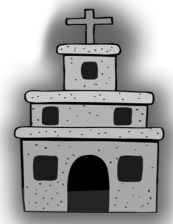




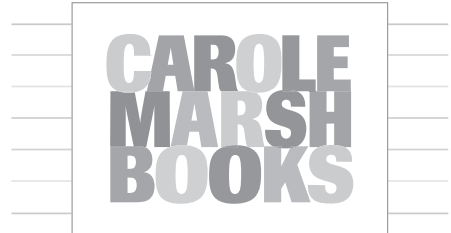
The Mystery on the  
**CALIFORNIA  
 MISSION TRAIL**

**Teacher's Guide**

by  
**Carole Marsh**



Editors: Jenny Corsey, Sheila Phinazee & Teresa Valentine  
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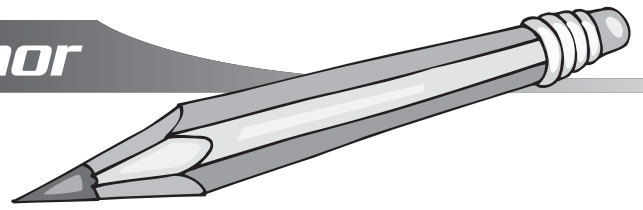
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## A Word from the Author



Dear Teachers,

In 1979, I began writing children's mysteries set at historic sites that still existed—primarily so that kids could go and see what they had read about. Frankly, I found no more fun, educational, and stress-free (actually, just plain joyful!) activity to do with my then school-age children than to visit a fascinating historic site!

People say that the Spanish Missions in California are some of the greatest historical landmarks in America. Many Americans think it amazing that some of these old structures are still around, and they're right! Everyone should visit at least one Spanish mission in California!

Yes, the California missions are tourist attractions, but they are also one gigantic history lesson. At every mission, I tried to introduce the who, what, when, where, why, and how. Not only has it been surprising to me how fascinated the kids are in real life, but it is amazing to also witness the depth of their interest. The first set of these magical experiences eventually transcended into a lifelong ongoing connection between me and my children.



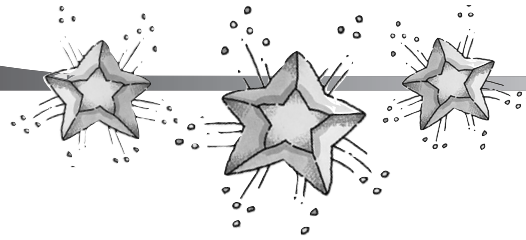
We learned a lot, but what we learned best is that kids and adults can learn together. Reading and going and seeing and doing is what education is all about, and most especially, that “adopting” a subject or place leads to a lifelong interest in an era, a place, the people, and all the fascinating facts that made up their lives. We learned that history is still “living” and is not lost on kids! In fact, it is quite a revelation!

Enjoy your California Mission mystery and studies,

*Carole Marsh*



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The Mystery on the  
**CALIFORNIA  
MISSION TRAIL**

**30** YEARS  
AGO . . .

As a mother and an author, one of the fondest periods of my life was when I decided to write mystery books for children. At this time (1979) kids were pretty much glued to the TV, something parents and teachers complained about the way they do about video games today.

I decided to set each mystery in a real place—a place kids could go and visit for themselves after reading the book. And I also used real children as characters. Usually a couple of my own children served as characters, and I had no trouble recruiting kids from the book's location to also be characters.

Also, I wanted all the kids—boys and girls of all ages—to participate in solving the mystery. And, I wanted kids to learn something as they read. Something about the history of the location. And I wanted the stories to be funny.

That formula of real+scary+smart+fun served me well. The kids and I had a great time visiting each site and many of the events in the stories actually came out of our experiences there.

I love getting letters from teachers and parents who say they read the book with their class or child, then visited the historic site and saw all the places in the mystery for themselves. What's so great about that? What's great is that you and your children have an experience that bonds you together forever. Something you shared. Something you both cared about at the time. Something that crossed all age levels—a good story, a good scare, a good laugh!

30 years later,

*Carole Marsh*



## California Tourist Information

### **California State Office of Tourism**

801 K St. Suite 1600  
Sacramento, CA 95812  
800.862.2543

### **San Diego International Visitors Information Center**

619.236.1212

### **Santa Barbara Visitor Information Center**

1 Santa Barbara Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
800.927.4688

## Annual Events

Tiburon Children's Film Festival  
(January)

415.435.1234

Jumping Frog Jubilee (March)

209.733.2256

Apple Blossom Festival (April)

707.823.3032

Wildflower Walks (April-May)

916.273.3884

Street Painting Festival (May)

(located at Santa Barbara  
Mission)

805.966.9222

Sandcastle Days (July)

619.424.6663

Banjo and Fiddle Contest

(October)

619.282.8380





<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>EXPLORE!</u>
1	Life	Have you ever played chess? What are your favorite games to play?
1	Science	We smell something when its molecules travel in the air and into our nose. Then the message is sent to our brain.
1	Vocabulary	Indecipherable means hard to understand.
1	Language	Grant pronounced “there” like “thar.” How do some people pronounce words differently in different parts of the country? Can you think of some examples?
2	Math	What’s the sum of the airline seat numbers plus the type of plane? [14 +14+ 747=775]
2	Fun Facts	Do you know your own state facts? What’s your state tree? The state flower? The state bird?
2	Math	The last grizzly bear died in 1922. How many years ago was that?
2	Technology	What are your favorite things to do on the computer?
2	Safety	Do you know how to be safe on the Internet? What are some things you should never do?
3	Fun Fact	John Wayne, perhaps the most famous cowboy actor, changed his name from Marian Morrison. If you changed your name, what would it be?
3	History	Facts on real cowboys: The average cowboy was 24 years old. Many were African American or



## Father Junípero Serra



Father Junípero Serra was born in Spain. He became a priest in the Franciscan Order in 1730. At that time in history, the Spanish government was colonizing much of the New World. A respected scholar and teacher in his own country, Father Junípero Serra wanted something more. He traveled to Mexico with Spanish explorers and became a missionary there. He lived among the Mexican Indians and taught them Spanish and Christian principles. Then the Spanish government asked him to manage some missions in Baja, California. In 1769, right before the 13 American colonies won their independence from England, Father Junípero Serra began to settle Upper California for Spain. He founded 9 missions in California, and before his death, he traveled more than 600 miles on foot to minister to these missions and their occupants.

