Texas Catholic Missions
Travel Guide

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Session Track: High School and Young Adult
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History comes alive
Use of library, digital, primary resources
Collaboration between classroom teachers and librarian
Portal to Texas History Overview

Provides access to more than 385,000 digitized books, photographs, maps, newspapers, letters, and other historic materials
Provide a window into the past—unfiltered access to the record of artistic, social, scientific and political thought and achievement during the specific period under study, produced by people who lived during that period.

“Bringing young people into close contact with these unique, often profoundly personal, documents and objects can give them a very real sense of what it was like to be alive during a long-past era.”

http://www.loc.gov/teachers/usingprimarysources/whyuse.html
Primary Sources

Letter:

[Text of letter]

Primary Source:

[Image of Native American children]

[Image of Native American men]

[Image of historical document]

CELEBRATING 125 YEARS 1890-2015
Primary Source Sets

Native American Cultures: Pueblo and Plains
Jumanos, Tiguas, Tonkawas, Apaches, Comanches, and Kiowa

The resources in this primary source set are intended for classroom use. Click on a thumbnail image to view the original resource and download link for viewing and saving. Click on the caption next to the image to view the bibliographic record, share on a network, or print. PDF documents are available for download and use in your classroom discussions.

Apache Girl, 1890
Apache Girl, Ohah. This photograph is a part of the Rescuing Texas History collection PDF.

Curly "Bud" Ballew and Amy Bear and Carrie, 1890
Two Native American women in a portrait with Curly "Bud" Ballew.

The Portal to Texas History
Lesson plans - All grade levels
Catholic Mission Life

- Native Americans
- Monks/Priests
Journey Lesson Plan

Life in a Spanish Mission
created by Jennifer Casey

http://education.texashistory.unt.edu/lessons/notebook/SpanishMission/

Materials: station placards, candles, assorted seeds, sticks or pencils for agriculture stations, butcher paper, paper towels or dusting cloths, “Gregorian chant” music for Chancel station, CD or cassette player, Spanish dictionaries, notebook paper, writing utensils, containers for seeds, containers for agriculture stations, rice or other “planting” medium for agriculture stations, corn, mortar and pestle, computer workstation with Spanish missions PowerPoint (optional).

TEKS: 7.2 History: The student understands how individuals, events, and issues prior to the Texas Revolution shaped the history of Texas. The student is expected to:

B. Identify important individuals, events, and issues related to European exploration and colonization of Texas, including establishment of Catholic missions;

E. Contrast Spanish and Anglo purposes for and methods of settlement in Texas

7.21 Social Studies Skills: The student applies critical-thinking skills to organize and use information acquired from a variety of sources
Lesson Plan = Itinerary

1. Teacher/Librarian Prep
2. Primary Sources Review
3. Team Formation
4. Journey!
5. Share experiences
Objectives

• Students will experience life in a Spanish mission as Native Americans and Spanish-speaking priests
• Students will understand Spain’s reasons for establishing Catholic missions
• Describe the impact of missions on the culture of Native Americans
Additional Objectives

• Explain the purpose of and daily life on missions
• Identify events in the Catholic Church and align to historical time period
  • Identify local parishes, missions, or settlements
• Investigate Native American tribes, lifestyle
  • Create maps documenting locations of tribes
Supplies Needed:

Station placards
Candles
Assorted seeds
Sticks/pencils for Ag station
Butcher paper
Tape
Paper towels (dusters)
“Gregorian chant”
CD player/iPhone/iPod
Spanish dictionary

Notebook paper
Writing utensil
Container of seeds
Containers for ag stations (1 for each seed type and 1 for mix)
Rice or other planting medium
Corn
Mortar & pestle
Computer workstation with Spanish missions PowerPoint (opt.)
Journey

- Lesson Plan Notebook – Placards download/print
- Each station is outlined through the lesson plan
- Mission lesson guide in the Portal to Texas History

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**Life in a Spanish Mission**  
**Experiential Exercise**  
created by Jennifer Casey

**Materials:** station placards, candles, assorted seeds, sticks or pencils for agriculture station, butcher paper, paper towels or cleaning cloth, "Gregorian chant" music for Chancel station, CB or cassette player, Spanish dictionaries, notebook paper, writing utensils, container for seeds, container for Agriculture station, rice or other "planting" medium for Agriculture station, corn, mortar and pestle, computer workstation with Spanish missions PowerPoint (optional).

