

El Presidio de Santa Barbara

Before your visit...

Grade Four

The History of the Santa Barbara Presidio

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 4th Grade History-Social Science Content Standards.



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 governmental center of the entire region extending from present day San Luis Obispo County to and including the Pueblo of Los Angeles.

*Reserve your
tour today!*

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

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 4.2

“Students describe the social, political, cultural, and economic life and interactions among people of California from the pre-Columbian societies to the Spanish mission and Mexican rancho periods.”

CA Standard 4.2.3

“Describe the Spanish exploration and colonization of California, including the relationships among soldiers, missionaries, and Indians....”

CA Standard 4.2.5

“Describe the daily lives of the people, native and non-native, who occupied the presidios, missions, ranchos, and pueblos.”

CA Standard 4.2.7

“Describe the effects of the Mexican War for Independence on Alta California....”

CA Standard 4.2.8

“Discuss the period of Mexican rule in California and its attributes....”

Note:

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

During your visit...

4th Grade Presidio Tour Summary

Students learn about the Spanish colonization of New Spain, concentrating on the motives that brought Spanish soldiers and missionaries to Alta California. Their visit to Santa Barbara’s reconstructed Presidio, with discussions about its general characteristics, including why it was built, daily life, and how it operated, will help bring to life this period in history.

Primary Theme:

The Presidio was a seat of colonial power in both the Spanish and Mexican occupation of Alta California.

The Santa Barbara Presidio was part of a grand attempt by the colonial powers in Spain and Mexico to rule a vast and rich country on the far edge of the empire. The Spanish crown, and later the Mexican republic, established and maintained outposts of military and civilian activities to control and harvest the riches of Alta California.

Duration

Tours are approximately 1 hour in length. This may include an introductory video, which lasts 12 minutes.

Note: A copy of this tape may be borrowed from the Santa Barbara County Schools AV Department or from the Trust’s Education Department

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.

Note: Arrangements for more than 45 students can be made upon request

After your visit...

Suggested Reading

For teachers:

Early Days of Santa Barbara by Walter A. Hawley

Two Years Before the Mast by Richard Henry Dana, Jr.

Romona by Helen Hunt Jackson

A Brief Story of Santa Barbara by Edward S. Spaulding

For students:

Anita of Rancho del Mar by Elaine F. O'Brien

Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O'Dell

Soldiers and their Families of the California Mission Frontier by Jack S. Williams & Thomas L. Davis

Stowaway to California! Adventures with Father Junipero Serra by Natalie Hernandez

Books are available for purchase in the Presidio Gift Shop

Teachers receive 10% discount

Other Relevant Activities & Materials

Extensions

- ◇ Students can compare their family life with that of a child who might have lived in the Presidio in the early 1800's (worksheet #1)
- ◇ Vocabulary associated with early California history can be explored and used in this context (worksheets #2 & #3).
- ◇ A time line of Santa Barbara's founding can help demonstrate the sequence of events.
- ◇ In class, students can share old, meaningful family objects.
- ◇ In class, students can create a bulletin board collage relating to life at the Presidio.

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 & 3pm
Monday - Friday

Presidio Pastimes

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

School Tour Guidelines

How to Reserve

All programs MUST be booked in advance. Please allow a minimum of 3 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, Courthouse, 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.