Mexican. Most cowboys only made \$30 per month.

3 Vocabulary Gaudy means excessively showy or tacky.

3 Geography Where are most of the missions located? [along the coast] The 21 missions stretched along California's coast for 600 miles. Why do you think the padres built there?



3 Safety Where would you go for help if you were ever separated from your family or group?

4 History Many different countries, like France, England, and Spain, discovered and owned parts of our country before it became the United States of America.

4 Health Scurvy is a disease caused by the lack of Vitamin C.

4 History The Native Americans in California were not prepared for the arrival of the Spanish, nor could they defend themselves. The Indians of this region were known to love peace. Even when they did fight, their warfare was sporadic, unorganized military action.

5 Culture California is an ethnically rich state with people of many different cultures, including: caucasian, African American, Asian, Native American, and Hispanic. Much of California's Hispanic population has roots in Mexico.



6 Geometry How many sides or corners are in a quadrangle? [Hint: quad means four. A quadrangle has four sides and four corners]



## St. Francis

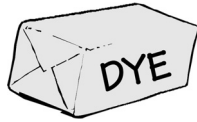


Francis was born in Assisi in the late 12th century to a wealthy cloth merchant and an aristocratic French mother. As a young boy, he loved music, singing, and culture. Francis was well educated, and his love of life made him popular with the youth of Assisi. He became a soldier and fought for his city in 1202, but he was taken prisoner for a year and then became seriously ill. When he recovered, he started to go to war again but stopped when a vision encouraged him to return to Assisi and be a "knight" for a different purpose. Francis began to use his wealth to repair small churches that had gone to ruin from neglect. This enraged his father, who tried to stop him by bringing him before the authorities. But Francis was resolute. When he realized his father was completely against what he felt was most important, he gave all of his belongings (even the clothes off his back, as the story goes) to his father, and left his father's house, having been given a cloak by the bishop, to cover himself. Francis went to the woods to pray and live

*(continued)*



6 Art



From prehistoric times until the mid 1800's, people used natural dyes from plants such as indigo, saffron, and henna to develop their own dyes.

6 History

Before the invention of automobiles, how do you think they hauled the sugar pine wood from 30 miles away?

7 Life

Clubs are a great way to get to know other people and learn new things. Do you participate in any clubs or activities?

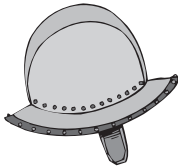
7 Life

What do you do to keep boredom away when you're on a road trip?

7 Math

The first mission was founded in 1769. How long ago was that?

7 History



The Spanish conquistadors conquered the Aztec Empire in 1521. The land became a Spanish colony until 1821. Then it became Mexico, an independent country with its own government.

8 Current Events

Some Indian Reservations now operate bingo halls and/or gambling casinos as a source of income.

9 History

Abraham Lincoln was the 16<sup>th</sup> U.S. president.

9 Sites



The San Diego Zoo is one of the largest zoos in the world. It has a wild safari park with a long monorail ride through acres and acres of grazing animals. Visitors can also stop by Sea World to check out seals and dolphins. There are space, sports and natural history museums to see as well.



## St. Francis


*(continued)*

simply. When other young men wanted to join him in his holy life, Francis started an order of monks. The monks lived with no belongings. They traveled often to teach and took whatever food was offered them. That order still exists today. It is known as the Franciscan Order. Father Junípero Serra was also a Franciscan priest.

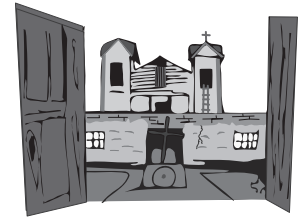
## St. Clara of Assisi



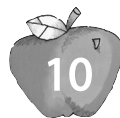
The Mission of Santa Clara de Asís is named after a life-long friend of St. Francis. Her name was Clare. When she was a young noblewoman, Clare was so strongly influenced by Francis of Assisi, that she decided to live as he did. She refused to get married, and instead, left her home to become a follower of Francis and live a life of poverty, prayer, and work. So, Francis started a second order for women, and Clare became its "abbess" or leader. These women lived near the monastery of St. Francis. Throughout their entire lives, Francis and Clare corresponded through letters and remained friends. Today, Clare's order of nuns is known as the Order of St. Clare.

- |    |   |   |
|----|---|---|
| 11 | Current Events  | Los Angeles, California's largest city, is known for its bad traffic jams.  |
| 11 | Science   | Earthquakes happen when plates under the earth's surface shift, most often where they meet—at fault lines. The San Andreas Fault is the most dangerous fault line in California. It is 650 miles long and it goes from the northern California coast to the Mexican border. You can even see parts of the fault when you travel by air. |
|    |  |   |
| 11 | Tradition   | Although the Mission Indians were converted to the Catholic faith, many did not give up their traditions. Shamans, who were spiritual leaders, often kept their old practices like curing illness, predicting weather, and other duties.  |
| 11 | Health  | <p>The Indians had no natural immunities to diseases brought by the Spaniards such as diphtheria, small pox and measles. At one mission, half the population died within nine years.</p> <p>Vaccines were developed to prevent children from getting measles and smallpox later on in American history.</p>                             |
| 12 | Vocabulary  | Adobe is a sun-dried brick that is commonly made in areas that do not get a lot of rain.  |
| 12 | Biology   | The swallows of San Juan Capistrano are famous birds. They build nests made out of mud and attach them to the old mission building. They have been known to survive even a major earthquake.  |
| 12 | Logic   | What are the clues they have collected so far?  |

## Mission Fast Facts



- Mission San Carlos Borromeo is the headquarters for all the California missions. It was the second mission built.
- The farmers of Mission San Gabriel Arcángel were so successful that the mission was once called the "Mother of California Farming."
- While the Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa was being built, the only food for the workers was bear meat. They ate grizzly bears. Then the Native Indians traded the Spaniards seeds for bear meat, and soon the mission was able to grow its own food.
- Mission San Buenaventura was the last mission established by Father Junípero Serra. After secularization, the city of Ventura grew up around the mission. The mission now sits on Ventura's main street. The museum in the mission houses the only two wooden bells known to exist in California.



13 Vocabulary A kiva is an underground or partially underground room in a Pueblo Indian Village. It is a room used for councils or ceremonies.

13 Feelings It is not unusual to have fears. They can help us to know when to be careful. They can also prevent us from experiencing things in life. Are you afraid of heights, bugs, or something else?