**TEKS:** 7.2 History: The student understands how individuals, events, and issues prior to the Texas Revolution shaped the history of Texas. The student is expected to...

A. identify important individuals, events, and issues related to European exploration and colonization of Texas, including the establishment of Catholic missions.

B. contrast Spanish and Anglo purposes and methods of settlement in Texas.

7.21 Social Studies Skills: The student applies critical-thinking skills to organize and use information acquired from a variety of sources including electronic technology. The student is expected to...

D. identify points of view from the historical context surrounding an event and the frame of reference that influenced the participants.

E. support a point of view on a social studies issue or event.
Space for stations
Library
or
Classroom
Lots of available images

Ruins of the Church of El Alamo
Experiential Lesson

Each station has the students experience key aspects of the missionary lifestyle in silence. The activity begins when students take “vows” of poverty, obedience and silence.

Student Activity 1: Reflection
One student will be the interpreter to the class for this initial step. Be sure to wave your hands around a lot like you are using sign language.
Station 1

Spanish Translation

Background: When the Native Americans were taken to live in the missions, the difference in language made it difficult for communication between them and the Spanish-speaking priests. They were expected to learn the language in order to carry out daily rituals and to learn the Roman Catholic religion.
The dormitory was usually divided into tiny rooms called cells. Each monastic cell contained only a straw mattress, a rough sheet, a blanket, a pillow, a table and a chair. The rooms were lit only by a narrow window. There was no need for a closet or a dresser because monks, who took a vow of poverty, owned nothing. Any items the monks needed—including their coarse robes and sandals—were the property of the monastic community. A monk used his room mostly for sleeping, which he did from 9:00 p.m. to midnight, and again from 2:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. Some monks also chose to use their cell for four hours of daily, private prayer.
Station 3

Workhouse

Background: St. Benedict, who founded the first western European monastery, believed that “idleness is an enemy of the soul.” As a result, the Rule of St. Benedict—a set of rules for monks to live by—described in detail the role of work in monastic life. St. Benedict made labor one of the three daily tasks of a monk, along with prayer and study. He felt that idle time led to sin and wickedness, and that organization and structure created the proper environment for a moral life. As a result, monks had to work hard and be very disciplined.

He who labors as he prays lifts his heart to God with his hands.
~ Benedict of Nursia
Planting and Agriculture

Background: Agriculture was the main resource of every Spanish mission in Texas. A Spanish friar described an area along the San Antonio river, “The best site in the world, with good and abundant irrigation water, rich lands for pasture, plentiful building stone, and excellent timber.” Inhabitants of the mission were expected to maintain and cultivate crops and cattle in order to survive. This made daily rituals long and tiresome for the Catholic priests. Once the Native American was brought onto the mission, the job of maintaining crops and converting crops into useable food products no longer belonged to the priests in the mission.
Agriculture: Sorting Seeds

Background: Before the Native Americans could plant the seeds or grind the corn, they would often have to sort the crops into the different food groups.
Background: The diet of those living in a mission was very simple. Corn was easy to grow so it was used the most in cooking. To turn corn into flour, the cooks first had to find the corn and then turn it into flour by mashing it. The corn flour was used to make breads and cakes. They did not use many spices since they did not grow them. Also, since they believed in living a modest life, the monks believed that a bland diet would also help purify their souls.
Chancel

Background: The daily life of a monk was divided into eight segments. Each of these periods was marked by the toll of a bell, and included communal praying, called offices. These offices took place in the chancel, a special part of the church used for praying. Monks arose before dawn for the first office. Other offices followed at three-hour intervals, and included prayers, Bible readings, and hymns. The monk’s prayer did not, however, end at sundown. The entire monastic community was awakened after midnight for the most demanding period of prayer, which lasted for at least two hours. Much of the period was spent singing.
Reflection

Spend time reflecting upon the experiences
Why?

