

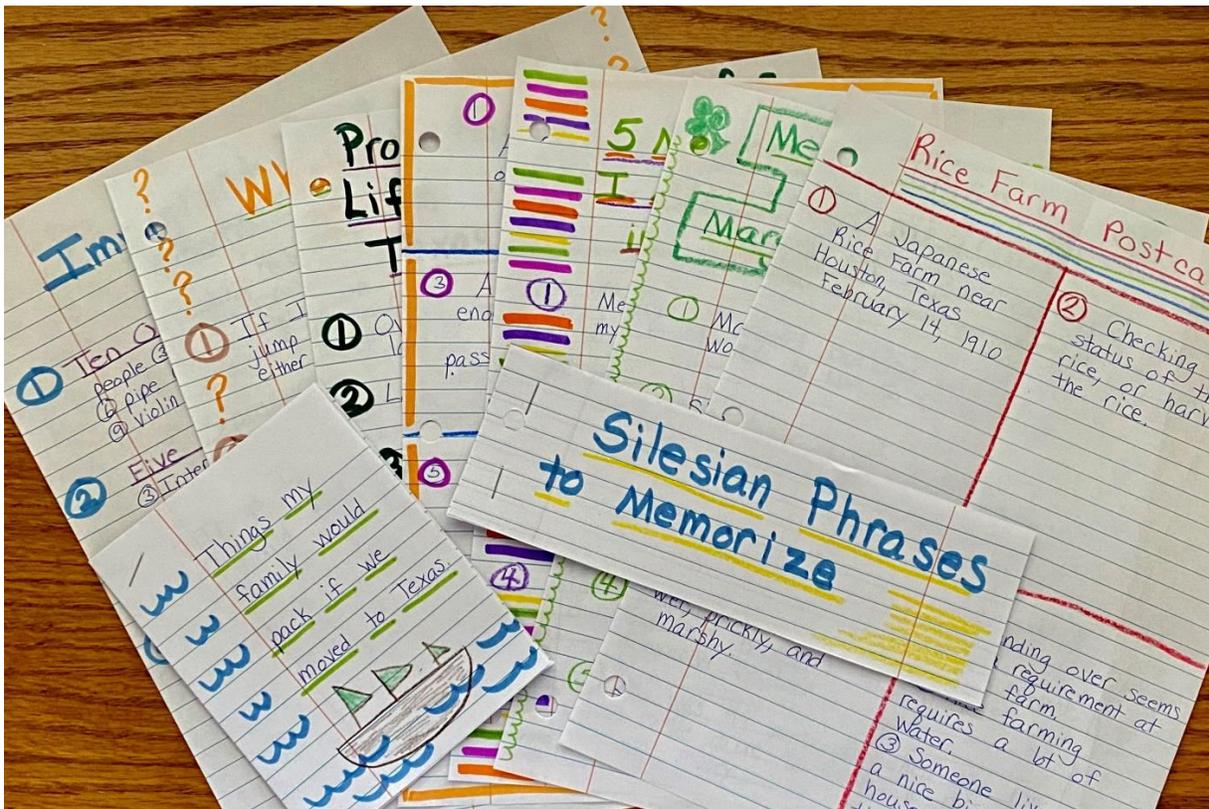


**Going to Texas  
Immigration to the Lone Star State**

**➔Additional Activities➔**

**Going to Texas: Immigration to the Lone Star State**

In addition to the activities outlined in the Travel Trunk notebook, please browse here for additional ways to make the Immigration trunk more meaningful and edifying! And, please remember, *adjust all activities as needed*—according to grade level, and needs.





