

## ***Audio 1: Introduction***

### ***Becoming Texas Audio Guides***

**Xander Y.:** Welcome to St. Andrew's Episcopal School's Early Texas History audio guide project. We are in fifth grade and worked in small groups to research questions based on the museum's first floor gallery: *Becoming Texas*. Our overall compelling questions were: As Texas was becoming Texas in the 18th Century, what were some of the competing interests between the Native American tribes and the Spanish and French colonists? What were some of the consequences of these interactions?

This audio guide was built specifically for the 1st floor galleries at this museum. The idea is that you will read the museum placards and then learn some more from our audio guide. Our guide is meant to supplement the information presented.

We start our audio guide here at this famous Larry McMurtry quote: "Texas is rich in unredeemed dreams." Most people would likely interpret this as "Texas is a land of opportunity," but unredeemed dreams can also mean dreams that were destroyed or not realized. In our research project, we could find versions of both interpretations.

When the Spanish arrived in Texas, they had dreams of converting the Native American tribes to Christianity by building a series of missions. The earlier Spanish explorers called conquistadors were in search of gold and glory. The missions and dream of mass conversion of Native Americans was ended once the Mexicans overthrew the Spanish in 1821. Although Texas does still have a large Catholic population suggesting that some of the Spanish influence remained. The Spanish conquistadors did not find roads paved in gold in Texas but they squashed dreams for Native Americans, taking what they wanted and even were violent.

The early French explorers also experienced unredeemed dreams when they landed in Texas by accident instead of their intended destination of the Mississippi River. The failed colony-attempt included a shipwreck, tribal raids, a mutiny, and the killing of the expedition's leader René-Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle.

Finally, many Texas Native Americans suffered greatly from disease, removal from their lands, and forced assimilation. Through tragedy and unredeemed dreams, Texas took shape.

Please move inside the archway and stop at the label in the entrance that says "Our story begins here."