Ultimate job of a teacher/librarian is to help students make connections.

Get something out of it – not just facts.

Tie the human aspects of the events to the facts to make a meaningful connection to the social, economic, political way of life at the time.
Resources

The Library/Media Center can help!
Books


LibGuides

Saint Mary's Hall Spanish Discovery San Antonio Missions

http://libguides.smhall.org/sanantoniomissions

Guide to resources on American Indians in Texas

http://libguides.utsa.edu/american_indians_in_Texas
Journey

Catholic Missions

Image: Let's Visit Texas Missions by Maxwell, Margaret Muenker, Eakin Press., 1998
Classroom teachers and librarians work together for student success.

Librarians and teachers share insights about the activities - more than just books!

Information literacy goals match the mission of the school to prepare students for life-long learning.
NCEA Values

Incorporate the following:

- Faith
- Hope
- Charity
- Justice
- Courage
- Forgiveness
- Service
We need to find God, and he cannot be found in noise and restlessness. God is the friend of silence. See how nature - trees, flowers, grass - grows in silence; see the stars, the moon and the sun, how they move in silence. We need silence to be able to touch souls.

- Mother Teresa, ethnic Albanian, Indian Roman Catholic nun (1910-1997)
Missions Today

Spanish missions attract millions of visitors each year.

- Tourists
- Scholars
- School children
Native American Culture Centers

A BOND with TRADITION

“Built on the ideas, imagination and creativity of Chickasaws from all walks of life, this center incorporates nature, history, heritage and life ways to tell the ongoing story of the Chickasaw people. We invite you to join us as we celebrate the vision, resilience and spirit of the men, women and children of the Chickasaw Nation.” Governor Bill Anoatubby

SCROLL DOWN TO EXPLORE

CHICKASAW CULTURAL CENTER

EVENTS  BLOG  DIRECTIONS  RATES  HOURS  CONTACT
Catholic Missions

Effects on Native American culture

• “Invited in” (protection from enemy tribes, entrenched in rivalry)
• Vows poverty and obedience Monks
• Convert to Christianity - Spanish missionaries were “saving of souls.”
  » Letter by Franciscan friar Juan de Escalona criticizes the “outrages against the Indians”
Mission Effects on Native American Culture

• Nomads; others settled into highly developed agricultural civilizations
• Southwest, cliff-dwelling cultures = complex settlements

Native and Historic Crops (nativecrops)

Native and Historic Crops
by Don Janssen, Extension Educator

Printer-friendly Format

Imagine your vegetable garden without corn, squash and beans. These native American crops soon became staples to early European settlers of North America, who were taught how to grow them by the indigenous people.
Reflection

Students use critical thinking and reflection to examine assumptions.
Part of a new, educational series called "Wayne Worldwide History!" In this series, we will cover historical events from all over the world! During this episode, we discuss the faults and potential solutions of the Spanish Missions in Texas.

Life in Texas Missions YouTube - https://youtu.be/JxUfYir08OI
4th grade students discuss the exploration, settlement, culture, and leadership of Texas
Resources of Interest

The Catholic Encyclopedia - Catholic Indian Missions of the United States
http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops – Native American

Marquette University’s Raynor Memorial Libraries - Christianity and Native America
http://www.marquette.edu/library/archives/indians.shtml
Plan a field trip

Hands-on activities are a part of every education program.
Resources by State or Region

Open Education Database
(a bit outdated, but still useful)
State Digital Resources: Memory Projects, Online Encyclopedias, Historical & Cultural Materials Collections
https://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/statememory/
Resources – U.S.

Chronicling America  [http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/](http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/)
Provides access to information about historic newspapers from 1836-1922 or use the U.S. Newspaper Directory to find information about American newspapers published between 1690-present
National Park Service
Native American Heritage
http://www.nps.gov/history/americanindian/
San Antonio Missions - videos
http://www.nps.gov/saan/learn/education/index.htm
Curriculum Materials (4\text{th} grade and 7\text{th} grade)
http://www.nps.gov/saan/learn/education/curriculummaterials.htm
Texas Parks and Wildlife

- Learn about Texas Indians
- Indian Years Coloring Book
Questions?

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