

## DEFINING BORDERS

Now it is early 1800 and little has changed in Texas. There are still very few European settlers. However, east of the Mississippi River life is changing quickly. The War for Independence from 1776-1783 made the 13 original colonies into the independent nation of the United States. In 1803 the U.S. purchased the Louisiana Territory from France for \$15 million. The Americans contended that the purchase stretched southwest to the Rio Grande River and west to the Rocky Mountains. Although Spain had done very little to colonize Texas and New Mexico, they did not want the new United States to have it. To establish control, Spain even required a passport to enter Texas.

Spain was also having problems in ruling Florida. So in February 1819 the United States and Spain signed the Adams-Onís or Transcontinental Treaty. Spain ceded all of Florida to the United States and in return Spain retained Texas. The United States agreed to the Sabine and Red Rivers as the southern boundary of the Louisiana Purchase, and the Neutral Ground became part of Louisiana.

Plate 13 *Spanish Dominions in North America northern Part* by Pinkerton  
After the 1803 Louisiana Purchase, President Thomas Jefferson dispatched Lewis and Clark to the Northwest Territory and Zebulon Pike southwest to explore the new land. Pike's Texas cartography was firsthand and very accurate.

Activity: Create your own passport to enter Spanish Texas. Design a logo for Texas as it was then with few people and vast, open spaces.