



Journey of Problem Solving

4th Grade Lesson Plan

Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail



Standards

- Subject and California Standards: Social Studies 4.2
- Language Arts Reading 2.0, Writing 1.0 & 2.0

Materials Needed

Provided in this lesson plan

- Lesson Plan
- Lesson One (pre-visit with student worksheets)
- Lesson Two (site visit to San Juan Bautista segment of Anza Trail)
- Lesson Three (post-visit with assessments)

Props (provided at the San Juan Bautista section of the Anza Trail)

- Props for Lesson Two (available upon reservation at San Juan Bautista State Historic Park)

Objectives

- Students will be able to provide at least one reason for the 1775-76 Anza Expedition
- Students will be able to problem solve at least one struggle or hardship the settlers faced
- Students will creatively display an understanding of the influence of the 1775-76 Anza Expedition in at least one era of California history
- Students will be able to compare the natural environment before and after the expedition

Overview

Through these lessons students and teachers will gain an appreciation and understanding for the significance of the 1775-76 Anza Expedition in colonizing Alta California.

Assessment

During the post-visit, students are given a list of questions about the 1775-76 Anza Expedition. Students can choose to answer the questions in a variety of formats including a song, a play, as a presentation, or a paper.

Background

In the 1700's Spain wished to extend its holdings and deter England, France, and Russia from expanding in North America. Missions were already established in Baja California, and five missions and two presidios were already built in Alta California at the start of the 1775-76 expedition. The year before, Anza had successfully led (with the help of Native Americans) a small group of soldiers from Tubac, New Spain to Monterey, Alta California. Anza was granted permission to lead a group of 300 men, women, children and 1000 livestock overland to establish the San Francisco Mission and the Presidio.

Outline

Lesson One (pre-visit in classroom)

Through a series of hands-on activities, students will learn about the preparation for the long journey. They can complete the on-line Anza Trail Junior Ranger activity where they take on a role of an expedition member, create their own fancy signature or “rubric” like Anza, and the invaluable use of the *rebozo* issued to all the women.

Lesson Two (site-visit to Anza Trail segment in San Juan Bautista)

While walking the Anza Trail segment, students are presented with similar problems the expedition members encountered while on their journey. Using the provided props and materials, students work together to develop solutions to these problems, as well as learn how the expedition members solved them in 1775-76.

Lesson Three (post-visit in classroom)

Students pretend they have finished the journey and write a letter home describing the experiences that had and things they learned on the way.

For Additional Information:

Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail

1111 Jackson St., #700

Oakland, CA 94507

(510) 817-1323

www.nps.gov/juba