

2016 Docent Training: Interactive Gallery Experience

Gallery Name: Missions & Ranchos

Docent Name: Terry Fyne

Activity Name: "BASKETS OF MEMORIES"

Audiences: Check all that apply

Adults Families School Children: Grades 3 and up Homeschooled Students

Essential Question(s) (all activities)

How did life change for the First Californians during the Missions and Ranchos period?

Common Core Standards and Content Standards

English Language Arts

Speaking and Listening Standards

Comprehension and Collaboration

Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas

History-Social Sciences Content Standards

3.2 Students describe the American Indian nations in their local region long ago and in the recent past.

4.2 Students describe the social, political, cultural, and economic life and interactions among people of California from the pre-Columbian societies to the Spanish mission and Mexican rancho periods.

List Touring Techniques

Storytelling, interactive questions, compare/contrast, transitions, connections from the present to the past

List Gallery and/or Interactive Learning Station Artifacts/Objects

Grass sandal, acorn basket, basket start, unfinished basket, picture of Father Junipero Serra, mural of San Juan Capistrano, adobe brick, mail bag, iron, clothes pin, spur

Introduction/Theme/Purpose

In this first person narrative from the point of view of two characters, one a 10-year-old First Californian girl and, the other, her granddaughter (as an adult) living 50 years later, the audience will gain a greater understanding of the impact of colonization on the First Californians and their way of life.

Activity Description/Steps in Presenting the Activity

Storytelling and incorporation of artifacts in gallery and objects in the First Californians and Ranchos and Missions Interactive Learning Stations. *See story below.*

Sample interactive questions (2-3) for the Audience

What do you think my sandal is made of? What are your shoes made of?

Conclusion/Review/Reflection

Storytelling is an entertaining, interactive, and informative way to present the history of the First Californians and the changes to their way of life during the Mission and Ranchos period.

Date approved by the Education Committee: _____

Baskets of Memories

By Terry Fyne

Travel back in time to meet Juanita, a ten-year-old Native American girl, who watches the building of San Juan Capistrano; then travel forward to meet her granddaughter Juana, who works for Don Bernardo Yorba and loves to make baskets the same way her grandmother did.

Today I will tell you a little about the First Californians and the people who lived during the Missions and Ranchos period in California. I will pretend to be two characters. Juanita is a ten-year-old First Californian girl who later grows up and has a family. The other character will be her granddaughter, Juana who lived many years later. Will you pretend with me and help me with the stories?

(Juanita and Juana are members of the Juaneno Band of Mission Indians, Acjachemen Nation, a California state-recognized Native American Indian Tribe and original inhabitants, First Californians, of the land.)

Juanita's Story

Off-stage – Good-bye, Mother! I'll be back in a little while!

Ohhhh! You scared me! Who are you? What are you doing here? Are you coming as friends? I would like to be friends with you.

My name is Juanita and I'm 10 years old. What are your names and how old are you?

You must be here to see the mission – San Juan Capistrano. That's how I got my new name – Juanita – from the men who came here and started the building that you see now. They named it San Juan Capistrano. I know San Juan means Saint John and Capistrano is the name of a religious man who lived a long, long time ago. When I was a very small girl, I watched people build this mission. It is so different from the home where I was born.

The people who came here really changed my family's way of life. Everything about them was so different. I didn't understand what they were saying when I first heard them speak and they couldn't understand what my parents said to them. Now I know that they were speaking in Spanish because they were born in the country of Spain which is very far away from here. They taught me Spanish and now I know how to speak two languages!

Oh . . . and they dressed so differently from my family. I want to show you what I usually wear on my feet. **(Show grass sandal)**. I lost the other one when I was playing near the stream. My mother was mad about that. What do you think it is made of? What are you wearing on your feet and what is it made of?

You are wearing things that I have never seen before. The padres, or holy fathers, who live in the mission, wear long robes that made me laugh when I first saw them. If you squint a little bit, you can see **Father Junipero Serra** standing beside the mission. He is one of the first Spanish men who came here.

My father never wore anything like he wore –sometimes when it was cold he would wear a rabbit or a deer skin fur. **(show fur)**

I am going to show you something special because you are my new friends. **(Show acorn basket)**. It is my basket. What do you think I do with it? I use it to gather acorns, grass seeds, roots, and nuts. I can wear it on my head. Would one of you like to try it on? **(Ask for a volunteer to put the basket on)**

Now I have something to show you that is really special to me **(start of a basket)**. Do you know what this is going to be? It is the beginning of a basket. My mother is one of the best basket makers in San Juan Capistrano and she is teaching me how to make baskets, too. Maybe I can show you some of her baskets later. They are beautiful! Some have designs inside of them – there are rattlesnakes and butterflies. Some

are woven so tightly that they can hold water. Here is a basket that I am making (**show basket**). My baskets aren't that tight and they cannot hold liquids because there are some holes in them.

I wish I could show you the home that I used to live in. My father and grandfather made it out of young trees that they covered with grasses. There was an opening for a door and a hole at the top. We made a fire inside for warmth and light and then smoke would go out the top. It was very comfortable.