# WHAT WOULD YOU PACK?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Old Brown Suitcase</li> <li>1 Plate</li> <li>1 Fork, Spook, and Knife</li> <li>4 Small Tumblers</li> <li>3 Wooden Spoons</li> <li>1 Sewing Kit</li> <li>1 Family Photo, framed</li> <li>Medicine Bottle</li> <li>1 Jar of Seeds</li> <li>1 Heart-Shaped Trinket Holder</li> <li>3 Dice</li> <li>Grimm's Fairy Tales Book</li> <li>Journal</li> <li>2 Small Dolls</li> <li>1 Framed Family Bible</li> <li>1 Framed Violin/Fiddle</li> <li>1 Washcloth with Soap</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Off-White-Blanket</li> <li>Lederhosen</li> <li>White Ruffled Blouse</li> <li>Red Knit Vest</li> <li>Off-White Apron</li> <li>Red &amp; White Peasant Blouse</li> <li>Colorful Woven Purse</li> <li>Wreath of Flowers (European Headwear)</li> <li>Off-White Kerchief</li> <li>Multi-Colored Shawl/Kerchief</li> <li>Brown Shawl/Kerchief</li> <li>Thick Red &amp; White Shawl</li> <li>Thin Red &amp; White Shawl/Tablecloth</li> <li>Thick Black &amp; White Shawl/Tablecloth</li> </ul>
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➔**Things to Pack:** Take a close look at all the possible traveling supplies in the Travel Trunk. Then take a close look at the size of the suitcase. Take a sheet of paper and fold it into fourths; then cut along the folds, creating four quarters of paper. On one ¼ piece, write down seven things you would pack (don't forget clothing!). On another piece, write down what a mother might pack. On a third quarter piece, write seven things a father might pack (you may add items such as tools, if desired). Use the fourth quarter piece of paper for a cover and staple the four quarter sheets together, creating a booklet.



→ **Study the image** above of a ship carrying immigrants across the sea. Take out a sheet of loose-leaf paper and write down the following observations:

- 1) List ten objects in this image.
- 2) List the expressions of five different people in the image.
- 3) In three sentences, explain what is happening in the image.
- 4) Write a list of 3 things you can infer/assume from this image.
- 5) Write 3 questions you would like to ask about the photo.

→ [See This Image Online](#)

## American Immigration to Texas

The Texas we know today actually belonged to New Spain for *many* years: from 1690 until 1821. As early as the 1790s, Spain invited Anglo-Americans to settle in their northern regions as a way to populate it. The American immigrants (often from Tennessee, Kentucky, Arkansas, and Missouri) had to agree to be/become Catholic and Spanish citizens in exchange for substantial land grants. When Mexico won its independence from Spain in 1821 and Texas (Tejas) became a part of Mexico, this offer to American families to settle in Texas continued. Each group of American immigrants had an “empresario” to help govern the American immigrants. By 1829, slavery was abolished in all Mexican states Texas. This angered the American Immigrants who had moved from slave-holding states.



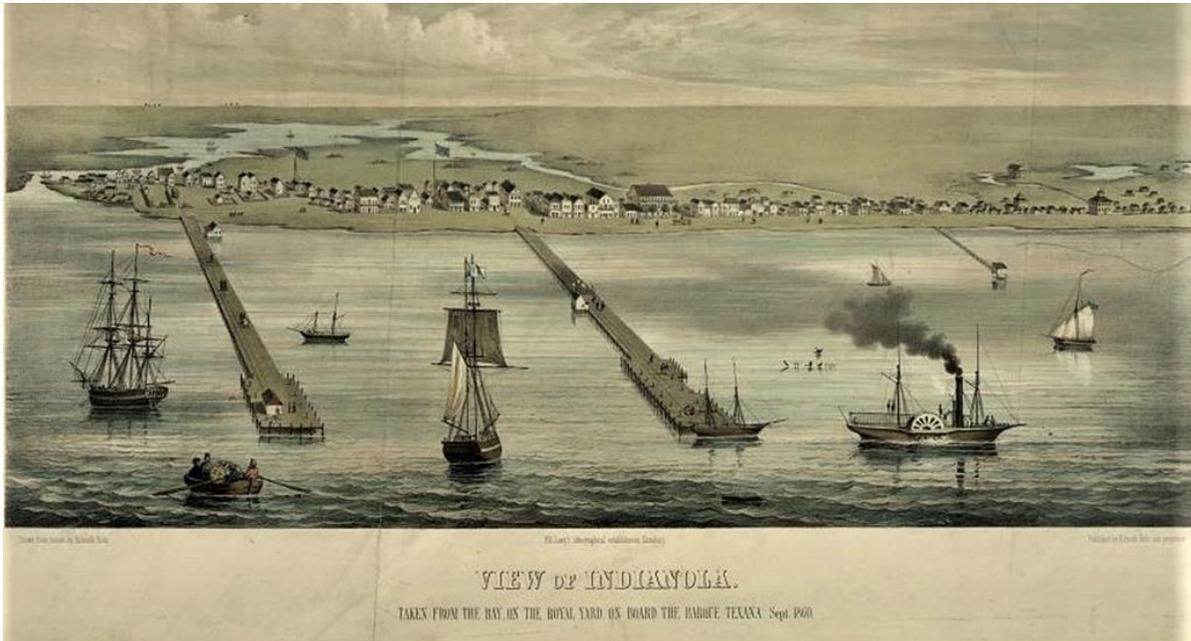
### →What Would You Do If ...

