

## ***Audio 8: Diplomacy and Treaties***

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

**Ivy C.:** While there was plenty of conflict between some Native Americans and colonists, there were also examples of diplomacy. Diplomacy is the art of maintaining peaceful relationships between nations, groups, or individuals. One example of this is treaties. A treaty is an agreement that binds two or more countries into an agreement or compromise. Treaties can also involve a country and a Native American Nation. There were approximately 374 treaties made between the United States and Native American Nations. Unfortunately, the U.S. government often used treaties as one means to displace Native Americans from their tribal lands.

The French often showed more diplomacy to Native American tribes than other colonial powers. The French often treated the Native Americans better than other colonists because they were trading with them for fur. Fur was important to the French because it was in high demand in France. The French and some Native American tribes developed working relationships with each other. For example, both the Native Americans and the French tried to learn some words from each other's languages so they could communicate with them in a diplomatic manner.

**Maclean S.:** Many treaties happened between the settlers and the Native Americans, which would make you think there was mutual peace between the two groups. Often, however, conflict happened. However, it was not like that from the beginning.

Different tribes had different relations with the Spanish, but with many tribes, the Native Americans treated the newcomers, at least initially, with respect, curiosity, and kindness. After encountering them and being treated badly and as the colonists started taking over the Native Americans' land, many tribes decided they could not stand it any longer. This started conflict both between the colonists and the Native Americans and even between the Native American tribes themselves. The conflict between tribes often happened because they were displaced from their territories from colonists and were pushed into other tribes' areas.

One of the most notable conflicts between tribes was that of the Comanche and the Apache tribes. They were enemies since the Comanche tribe moved into what is now Northern Texas in the early 18th century. The Comanche kept moving southward, and there they met the Apache. Many fights occurred between the different tribes while the Comanche kept expanding into the Apache's land. One conflict was the attack on the mission Santa Cruz de San Saba.

The mission Santa Cruz de San Saba was a mission built by the Spanish and was an attempt to convert the Apache tribe members to Christianity. The Comanche tribe thought their enemy, the Apache, was siding with the Spanish. The Comanche with other tribes such as the Tonkawa, Yojuane, and Bidai attacked the mission with around 2,000 men. The attack

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worked, and they destroyed the mission. This attack was important because it was the only time a Native American tribe fully demolished a Spanish settlement.

Now take time to fully view the exhibit on the different tribes in Texas and to see how layers of history tell the story of the Spanish and French colonists and the Native Americans. When you exit this exhibit, you will see a timeline of what was happening outside of Texas during this time period. Look above this to the large territory maps and learn how these maps were changing rapidly in early Texas history.