13 Vocabulary An alcove is a partly enclosed extension connected to a room. It may also form a room or an enclosed structure in a garden.

14 Logic Why do Mimi and Christina miss their computers? Could Christina use her computer to solve the mystery of the missing bells? How?

14 Culture Mariachi bands are street bands in Mexico.

15 History Most of the farmers and soldiers from Mexico who settled in California were Mestizos. This Spanish word which means “mixed” describes how they were the descendants of both Native American and Europeans. Today’s Mexican people are mostly Mestizos. They rightly claim that their ancestors, after Native Americans, were the real pioneers of California.



15 Biology Cactus plants are native to the dry areas of the U.S. They have thick, fleshy often prickly stems that function as leaves. Sometimes they have pretty flowers and edible fruit. The plural of cactus is cacti.

15 Logic Do you think a bad guy was after the kids or was he just a gardener?

## Mission Fast Facts

(continued)

- Santa Bárbara Mission is considered the “Queen of the Missions” and features the world-famous twin bell towers. It is the only mission that has remained under Franciscan control.

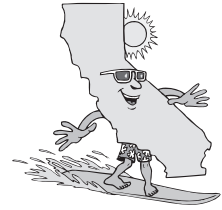
- Mission La Purísima Concepción was so completely destroyed by 1835, that the Church sold the land to the highest bidder.

One hundred years later, the California Conservation Corps rebuilt the mission by hand, using the same techniques as the old adobe builders. Today, not only are the buildings reproduced, but crops and animals of the period are also grown.

- Mission San Antonio de Pala, formerly known as mission San Luis Rey, is the only original Spanish mission site that still ministers to Indians.



- 15 Biology The famous California Redwoods are coastal trees. They are the tallest trees on earth. They thrive in misty weather and only grow on a strip of land from San Francisco to Oregon and beyond the border. The Giant Sequoia is related to the redwood, but they grow inland instead.
- 15 Language “Burro” is Spanish for small donkey. They were especially used as part of a pack of animals. A burrito is a flour tortilla wrapped around a filling made of beans, beef, or cheese.
- 15 Language/ Logic What does “amiga” mean? [female friend; “amigo” is male friend] Does Christina know if this is a friend or not?
- 16 Technology How did people communicate before computers and email were invented? If Christina didn’t have a computer, how else could she get clues?
- 16 Food Salsa is now considered a vegetable in school lunches. This mixture is made from fresh tomatoes, onions, and green peppers. Guacamole is made from mashed avocado, tomato, onion, garlic and other seasonings.
- 17 Logic Do you agree with Christina’s decision to keep the clues a secret? Why or why not?
- 17 Vocabulary The bell tower is the part of a building where the bell is housed.
- 18 Life What do your parents say to you when you are in big trouble?
- 18 Travel When you are on a road trip, what do you like to do? Read, sleep, check out the scenery or something else?



## California Trivia

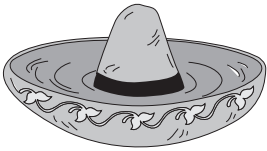
- California’s Mount Whitney is the highest peak in the lower 48 states. The Mount Whitney Trail to the summit is 14,495 feet.
- In the 1850s, Kennedy Mine in Jackson served as one of the richest gold mines in the world and the deepest gold mine in North America.
- Death Valley is the hottest, driest place in the nation. Summer temperatures can reach more than 115° F!
- A giant Sequoia tree in Kings Canyon National Park in California is the national Christmas tree. It is over 300 feet high.
- At 282 feet below sea level, Death Valley is the lowest point in the continental United States. Ironically, Death Valley lies

(continued)

18 Career Architects and engineers use science and math to design and supervise the construction of buildings. How would you like to do this when you grow up?

18 Art Fresco painting is the art of painting on fresh, damp plaster with earth colors that have been dissolved in a water base.

18 Fashion A sombrero is a large hat made out of felt or straw. It has a tall crown and a broad brim. Sombreros are often worn in Mexico and in southwest America. The name comes from *sombra*, the Spanish word for shade.



18 Logic Do you think the kids heard the voice of the man in the sombrero?

19 Weather Most of California experiences two seasons, one wet and one dry. California's climate varies with its topography. It is cold and snowy in areas that are mountainous, like Squaw Valley. Meanwhile, it is warm and sunny in coastal areas like San Diego.

California has beaches, mountains, forests, and even deserts like Death Valley. Death Valley broke the record for the highest recorded U.S. temperature in 1913 with 134°F.

19 Feelings Some kids feel embarrassed when their parents (or grandparents!) act like Papa and Mimi in public. If you were Grant or Christina, would you feel embarrassed?

19 Geography Can you find Russia on the map? How do you think explorers from Russia traveled to



## California Trivia

(continued)

within 100 miles of Mount Whitney, the highest point in the continental United States.

- In Pacific Grove, there is a law against purposely hurting butterflies. The fine is \$500.

- Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuge contains the largest winter population of bald eagles in the continental United States.

- Sequoia National Park contains the largest living tree. Its trunk is 102 feet in circumference.

- It is estimated that there are approximately 500,000 detectable seismic tremors in California every year.



California? Look for Spain on the map. How did the Spaniards travel to America? Which country had the shortest trip to California?

19 Logic What do you think beeped in Grant's backpack?

20 Dining



California fishers catch many kind of seafood. There are freshwater fish like catfish, salmon, bass, trout, sturgeon, and sunfish. Marine fish include bass, perch, tuna, abalone, marlin, barracuda, and deep-sea rock fish. Other seafood include crabs, oysters, scallops, shrimp, clams, and other shellfish.

20 History What effect did the Gold Rush have on the Native American people? Why did many of the tribes die out? What can we learn from this?

20 Language Miners often called the Indians "diggers" because some tribes dug up insects and roots. In their contempt for the Indians, these miners did not notice that they themselves were also diggers. They were digging in the mud for gold!

20 Logic What do you think about Christina's decision to tell Mimi about the email messages? Who is Delores?

20 Logic Why is the girl from Mission La Purísima there?

20 Vocabulary Murk means darkness or gloom.

20 Technology What must be causing that beeping in Grant's backpack?

20 Logic Why does the bad guy have a look of panic on his face?

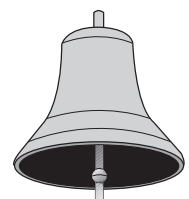


## San Juan Capistrano

Thousands of mud swallows, or cliff swallows, make their home at Mission San Juan Capistrano. They are called mud swallows because they build their nests out of mud, under the eaves of the buildings.