Take out a sheet of paper and write down your answers to these “What would you do if” questions:

- 1) If you were a poor farmer and were offered several acres of land in Texas (Tejas) in Spain or Mexico for a very small price?
- 2) If you had to agree to become Catholic?
- 3) If you had to promise to become a Spanish or Mexican citizen?
- 4) If you had to change your ways and no longer accept slavery?

## German Immigration to Texas

Germans were the largest European group to migrate to Texas. A German citizen, with the alias name of Johann Ernst felt inspired to move to America, but heard of the land grants offered in Texas, Mexico. Ernst applied and received a grant of 4,000 acres in 1831. Ernst began to write letters back home full of promises of perfect living conditions. A warm climate, lots of land, plenty of game for food, rich land for crops ... a “paradise.” Ernst exaggerated the positives of Texas and downplayed any negatives. But his letter-writing worked and many Germans left their homes and made new homes in Texas, Mexico. After Texas won its independence (1836–1846), even more Germans arrived inspired by letters from their families.



1800s German Immigrants Arriving in Texas

### →Pros and Cons ...

If you had read one of Ernst’s letters full of happy promises, but arrived in Texas and found things like rattlesnakes and a looming war with Mexico, how would you feel? Take a sheet of loose-leaf paper, fold it in half length-wise and make a list of seven Pros for life in Texas and a list of seven Cons for life in Texas. Trade your list with a friend and compare.

### →German Folk Dances

Ask your parents if you have any German ancestry. If so, would you like to learn a traditional German dance like these?

## French/Alsatian Immigration to Texas



**Yum ... Some Alsatian Cuisine on Display at Haby's Bakery in Castroville**

The French had a variety of forays into Texas, however it was the Alsatians who stayed. In 1842, Frenchman Henri Castro was issued a land grant by the Republic of Texas (Texas had gained its independence from Mexico in 1836). By accepting this land grant, he was obliged to bring 600 families to an area west of San Antonio. Alsatians found the invitation to Texas to be appealing. Land in France was expensive and opportunities were scarce. The “Free Texas Land” was a dream of hope for these Alsatians. (Alsace is a region in France bordering with Germany). It was 1844 when the first group of Alsatians arrived to their Texas home—a site that became known as Castroville.

8) The Alsatian Language—Still today in Castroville, many people strive to learn the language that their Alsatians ancestors spoke.

### → [Alsace, France](#)

Watch the video (link above) on Alsace, France. Fold a piece of paper into eight sections (three folds). Draw dividing lines with a marker on the folds. In each section, write down one thing you saw in the video that is different from Texas. What do you think the Alsatians missed the most when they left their homeland for Texas?

## Silesian (“Polish”) Immigration to Texas

Fr. Leopold Moczygemba was invited to Texas to help with German immigrants. Fr. Moczygemba wrote to family and friends back home in Upper Silesia (a region in then-Prussia; now-Poland) to invite them to move to Texas as well. The first group of Silesians arrived in Texas in December, 1854 (Texas had been annexed by the U.S. by this time). Many more Silesians followed; the first settlement of Silesians was in Panna Maria; the second was in Bandera. Many other towns in Texas established Silesian communities. The immigrants from Silesia spoke a unique language called Silesian.

