

My First Texans

Talk with your parents to discover which individual or family group was the first of your ancestors to immigrate to Texas.

Do you have ancestors who arrived with the early Spaniards?

Do you have ancestors, black or white, who walked or rode in wagons or traveled by steamboat to get to Texas from other states in the young United States?

Do you have ancestors who arrived by sea from Europe or Asia?

Did your family move to Texas from Illinois last week?

No matter what your answer, you have one or a family of “first Texans” on your family tree. Ask a parent or grandparent to tell you all they can. Make notes to use in writing your Exhibit Label.

Note Page:

1. What were their names?
2. Where did they come from?
3. Why did they leave?

4. When did they leave?
5. Why did they choose Texas as a destination?

6. What kinds of hardships did they endure on their journey?

7. What kinds of difficulties did they encounter after they arrived?

8. What became of their children?

9. What anecdotes (short stories) does your family tell about funny or sad things that happened to your first Texans?

10. Tell about something your family holds as a value because of your ancestor’s experiences. (E.g., education, perseverance, faith, neighborliness, caution, optimism)

If you have family photographs of people, homes, activities, select one to photocopy or use it to make a drawing. Draw or photograph a family artifact or heirloom.