Now I live at the mission. It is so big and fancy. It is made of mud bricks that have straw in them. I learned that this is called adobe. If you look here, (**point to case that holds adobe**) you can see an adobe brick that someone just left here. Look at these big arches that are part of the mission. I think a lot of the buildings in Spain where the padres used to live have arches like that.

My mother makes baskets all day and my father works in the garden growing food for all the people who live in the mission. He works very hard and sometimes says that he really misses the way life was when he was young. He tells me that he would wander around the forest and that he could name every animal there was. He also loved to go hunting and fishing. But now he spends his time planting corn and squash, weeding, and carrying water (**make motions to show how he does this**).

Sometimes my mother and father get sad. I think it might be because they miss their old ways of life.

Now I want to show you something that my mother made. What do you think it is? It's a mail bag. (**show mail bag**). Can you see the bear fur on it? It helps to keep rain out of the bag. Sometimes one of my uncles takes this mail bag to other missions. The padres put important papers in the inside pocket and my uncle puts food for his journey in the other pockets. It usually takes him two or three days to walk to another mission.

I can tell by the sun that it is getting very late and my mother is going to be wondering where I am. I can't wait to tell her about you. I am so happy that I met you today. Just wait right here and before long someone will open the mission gates for you and you can go inside. I hope that you enjoy your visit to the mission.

Juana's Story

Turn around and put on shawl.

Hello! It is wonderful to see so many people visiting today. My name is Juana and I work for Don Bernardo Yorba. Please come in! I was just getting ready to work on a basket. I just brought some of my Grandmother Juanita's baskets outside to see them better so I can decide which of her patterns to copy. As you can see, she was a wonderful basket weaver (**baskets in display case**).

Watch your step as you come inside. I know you want to see as much as you can here! First, take a look at this portrait of Don Bernardo Yorba. He is very famous around here and he owns all the land that you can see. Sometimes people call the land here Yorba Linda! Do you know what Linda means in Spanish? Don Bernardo's father explored this area with the Spanish men who first came here. He is called a Californio because he was given some mission land to create this rancho. My family has been working here for years and years. I was named after my Grandmother Juanita. She lived on the mission San Juan Capistrano. My mother told me that she was very friendly and that I am like her in my love of making baskets.

How do you like our big adobe house? Do you know what adobe is? Here is a picture of our house. And here is a writing desk that Don Bernardo uses when he rides around the rancho on his horse. He uses it as a surface to write notes about what needs to be done – things that need to be repaired. He can keep his important papers in there.

One of my jobs is to wash and iron the clothes of the people who live here. You can see some of the clothes they wear (**wedding dress and shirt**). Do you know what this is? (**iron**) After I wash the clothes in a big tub outside, then I hang them up to dry. I use clothespins like this one (**clothespin**) to attach the clothes to the line. I love how the clothes smell like fresh air and sun after they dry! Next I iron them to make them smooth. I put

this iron in the fire for a little while and when it gets hot, I use it to iron the clothes. It is hard work and can be a little dangerous. Look at this scar I have on my hand when I picked the iron up without using a rag to protect my hand!

After I iron the clothes, I put them in this chest. Isn't it beautiful? It belongs to Don Bernardo's daughter, Dona Maria. She's the one who wears the black dress.

There are many people like me who work here. Most of them spend a lot of time outside riding horses and watching over all the cattle. Would you like to walk over to the stables and see our horses?

My husband is a vaquero. Do you know what that means? if you look in this direction, you can see him. **(Point to photo in case.)** The vaqueros have to direct the cattle to new grazing areas and they have to know which cattle belongs to Don Bernardo, especially when the new calves are born. Since there are no fences, cattle from each ranch are marked. An animal is branded or marked with the initials or symbol of the owner. The first step in branding is to make sure the animal won't run away so the vaquero uses a lariat, or a rope, to catch the animal and keep it in place until the branding is complete. Look at this branding iron. It is heated in a fire and then it is applied to the fur of the animal and an imprint is left. **Pass this hide** around and you can see how thick the fur is.

You can see that riding a horse makes all this work much easier for the vaqueros. Here are two saddles. What are the differences between them? One saddle is for a man and the other is for a lady. Because women wear dresses, a woman has to ride sidesaddle; here are supports for her legs and a place for one foot. Notice the beautiful leatherwork and silver work on the saddles.

I have one more thing to show you. **(Show spurs)**. Do you know what this is? My husband is always repairing them. And I am always telling him to take them off before he comes into the house! This curved part fits around his boot like this and the part with the points is what he uses to tell the horses when to move and how fast to go. Don Bernardo sometimes wears his big spurs in the house, too, but naturally, I can't tell him to take them off!

Oh, it looks like the sun is getting low. I have to go back and finish the washing and ironing. And I would like it very much if I could make a little time to finish a basket. It was so good to be with you! Do you think that you can stay for the party tonight? There will be lots of special food like tamales, tortillas, hot chocolate, and brandy. There will be dancing, too, and the ladies will be using their fans. It is so much fun! Good-bye – I have to hurry now. Here is the way to go back . . .