### →Can you pronounce any of these Silesian words?

Silesian	Pronunciation	English
Starka & Starzik	STAR-kah & STAH-zjek	Grandma & Grandpa
Statkuj Sie!	STOT-kui SHEH	Behave!
Dej pozor!	DAY PO-zore	Be careful!
Uwijek sie!	oo-VEE-ay SHAY	Hurry up!

→**Memorize Three Silesian Phrases**—Fold a sheet of paper into four strips (two folds) and cut along the folds. Write one Silesian word/phrase with its pronunciation and English translation on three of the strips of paper. Use the fourth for a cover and title page. Staple the four strips together. Try to pronounce and memorize your three chosen Silesian words/phrases



Fr. Leopold Moczygemba

[Current Polish Historical Regions](#)

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→ A Jeopardy “Answer” from October 31, 2020:

If you lived in the main city of Upper Silesia in 1820 you lived in Prussia; in 1920 in Germany; today in this country to the east.

→ [Click Here to Find the Jeopardy “Question.”](#)

**Silesians Arriving in Bandera ...** Approximately 16 Silesian (now often called Polish) families left Panna Maria after only six weeks. They were promised jobs crafting roof shingles in Bandera and were brought there by Ox Cart! They arrived on February 2, 1855.



A Wooden Shingle (→find this in the trunk!)



After thousands of shingles were made by the Silesians, they would load them up in a wagon like this and transport them to San Antonio to sell.

## Mexican Immigration to Texas

Mexican immigration to Texas has a funny twist to it, for Texas used to be a part of Mexico (1821-1836)! The Mexican Revolution of 1910-1920 created a terrible chaos in Mexico, prompting many Mexicans to move to Texas. Some Americans were frustrated—finding the Mexican presence to be uncomfortable. They shunned them or attempted to Americanize them as quickly as possible. Many Mexicans were forced—out of the U.S. during the Great Depression in the 1930s. Many Americans feared the competition for scarcity of jobs available. However, during World War II, the U.S. government invited many Mexicans to cross into Texas and other parts of the U.S. to help the depleted workforce. After World War II—The U.S. wanted the Mexican workers to return to Mexico, prompting a large-scale deportation. Now, many people of Mexican heritage hold a significant place in American society. They live in all regions of the country and hold a wide variety of jobs. Their culture has made many positive impacts on America.



1911 - Mexicans Escaping the Horrors of the Mexican Revolution

→ [Mariachi Singer Mateo Lopez from San Antonio](#)

→ **Write it Out ...**

Make a list of five Mexican traditions that you appreciate having in Texas.

## Irish Immigration to Texas

In 1828 (when Texas was still a part of Mexico), four Irishmen—received permission from the Mexican government to establish Irish colonies in the state of Texas (Tejas): San Patricio & Refugio. They are now both counties along the southeastern coast of Texas. Many of these Irish immigrant families were recruited from New York City to help the colony grow. These Irish immigrants did well in the cattle business. The required conversion to Catholicism in Mexico was not a problem for the Irish, for they were also practicing Catholics. The Irish brought priests with them, including Father Michael Muldoon who became a priest for Stephen F. Austin's colony. The idea of Texan independence from Mexico—was appealing to the Irish; four Irishmen signed—the Texas Declaration of Independence and 11 Irishmen died at the Alamo. The potato famine in Ireland (1845-1849)—and the end of the Civil War in 1865, prompted many more Irish to migrate to Texas.