Every year, as if honoring the name of San Juan, around the time of his feast day, October 23, these swallows all fly away in a dramatic swirl of wings, to go to their winter home in Argentina, which is 6,000 miles away.

But the swallows never fail to return each spring. Again, as if they could read a calendar, the birds make their reappearance on or near the feast day of St. Joseph, on March 19. Hundreds of tourists from around the world visit the mission in March to observe the return of the swallows, which are greeted by the joyful ringing of mission bells.





20 Science



Sometimes sink holes, avalanches, rock slides, or mud slides follow earthquakes. Earthquakes can also cause fires in some cities, sometimes causing more damage and injury than the actual earthquake.

21 Vocabulary

A hoax is an act intended to deceive or trick.

21 Logic

What would you have done if you were Juanita and had discovered Gabe's plan? Would you have done the same or acted differently?

22 Language

What does Papa mean by "all that bell-ringing will surely wake the dead?"

22 History

Based on Gabe's reaction, do you think history could repeat itself? Could the same Gold Fever make people frantically search for gold like they did during the Gold Rush? Why do you think people wanted to find gold so badly?

Be sure to read Carole Marsh Mystery #6:

*The Mystery of the Missing Dinosaurs*

## The Legend of the San Capistrano Mud Swallows

The legend is told that many years ago, the swallows took refuge in the Mission San Juan Capistrano because an innkeeper kept destroying their mud nests at his inn. The swallows seemed to know that they would not be harmed within the walls of the mission. And they were right.

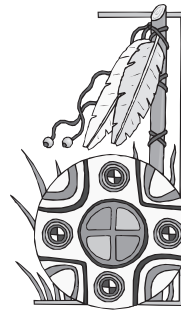
To this day, the city of San Capistrano protects the swallows. By law, no one is to destroy the homes of the swallows. So, every year the swallows return to their safe haven.

Around mid March, a few "scout sparrows" will arrive. Then the majority of the flock usually arrive at the mission, the oldest building in California, right on schedule, March 19.



# Discussion Questions

- ❖ The Mexican flag copies the ancient flag of the Aztec Indians who had the land before the Spanish arrived. It has eagles and panthers on it and three colors. Green is for fertile land, white is for purity, and red is for the blood that was shed in the battle for independence. If you made a flag for yourself, what would be on it?
- ❖ Many different languages are spoken in California. Do you know any words in a different language? “Kaput” is “broken” in German, “belle” is “beautiful” in French. Do you know any Spanish words?
- ❖ Before the first Europeans came to America, millions of Native Americans lived in North America. Each had their own traditions and customs. Do you have any special traditions in your family?
- ❖ Christina said that Mimi’s mission was “truth-in-history.” What do you feel strongly about doing? Do you have a mission? The perfect soccer goal? To collect as many stamps as possible? To get straight ‘A’s?
- ❖ How do you think the Native Americans felt when the first Europeans arrived?
- ❖ Is it possible to be friends with people who are from a different culture? How are you different from others? How are you the same?



## Secularization

Secularization means to remove the authority of a religious institution over something and to give it to a public or political institution. While Father Junípero Serra was founding missions in California, he was supported by money from Spain, which saw his conversion of the Indians as a way to get more land and citizens for Spain. But after Mexico won its independence from Spain, the missions of California (which considered itself part of Mexico), found that Mexico could not afford to support them.

In 1834, Mexico decided to end the mission system and sell the land on which the missions were built. Since the Native Indians could not afford to pay for the land, much of it went to Mexican citizens. These new owners carved the land into smaller ranches to raise food and livestock, and they become prosperous. Meanwhile, without money, workers, or support, most of the Spanish missions in California fell into ruin.



# Geography: Find It!

1. Draw a basic outline map of California. Label each of the 21 Spanish missions and the cities where they lie. Attach index cards to the map with information about each historic site.



2. Compare the state of Georgia (where Grant and Christina live) with the big state of California. What are some differences between the two places? What are some similarities?
3. Mission La Purísima Concepción was destroyed by an earthquake many years ago. Then it was completely rebuilt in 1935. Draw a new architectural design for the mission to help prevent earthquake damage in the future. Write a paragraph that explains your changes and ideas.
4. Construct a model of the *El Camino Real* that runs through California. Some ideas for materials are toothpicks, gray ribbon, thin yellow ribbon, paper, stickers, markers, and whatever else you think will be accurate. Add various landmarks and surrounding cities.

5. Draw a map of California. Label major landmarks, streets, roads, bridges, waterways, monuments, and bodies of water. Include a key, map symbols, title, and chart of locations.



6. How is Los Angeles, California unique in comparison to other major U.S. cities like New York, Atlanta, Chicago, Miami, and Washington, D.C.?



## California State Facts



Capital city: Sacramento

Bird: California Valley Quail

Flag: features a grizzly bear and a lone red star, along with the words, "California Republic."

Motto: Eureka  
("I have found it.")

Flower: Golden Poppy

Tree: Redwood

Highest Point: Mount Whitney

Lowest Point: Death Valley

Largest Cities: Los Angeles, San Diego, San Jose, San Francisco, Long Beach

Origin of state's name: Named by Spanish after Calafia, a mythical paradise.

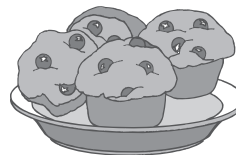
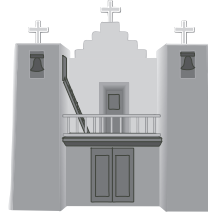
Song: "I Love You, California"

