

Colonization of Texas: Letters to Stephen F. Austin Choosing the Right People for your Colony Directions

For this colony, not just anyone may be given land. The Spanish, and later Mexican government, is looking for certain types of people to settle in Texas. Basically, they are looking for decent, law abiding families that will respect the laws of Spain. They should know something of farming or have a skill that will be useful in the new colony. Men who own machinery that will be useful 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 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, 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!

On the chart, indicate which of the people you would allow, which you would reject, and why. List the characteristics or skills that caused you to accept or reject each applicant.