

Explore More—Mexican Settlers

Directions: Listen to your teacher talk about the migration of Mexican settlers into Mexican territories of the West and Southwest. Circle any words you don't understand. Underline or highlight important ideas in the text. Write notes in the margins to help you understand key points. Then answer the questions in your own words.

In what parts of the United States did Mexicans settle?

Mexicans originally settled in the American Southwest, including the present-day states of Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, and California. Today, however, people of Mexican ancestry live in every part of the United States.

Why did Mexicans settle in these areas?

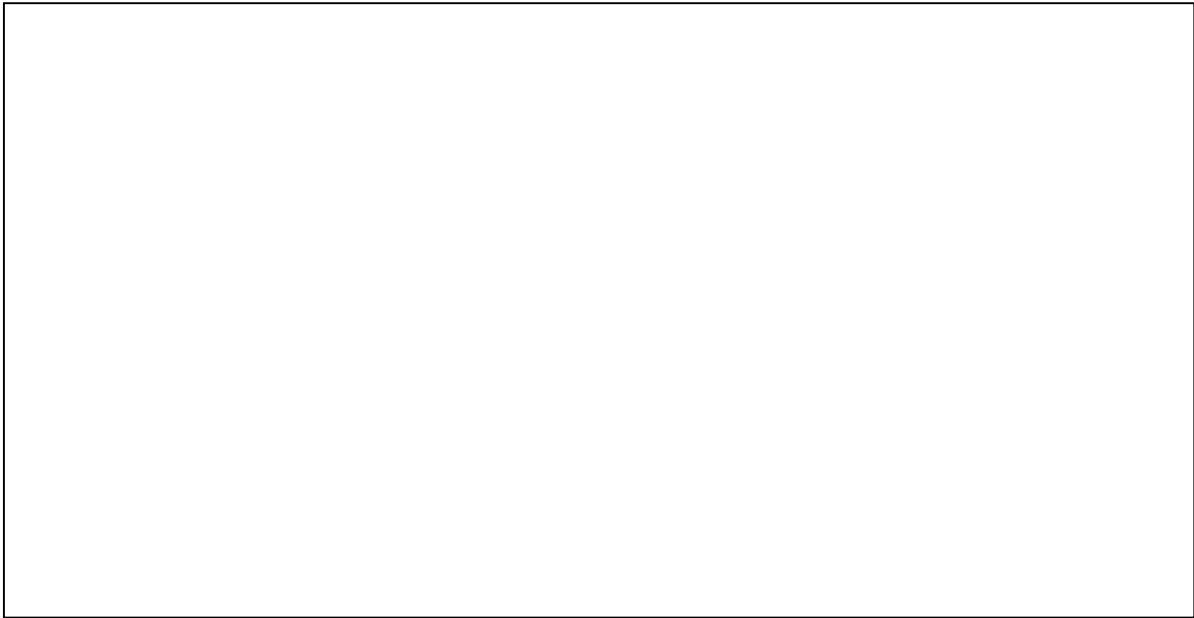
Many Mexicans already lived in these areas when Mexico gave up its claims as a result of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. Since these areas were traditional Mexican lands, Mexicans who migrated there had many cultural and family ties in these areas. These states also had rich farmland, water, and economic opportunities. In addition, the proximity (or “closeness”) to Mexico allowed Mexicans to keep close ties with their home country.

Are these areas still influenced by Mexican settlers today?

Yes. The Southwest has some of the largest Hispanic populations in the United States. Mexican settlers continue to have a strong influence on the building styles, language, food, music, traditions, and culture of the Southwest. Some states, such as New Mexico, are officially bilingual states—both English and Spanish are official languages in this state. ❖

YOUR TURN!

1. Conduct research on an area in the West or Southwest where many Mexicans settled. How is this area influenced by Mexicans today? Learn more about the people and culture of this area. Then draw a picture that shows the Mexican influence.



2. Think about the area in which you live. Is your area influenced by the culture of the people who migrated there hundreds of years ago? Explain your answer.