Agriculture: vegetables, fruits, nuts, dairy products, cattle, grapes



# Mathematics: Calculate It!

1. A budget is a list of expenses. Total this budget for the California mystery trip: \$1,200 – airfare, \$350 – meals, \$150 – Mimi’s books, \$195 – gasoline for the car, \$55 – cell phone bill, \$35 – souvenirs, \$65 – Internet service bill
2. If there are 21 missions and each has 3 bells, how many bells do the missions have?
3. Christina has 6 emails waiting in her inbox. The first 3 emails are 50 kilobytes apiece. The fourth email is 175 kilobytes. The fifth email is 13 kilobytes. Christina’s friend from Girl Scouts sent her some pictures from a recent slumber party, so the sixth email is 600 kilobytes. How many kilobytes are in Christina’s inbox?
4. Goldrusher Gary spends 10 hours each day looking for gold in California. He never works on Sunday because he likes to nap and swim. Goldrusher Gary searches for 7 weeks before striking gold. Then he goes home to Georgia. How many hours did he spend looking for gold in California?
5. Juanita has many chores to do. She must wash 48 dishes from breakfast, fix 7 beds, do 5 loads of laundry, feed 3 puppies, iron 6 shirts, and sweep 2 porches. How many chores does Juanita have to do?
6. After the Mexican War of Independence, Pío Pico took a lot of land that belonged to the Spanish missions. If he stole 50 acres from 12 Spanish missions, how many acres did he steal?
7. Grant eats 3 blueberry muffins, 5 sausage links, 7 slices of bacon, and 1 scoop of scrambled eggs. He washes his breakfast down with 2 glasses of orange juice. How many total pieces of food did Grant eat? (Hint: the scoop of scrambled egg counts as 1 piece of food)



## California Agriculture Is Amazing!

California is the leading state in agriculture. Twenty-nine percent of California’s total land area is farmland. Nearly 70 kinds of fruits, vegetables, and grains are grown here!

Overall, 55 percent of all the nation’s fruits, vegetables, and nuts are produced in California. Just over 99 percent of these U.S. crops come from California: almonds, walnuts, pistachios, olives, artichokes, clovers, figs, dates, prunes, and raisins.

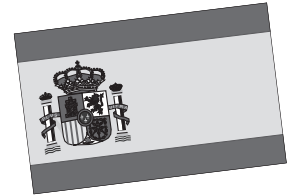
Speaking of raisins, 91 percent of the nation’s grape crop comes from California! Seventy-two percent of the nation’s lettuce is grown in California.

California has a large food-processing industry and is the nation’s top exporter of food: 55 percent goes to Pacific Rim countries, 18 percent to Canada, 9 percent to Europe, and 5 percent to Mexico.



# English: Write It!

## English Words / Spanish Origins



rodeo (rodeo)

anchovy (anchoa)

alligator (cocodrilo)

lasso (laso)

guitar (guitarra)

ranch (rancho)

canyon (cañon)

mustang (mustang)

mosquito (mosquito)

chocolate (chocolate)

burro (burro)

corral (corral)

patio (patio)

manatee (mañati)

tomato (tomate)

bronco (bronco)

plaza (plaza)

bonanza (bonanza)

macho (macho)

desperado (desperado)

1. Write an ode to an earthquake that is either silly or serious.
2. Pretend you are an Indian from California. Priests come from Spain and build missions. They want you to change your whole way of life, stop practicing your own religion, and live in their mission. How would you feel? Would you decide to stay in your own home or live in the mission? What consequences might come from your decision? Write three diary entries from this perspective.
3. Write five new titles for *The Mystery on the California Mission Trail*. Write new chapter headings for every chapter in the book.
4. Recall each mystery clue after you finish reading the book. Write down the reasons why each clue makes sense now that you know the ending of the story.
5. Which character did you like best in the mystery book? Why? What would you change about that person if you could? In what ways would you like to be more like that person?
6. What is a glossary, and why is it important for the reader? Write down a list of words you didn't know in the mystery. Define each of them to compile your own glossary.
7. How does an author research a mystery book? Write a list of research steps to write a mystery book.
8. Write a new ending for the last chapter of the mystery.



# Vocabulary: Spell It!

Study the words below. All of them are taken from the mystery book. Fold the page in half and take a spelling test! Check your work, and study the words you miss! Look up each word in the dictionary and write its definition on a separate piece of paper.

- TENDENCY \_\_\_\_\_
- FRAGRANT \_\_\_\_\_
- LUSH \_\_\_\_\_
- VIGOROUSLY \_\_\_\_\_
- DISTINCTIVE \_\_\_\_\_
- PALETTE \_\_\_\_\_
- INKLING \_\_\_\_\_
- LAVENDER \_\_\_\_\_
- DISMISS \_\_\_\_\_
- TINGLING \_\_\_\_\_
- EERIE \_\_\_\_\_
- NATIVE \_\_\_\_\_
- WORSHIP \_\_\_\_\_
- ADJOIN \_\_\_\_\_
- MISSALS \_\_\_\_\_
- SECULARIZATION \_\_\_\_\_
- STREAK \_\_\_\_\_
- INFLUENCE \_\_\_\_\_
- QUADRANGLE \_\_\_\_\_
- MINISTER \_\_\_\_\_
- MYSTERIOUS \_\_\_\_\_
- DECREE \_\_\_\_\_
- BARRACKS \_\_\_\_\_
- NONCHALANTLY \_\_\_\_\_
- RUNG \_\_\_\_\_
- DESTINATION \_\_\_\_\_
- MEDDLESOME \_\_\_\_\_
- ARTIFACT \_\_\_\_\_

## Adobe Brick Building



Adobe is a Spanish word for "sun-dried bricks." Adobe has been used in hot dry climates in many parts of the world for thousands of years. The Spanish brought adobe knowledge to the New World.

### Here is how adobe is made:

First the builder needs a suitable soil, one that has enough clay in it. Builders take a quantity of soil and add water to make it wet. Then they leave it for a day so that the soil softens.

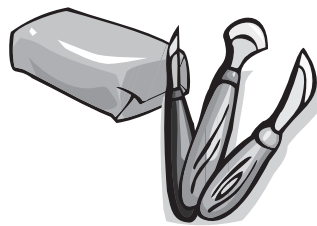
The next day, some straw is added to the mixture and mixed with a hoe. After that, the mixture is further worked by tramping on it with bare feet. This is an important "step." Don't leave it out if you try this recipe!

(continued)





1. Draw a beautiful courtyard inside of a Spanish mission. Add plenty of colorful flowers, plants, birds, and trees.
2. Use modeling clay to build a model of Spanish mission in California. Make rooms for living, eating, and worshiping. Ask an adult to help you “bake” the clay so it will harden. Make priests, Spanish soldiers, and Indians for the inside.
3. Sketch portraits of each mystery book character. Add specific details in the background like a bell, earthquake, mission, computer, etc.
4. Construct a three-dimensional state of California using miniature objects, cardboard, toothpicks, cotton ball clouds, grass, etc. Don’t forget to mark major cities, geographical landmarks, and events of historic interest. You could even make an edible version and eat it with the class!
5. Create a shadow box of the inner sanctuary in Mission La Purísima Concepción, which lies across the street from where Maria and Clara live.
6. Sculpt the bell tower of one of the California missions.
7. Paint a picture of what California might have looked like after an earthquake during the 1800s.
8. Design a new cover for *The Mystery on the California Mission Trail* book. You could take photographs or draw your own pictures. Create a new and interesting font!
9. Use blue yarn to make a famous river in California. Hide tiny yellow “nuggets of gold” beneath the waters. You can use stones (colored yellow), corn, or whatever else you can think of. Add several goldrushers kneeling down by the river and searching for gold with their pans.



