I. Major Trends

A. Far North (finger-like projections)

1. Pacifica Coast, California Missions
   a) Two significant towns emerged: San Jose and Los Angeles
   b) Four presidios: San Diego, Santa Barbara, Monterrey, and San Francisco

2. New Mexico
   a) Upper Rio Grande (most populated area) ¼ Pueblo Indians
   b) Santa Fe (capital and leading city) with Albuquerque and Paseo del Norte

3. Texas
   a) They were scattered settlements here and there, including some in East Texas, San Antonio only city.

B. Other Finger-Like Projections

1. Virtually uninhabited by non-Indians
2. Settlements isolated from one another
3. Frontier developed differently from interior of Mexico, with a more hierarchical society.
4. Family was important institution in the core areas of New Spain, in comparison to the frontier. Life was more precarious (hostile environment, deficient and limited diet, epidemics, diseases, which resulted in the loss of life and a high infant mortality.
5. Frontier was harsh for children and women.
   a) Greater freedom for women, not because some were widowed, but the absence of clear-cut-division of labor
   b) Curanderas and parteras (midwives) were not uncommon
   c) Unlike the American counterpart, Hispano women were allowed to smoke, drink, and gamble who often led American observers to conclude that these ladies were lascivious and immoral
d) They were at liberty to run businesses, divorce their husbands, own property and sue in court

e) In other words, the women of New Mexico were the rule and not the exception.