



Reading Comprehension

4th Grade - Activity #2

How many questions can you answer after you read this letter from Juan to his Aunt?

April 20, 1788

Dear Tia Luisa,

How is the family in Mexico City? We arrived yesterday at El Presidio de Santa Barbara after a long journey. After taking a sailing ship to San Diego, we had to walk the remaining 60 leagues because as a soldado, father needed to bring along 6 horses to have in Santa Barbara. I helped care for the new horses and we didn't lose any of them.

Our last stop was at Buenaventura Mission. They let us use a carreta to transport some plants and two lambs from the mission to the Presidio. When we finally saw the strong white walls of the large square of the Presidio we were all very tired. We were shown to our new one room home on the southwest side of the square, and I fell asleep before I even had my shoes off.

This morning I have been helping unpack. Everyone is very excited because tomorrow there is going to be a big fiesta to celebrate the founding of the Presidio six years ago. Mama and my sister Anita have ground corn. They are already baking bread in the new horno. I can hardly wait for the food, games, and dancing.

I met a Chumash boy who is helping build the Presidio. He has shown me the gardens and pointed out where the bricks are made. He promised to take me fishing after the fiesta is over. I think I am going to like living here in Santa Barbara.

Your loving nephew,
Juan

1. When was the Presidio founded? _____
 2. How did the travelers get to the Presidio? _____
 3. What did the Presidio look like? _____
 4. What activities would a young person be expected to do at a Presidio? _____
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