## Adobe Brick Building

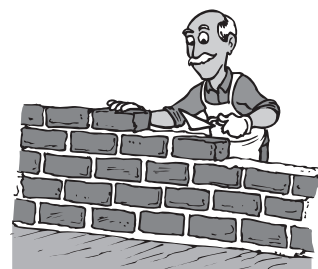
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After being trampled long enough, the mixture is then poured into molds of wood or sheet metal. These molds have four sides and are open at the top and bottom. The molds are then put out into the sun and turned each day so that they dry evenly.



Then the bricks are covered until used for construction. The bricks can be made in many different sizes.

Adobe is an inexpensive yet strong building material, and it is an excellent insulator. That means that it keeps a house warm in winter and cool in summer. In dry climates, adobe structures can last for centuries!



Sheep often grazed in fields around Spanish missions in California. Their wool was used for clothing, blankets, and other things. Make some sheep who have their very own blankets!

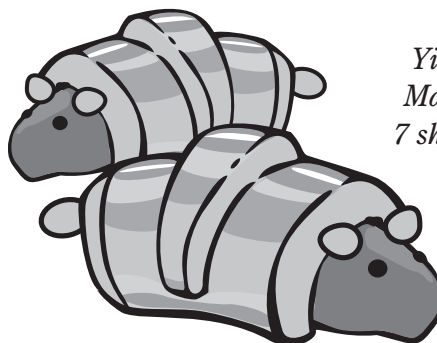
## Sheep in Blankets

### Ingredients

1 can crescent roll dough  
7 small cocktail sausages  
14 peppercorns

### Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 375° F.
2. Unroll the dough. Pinch off 14 tiny pieces and 7 slightly larger pieces from one section.
3. Use the other sections of dough to wrap around the sausages like blankets. Each sausage should get one section of dough. Close the dough around the back end, but leave the front end of the sausage sticking out.
4. Create ears and tails by rolling the extra pieces of dough and attaching them to the edges of the wrapped blankets.
5. Set sheep 2" apart to graze on a cookie sheet. Bake 12-15 minutes until sheep are golden brown.
6. Before the sheep cool, poke two holes in the front end of the sausage with a toothpick. Insert peppercorns for eyes.



Yield:  
Makes  
7 sheep

## Honey Mustard Dip

### Ingredients

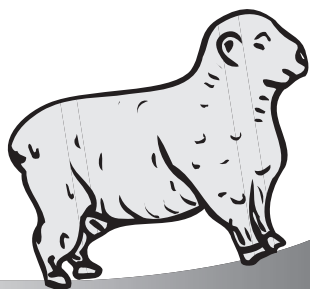
1/2 cup cold water  
1 tsp. cornstarch  
1/4 cup honey  
2 T thinly sliced green onions  
1 T lemon juice  
4 tsp. prepared Dijon style mustard  
1/4 tsp. onion powder

### Directions

Pour the water in a medium saucepan and mix in the cornstarch until it completely dissolves. Next stir in the honey. Heat mixture to a boiling point, stirring constantly. Once it boils, reduce heat and allow it to simmer until the sauce thickens. This should take about 15 minutes. Remove the sauce from the heat. Lastly add the green onions, lemon juice, prepared Dijon-style mustard, and onion powder. Stir until ingredients are thoroughly mixed together. Serve the honey mustard dip warm or chill in the refrigerator first before serving. Dip the sheep in the dip!



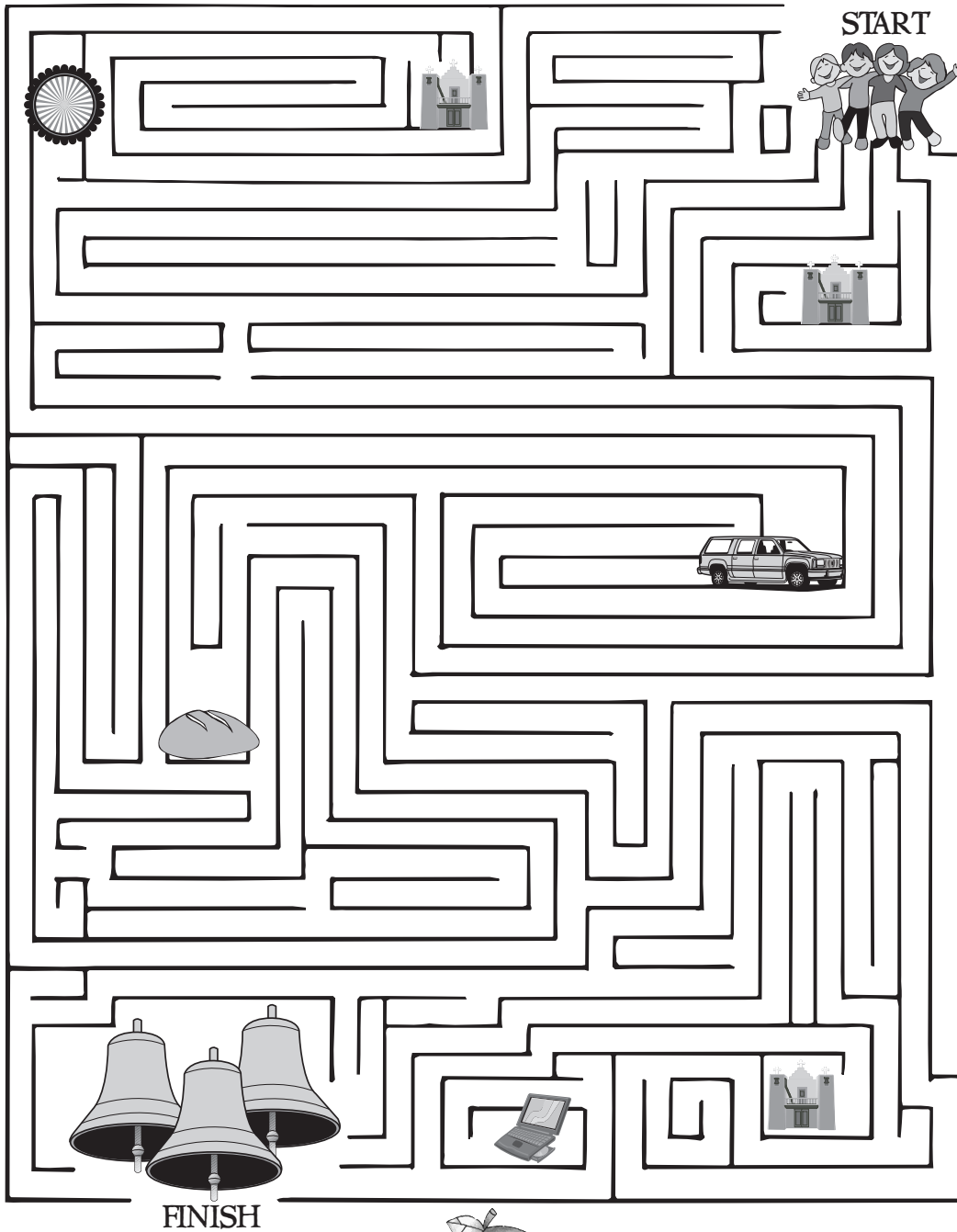
**NOTE: The preparation of all dishes are to be carried out with the supervision of an adult.**



