

El Presidio de Santa Barbara

Before you visit...

Grade 3

OUR GOAL

is to provide useful pre and post-visit material to ensure that both teacher and student receive a meaningful and informative experience when they visit the Santa Barbara Presidio. Through this material we hope to help you, the teacher, to interpret, present, and encourage the enjoyment of the unique historical and cultural resources found at El Presidio de Santa Barbara in your classroom, while simultaneously meeting the 3rd Grade History-Social Science Content Standards.

*Reserve your
tour today!*

call
(805) 965-0093
weekdays between
9am & 2pm

The History of the Santa Barbara Presidio



Founded April 21, 1782, the Santa Barbara Royal Presidio was the last in a chain of four military fortresses built by the Spanish along the coast of Alta California, then a wilderness frontier (others had been established at San Diego, San Francisco and Monterey. Padre Junipero Serra, well known for his efforts in founding the California missions, blessed the site of the Santa

Barbara Presidio four years prior to the establishment of the Mission of Santa Barbara in 1786. El Presidio de Santa Barbara State Historic Park encompasses the original Presidio site and is located in modern downtown Santa Barbara at the intersection of Santa Barbara and Canon Perdido Streets.

Importance

The presidios played a vital role in the occupation of California (New Spain). They protected the missions and settlers against attack by Indians, provided a location for the establishment of government, and guarded the country against foreign invasion. The Santa Barbara Presidio was both military headquarters and the governmental center of the entire region, extending from present day San Luis Obispo County to and including the Pueblo of Los Angeles.

El Presidio de Santa Barbara State Historic Park

123 East Canon Perdido Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93102-0388
Hours: 10:30am- 4:30pm daily

Relevance to your class

CA Standard 3.3

“Students draw from historical and community resources to organize the sequence of local historical events and describe how each period of settlement left its mark on the land.”

CA Standard 3.3.1

“Research the explorers who visited here, the newcomers who settled here, and the people who continue to come to this region....”

CA Standard 3.3.2

“Describe the economies established by settlers and their influence on the present-day economy....”

CA Standard 3.3.3

“Trace why their community was established, how individuals and families contributed to its founding and development, and how the community has changed over time....”

Note:

Our trained Docents can address specific points of interest according to your needs or lesson plans!

During your visit...

3rd Grade Presidio Tour Summary

Students learn about where their city began. They hear where colonists came from, why the fort was built, facts about Presidio daily life and how it differs from the way we live today. In doing so, students can relate the Santa Barbara they know with the beginnings of our city in the Presidio.

Primary Theme:

The Presidio served as a civic, economic, and social center in early Spanish Santa Barbara

The Presidio served as the seat for government and judicial activity, as well as a center for communication within California and between California, Mexico, and Spain. It was a trading center, to which the annual supply of goods from Mexico were shipped and from which they were disbursed. The Presidial companies, composed largely of married soldiers and their families, were planned as “seed” communities from which future *pueblos* would grow.

Duration

Tours are approximately 1 hour in length.

Supervision

One adult per ten students is **required** supervision. Each group is limited to 45 students. Teachers and chaperones **MUST** remain with the group at all times and are responsible for good group behavior. Visits without a docent (unguided tours) are arranged by reservation only if space allows. The Trust reserves the right to turn away any group with inadequate supervision.

After your visit...

Suggested Reading

For teachers:

Early Days of Santa Barbara by Walter A. Hawley

El Presidio de Santa Barbara: A Reader's Theater prepared by Kathy Chalfant

A Brief Story of Santa Barbara by Edward S. Spaulding

For students:

The Rainbow Bridge by Audrey Wood

Frida Maria: A Story of the Old Southwest by Deborah Nourse Lattimore

The Piñata Maker by George Ancona

Books are available for purchase in the Presidio Gift Shop

Teachers receive 10% discount

Other Relevant Activities & Materials

Extensions

- ◇ Students can compare the Santa Barbara they know today with the beginnings of our city in the Presidio in the early 1800s (worksheet #1).
- ◇ Students can study the variety of cultures associated with the Presidio (worksheet #2).
- ◇ Vocabulary associated with early California history can be explored (worksheet #3).
- ◇ Students can share and discuss the significance of meaningful, old family objects.

Casa de la Guerra Tour

Students can visit an early California colonial home and learn about Spanish and Mexican Santa Barbara and the "Rancho Era." The tour concentrates on the history of this particular structure, once the economic, political and social center of the *pueblo* of Santa Barbara and home of the influential De la Guerra family. Children learn about daily life in early Santa Barbara...from work, food and architecture, to games and fiestas.

Casa de la Guerra

15 East de la Guerra St.
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Tours can be scheduled between 10am and 3pm
Monday- Friday

Early California Days

Each year ten 3rd Grade classes are selected to participate in this living history day, held in honor of the Presidio's founding on April 21, 1782. Students enjoy numerous demonstrations and hands-on activities including weaving, spinning, adobe brick making, mule packing, tortilla making, and archaeology. A special ceremony is held that includes the raising of the flag by young soldiers, song, dance, and a special appearance by Saint Barbara.

To find out how to enter your class in the selection lottery, please call (805) 965-0093

Presidio Pastimes

Our Presidio Pastimes events are FREE living history days designed for families. They include hands-on activities, demonstrations by *Los Soldados de Cuera*, and other displays of what life was like in early California.

For information about our next scheduled Presidio Pastimes, call (805) 965-0093

School Tour Guidelines

How to Reserve

All programs MUST be booked in advance. Please allow a minimum of two weeks notice. Make reservations by calling (805) 966-9719, weekdays between 9am and 2pm

Confirmation

Once a tour is scheduled, a confirmation letter will be sent. Groups larger than 45 students should inquire about alternating with another site (Mission, Court-house, Historical Museum etc.).

Parking

At the Presidio: Students can be dropped off in front of the Visitor's Center on Canon Perdido Street.

At Casa de la Guerra: Students can be dropped off in front of the Casa on De la Guerra Street.

There is free 75 minute parking on Canon Perdido, Santa Barbara, and Anacapa Streets, as well as pay parking behind the Lobero Theater.

Lunch Facilities

Bag lunches may be eaten in the Presidio Courtyard behind the Visitor's Center.

If you are interested in additional materials that relate to the Santa Barbara Presidio, Casa de la Guerra, or other pertinent Social Studies materials, you may contact the Education Department at (805) 730-1466 or (805) 962-9504

The Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation's teachers' resources are made possible by the generous support of the Wood-Claeyssens Foundation.