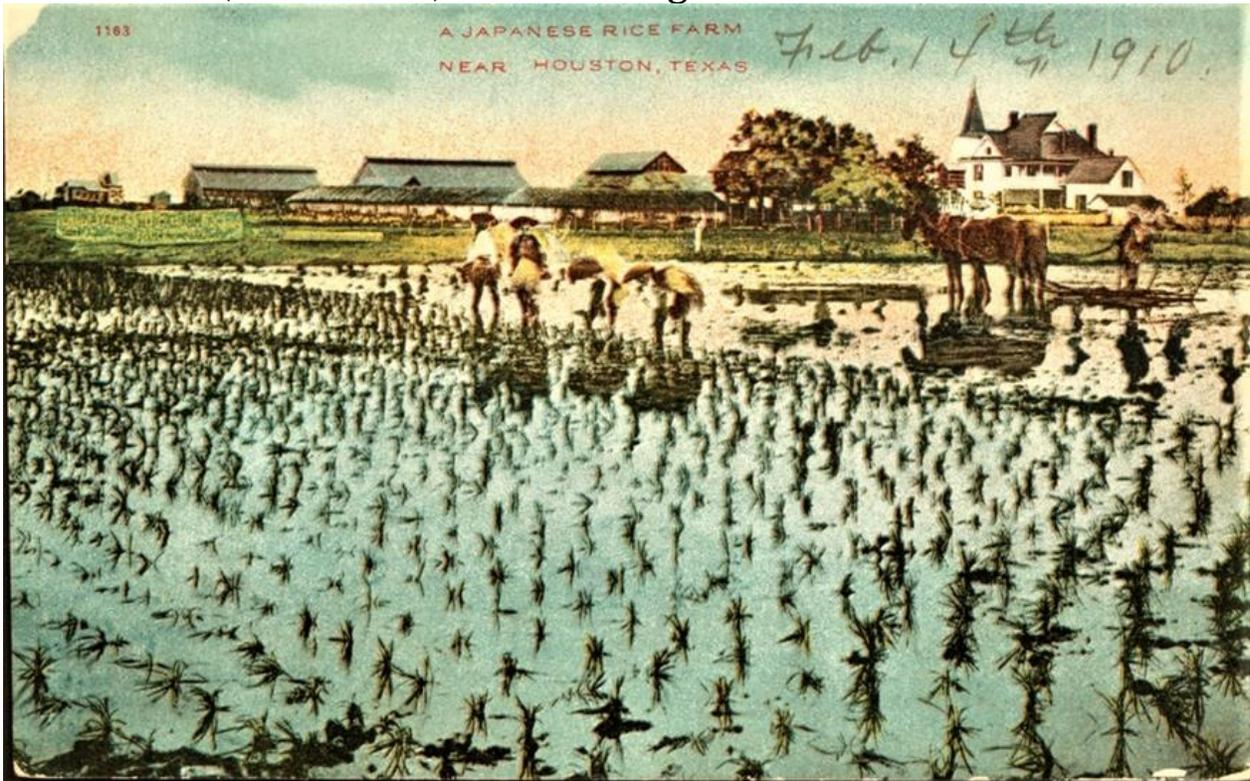
Margaret Heffernan Borland was an Irish immigrant in Texas. After much of her family had died, in 1873, at the age of 49, she herded 2,500 head of cattle to Wichita, Kansas.

→ [Meet Margaret Borland—Kids' Page](#)

→ Read the article in the link above and make a list of 5 things you learned about the Irish immigrant, Margaret Heffernan Borland.

## Asian Immigration to Texas

Asian immigrants began to arrive in Texas from China in 1870 to help build the Houston and Texas Central Railroad. In 1882, the “Chinese Exclusion Act”—prohibited any more Chinese from entering the U.S. for 10 years. Japanese immigrants began arriving in Texas at the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. They were welcome to help grow rice farms along the Gulf Coast. Another group of Japanese entered Texas to farm citrus along the Gulf coast; however, World War II (1939-1945) prompted much prejudice against the Japanese in Texas. Many Vietnamese immigrants landed in Texas in the 1970s, following the Vietnam War (1955-1975) as war refugees.



### → Analyze and Ponder ...

Take a good look at the [1910 postcard](#) image above. Take out a sheet of paper, fold it into fourths, and open it back up. Put an answer for one of the follow questions in each quadrant:

- 1) What words are written on this postcard?
- 2) What do think the people in the photo might be doing?
- 3) Compare the top half of the image to the bottom half.
- 4) Write a list of 3 things you can conclude from this photo.

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→ [Click here](#) to learn about San Antonio Asian-American teen Harini Logan who won the Scripps National Spelling Bee in 2022. Harini’s parents are from Chennai, India.