# The Mystery on the California Mission Trail Maze



Help Christina, Grant, Maria, and Clara blaze their way through California to find the missing mission bells!



## ***The Mystery on the California Mission Trail Pair Up***



*Match the words on the left with the correct words on the right!*



SPANISH

RUSH

JUNÍPERO

FATHERS

EARTH

SLIDE

MISSION SANTA

BELLS

RINGING

SERRA

GOLD

INDIANS

SAN

QUAKE

MUD

DIEGO

CALIFORNIA

BÁRBARA

FOUNDING

MISSIONS



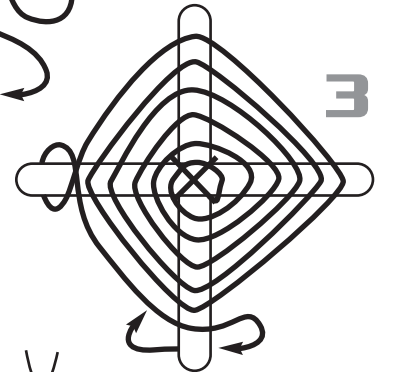
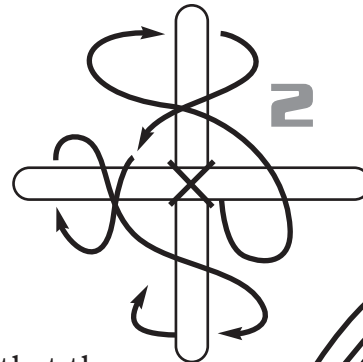
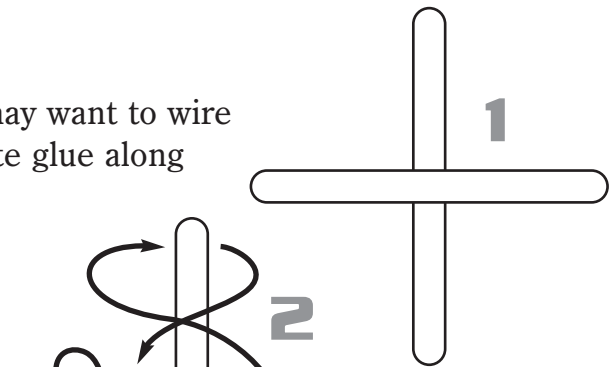
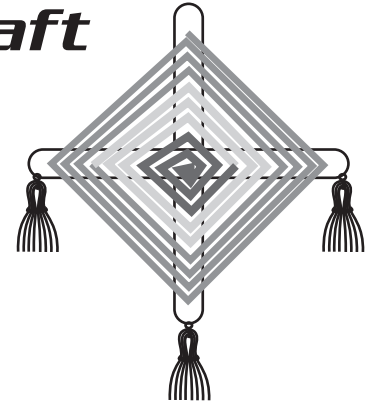
## The Mystery on the California Mission Trail "Ojo de Dios" Craft

*Ojo de Dios means Eye of God. The Hiuchol Indians from Mexico used to give this prayer offering to express goodness and the elimination of evil. This **paho** or prayer also communicates wishes for good health, prosperity, and long life.*

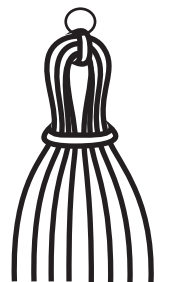
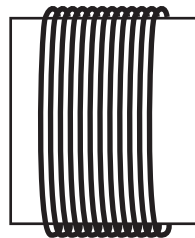
**Materials:** various colors of yarn, 2 popsicle sticks, glue, scissors

### Directions:

1. Make a perfect cross with the popsicle sticks. You may want to wire or glue them together. Place a very thin line of white glue along the top of the crossed sticks.
2. Tie a long length of yarn at the intersection of the cross. Wind the yarn around each arm consecutively. Move the yarn over around each stick, keeping the yarn fairly tight. Go counterclockwise (move left) unless you are left-handed (move right).
3. Change colors by knotting the new length of yarn so that the knot falls on the back side of the craft. Create spaces between the strands of yarn by moving the yarn around each stick two or three times before moving to the next arm.
4. You could also tie tassels at the ends of each stick. Wrap yarn around cardboard, cut to the size of the desired tassel. Gather and tie the yarn at one end of the cardboard and cut the yarn at the opposite end. Remove cardboard. Hold the strands of the tassel in one hand with the gathered section exposed. Wrap with yarn a short distance from the top.



4



# The Mystery on the California Mission Trail Clue Scramble



*Unscramble the words below to find the mystery clues!*

1. CTAAR

\_\_\_\_\_

2. ELBL WETOR

\_\_\_\_\_

3. NETOTOMSB

\_\_\_\_\_

4. IRBD

\_\_\_\_\_

5. LTAS SNSMIIO

\_\_\_\_\_

6. RMAEAD LBSEL

\_\_\_\_\_

7. JOOS

\_\_\_\_\_

8. OFRO TEILS

\_\_\_\_\_

9. LE CMIANO ALRE

\_\_\_\_\_

10. SBERROOM

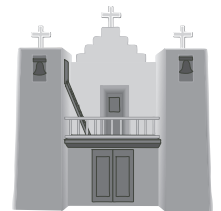
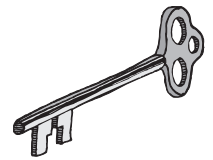
\_\_\_\_\_

11. DERNGA

\_\_\_\_\_

12. EAKEQRTHUA

\_\_\_\_\_





# The Mystery on the California Mission Trail Word Search



Search for the mysteriously hidden words below!

