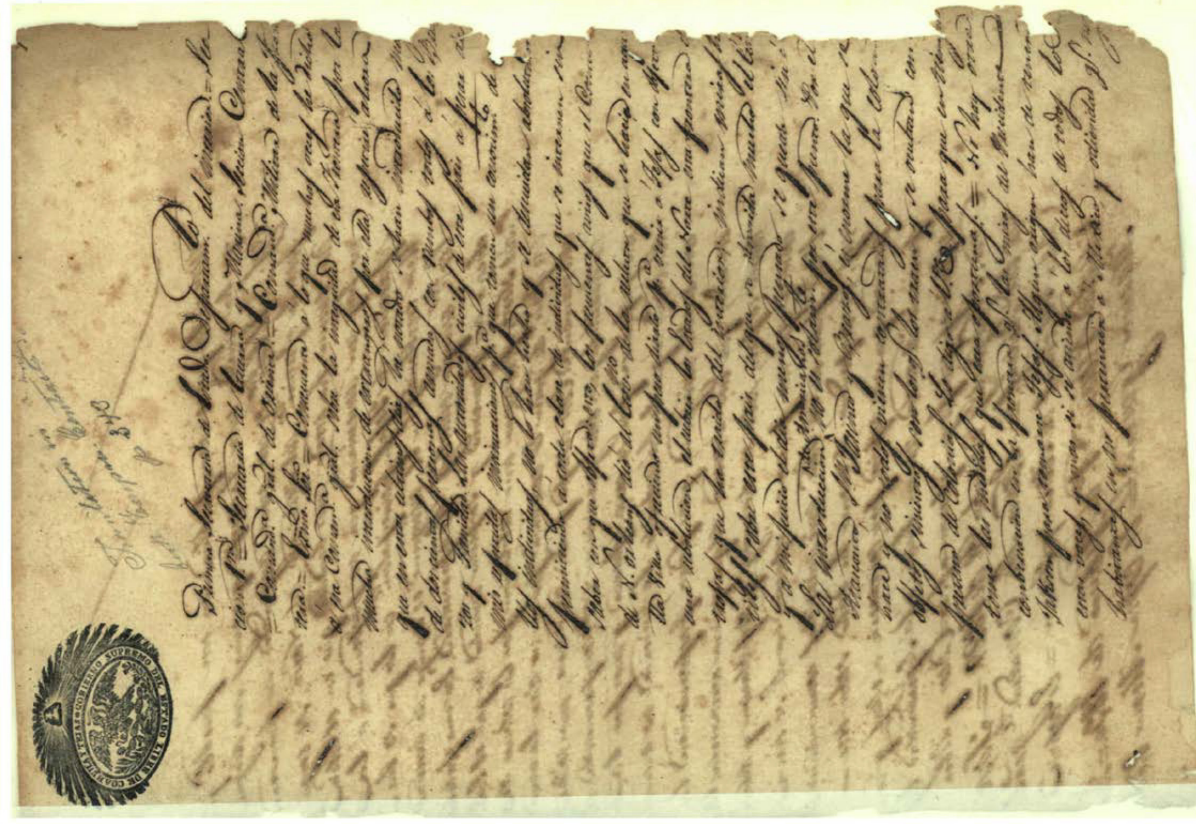
• Show the class the Mexican government's response, the Law of April 6th, 1830. Summarize for them the specific actions the Mexican government plans to take to resolve the American immigration problem.

Extension:

Have each group create their own Law of April 6th, 1830.

How would your group confront this problem and what specific actions would you take to resolve the issue of American emigration to Mexican Texas?

Source: <https://www.facinghistory.org>



This letter was written by Mexican Commander José de la Piedras to Col. Mier y Teran on February 1, 1830, from the Mexican army garrison at Nacogdoches.

Piedras is expressing his opinions to Mier y Teran about the presence of American settlers in East Texas.



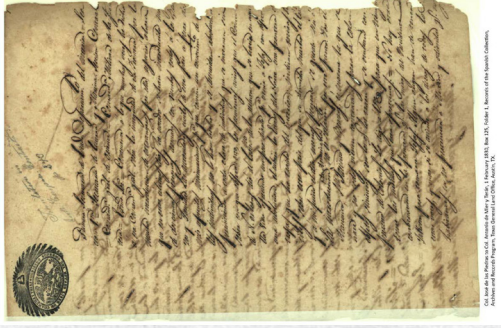
“In regard to the integrity of the frontier on account of the great immigration of foreigners, I now repeat, that in these last few days I have noted more than two hundred armed persons who have entered the Country destined for the Brazos and Trinity rivers.”



“The States of the North cover this frontier with troops brought from the interior which indicate hostility to this Country. The introduction of Americans is not alone in this place.”



“The number of them [Americans] is enormous and not all of those coming [in] are engaged for the Colonies. I say this to your Excellency in order that you may take such measureas you deem [necessary].”



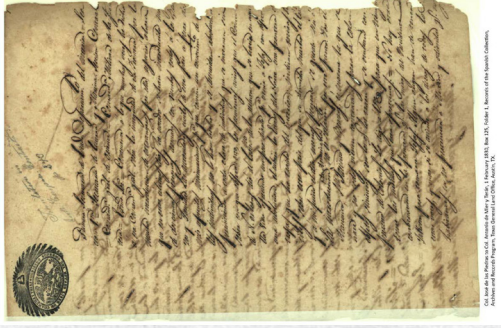
“There is no other conversation on this frontier but the views of President Jackson to take possession of Texas. The hate they bear us is so public in this town. It has already caused difficulty between the troops and the residents.”



“There is not an American who is not inclined to the separation of Texas. None are friends to our government although many appear to be so.”



“ I do not count on any help nor could I possibly make a retreat. Your Excellency knows this Country, knows the distances and knows how few people live here and should know that this force is exposed.”



**“I see a conflict and I suspect very much the Government
of the North will protect a revolution by the Colonists of
this country.”**