

The Settling of Texas and the War for Texan Independence

Starter

Directions: Read the following quotes to gain an understanding of the advantages and risks involved in immigrating to Texas in the mid 1800s. Using what you have read, respond to the starter question. Your response should be **3-5 sentences**.

Quotes:

Factors encouraging American and European immigration into Texas

"[The soil] is so rich it never needs manure... The weather hinders¹ the field work only a couple of days in a whole month; it is always fair skies and sunshine. One sees bees and butterflies the whole year through; birds sing in the bushes, which always remain green, in part.... No winter, almost like March in Germany. Planters who have several hundred head of cattle are common."

Frederich Ernst – one of the first German immigrants to Texas, founder of Industry, Texas, the first permanent German settlement in Texas.

<http://www.cah.utexas.edu/exhibits/WinedaleStory/green5.html>

"I was a young thing then, but 5 months married, my husband...failed in Tennessee...I was ready to go anywhere...Texas fever rose then...there we must go. There without much reflection, we did go."

Young woman settler

(Tindall & Shi, 551)

\$.04 /acre compared to \$1.25/acre for comparable land in US.

(TSL)

Qualities of Texas settlers

"Pierce the heart of the enemy as you would a feller that spit in your face, knocked down your wife, burnt up your houses, and called your dog a skunk! Cram his pesky carcass full of thunder and lightning like a stuffed sassidge...and bit his nose off into the bargain."

Davy Crockett – Tennessee frontiersman and congressman, defender at the Alamo. (Tindall & Shi, 552)

¹ Hinder: to make slow or difficult; to hold back.

Question: Imagine that you lived in Tennessee in 1836. Several of your neighbors, friends and family members are considering immigrating to Texas. Would you go? What factors would make you want to go? What were some of the possible disadvantages of immigrating to Texas?"