C A L I F O R N I A G H Y I M Q U  
 R P L O V S G J D K B E E M U E O  
 E A R T H Q U A K E K I I S S D R  
 T U Q L O K I C L M B S L P E I E  
 U F L W S R D L H A S I A P U L P  
 P W R C Y P E E B I H N M U M S I  
 M A S D C A T H O L I C M U D D N  
 O U J N A I D N I S B L E L L U U  
 C T C E P S U S H M A I L B E M J

CLUE

MISSION

SPANISH

GUIDE

EMAIL

JUNÍPERO

INDIAN

CATHOLIC

BELL

EARTHQUAKE

CALIFORNIA

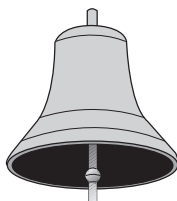
MUSEUM

SUSPECT

BEEP

MUD SLIDE

COMPUTER



## The Mystery on the California Mission Trail Fill-in-the-Blank Crossword



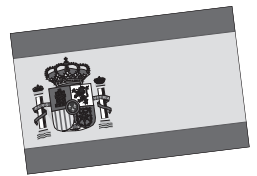
Fill in the blanks to answer the questions.

1. The Spanish priests wanted to convert these people to Christianity:

\_\_\_\_ N \_\_\_\_ A \_\_\_\_

2. Watch out! You might get dirty!

\_\_\_\_ U \_\_\_\_ S \_\_\_\_



3. Long state on the west coast:

\_\_\_\_ A \_\_\_\_ F \_\_\_\_

4. These are missing from a lot of missions:

\_\_\_\_ E \_\_\_\_

5. This man helped found many Spanish missions in California:

\_\_\_\_ T \_\_\_\_ R

J \_\_\_\_ P \_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ R \_\_\_\_



6. Mission San Juan Capistrano is famous for its:

\_\_\_\_ I \_\_\_\_

7. Spanish missions were often built with:

\_\_\_\_ D \_\_\_\_ B \_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_ K \_\_\_\_



# ***The Mystery on the California Mission Trail Matching Characters***



*Match these mystery characters with their descriptions!*

- |                  |                                |
|------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Papa          | A. gives Grant cool stuff      |
| 2. Gabe          | B. watches out for earthquakes |
| 3. Christina     | C. mystery writer              |
| 4. Mimi          | D. likes to check her email    |
| 5. Grant         | E. lots of opinions            |
| 6. Uncle Michael | F. courageous helper           |
| 7. Juanita       | G. seeks treasure              |



## The Mystery on the California Mission Trail Quiz

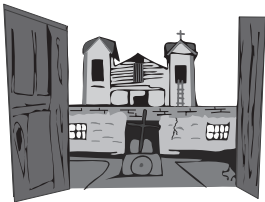


Use the clues to recall some of the California missions!

1. "Queen of the Missions": \_\_\_\_\_

2. Once destroyed by an earthquake: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Wealthiest Spanish mission: \_\_\_\_\_



4. Last mission built by Father Junípero Serra:

\_\_\_\_\_



5. Features beautiful frescos: \_\_\_\_\_

6. "Hidden Gem of the Missions": \_\_\_\_\_

7. The first mission: \_\_\_\_\_

8. Home of the mud swallows (birds): \_\_\_\_\_

9. Burial site of Father Junípero Serra: \_\_\_\_\_





## ***The Mystery on the California Mission Trail True or False?***



*Mark each statement true or false.*

*Can you replace the word that is false in each statement?*

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. *El Camino Real* means “The Common Road.”
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Christina received clues on her laptop computer.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Mission bells are sometimes made of wood.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. There are 51 Spanish missions in California.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. A *padre* is a priest.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. The kids read California state trivia on the plane ride.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Uncle Michael gave Grant a purple backpack.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Maria and Clara lived in a casa across the street from Mission La Purísima.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Many Indians became neophytes, newly baptized Catholics, in California during the Spanish mission era.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. California lies on the East Coast of the United States.



## ***Answer Key...***

# ***to The Mystery on the California Mission Trail Activities***



### ***Math Activities***

1. \$2,050 budget; 2. 63 bells; 3. 938 kilobytes; 4. 420 hours; 5. 6 chores; 6. 600 acres; 7. 16 pieces of food

### ***The Mystery on the California Mission Trail Pair Up***

SPANISH MISSIONS, JUNÍPERO SERRA, EARTHQUAKE, MISSION SANTA BÁRBARA, RINGING BELLS, GOLD RUSH, SAN DIEGO, MUD SLIDE, CALIFORNIA INDIANS, FOUNDING FATHERS

### ***The Mystery on the California Mission Trail Clue Scramble***

CARTA, BELL TOWER, TOMBSTONE, BIRD, LAST MISSION, MADERA BELLS, OJOS, ROOF TILES, EL CAMINO REAL, SOMBRERO, DANGER, EARTHQUAKE

### ***The Mystery on the California Mission Trail Fill-in-the-Blank Crossword***

INDIANS, MUD SLIDE, CALIFORNIA, BELLS, FATHER JUNÍPERO SERRA, BIRDS, ADOBE BRICK

### ***The Mystery on the California Mission Trail Matching Characters***

1-E, 2-G, 3-D, 4-C, 5-B, 6-A, 7-F

### ***The Mystery on the California Mission Trail Quiz***

1. Mission Santa Bárbara
2. Mission La Purísima Concepción
3. Mission San Luis Rey de Francia
4. Mission San Buenaventura
5. Mission San Miguel Arcángel
6. Mission Santa Inés
7. Mission San Diego de Alcalá
8. Mission San Juan Capistrano
9. Mission San Carlos Borromeo de Carmelo

### ***The Mystery on the California Mission Trail True or False?***

1. F-Royal; 2. T; 3. T; 4. F-21; 5. T; 6. T; 7. F-red; 8. T; 9. T; 10. F-west

