RESTORE
Mission Santa Bárbara

Composite Sketch of the Successive Mission Facades
1794  1811  1820

Fr. Thaddeus, C.P.M.
Nov. 10, 1852

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Earthquake!

The Chumash have lived along the central coast for approximately 13,000 years. In 1812, Spain ruled over New Spain, which was made up of California, Texas, Mexico, and even more territories. Since the mid-1700s, Franciscan friars had journeyed to California to build missions with the hope of converting Indigenous Peoples
to Christianity and extending Spanish civilization and culture. Typically only one or two friars lived at each mission. By 1812 the Mission Santa Barbara church and convento, the parts of the building where friars lived, were complete. On December 21, 1812, a devastating earthquake destroyed most of the buildings at Mission Santa Barbara.

Imagine you are responsible for part of the restoration of Mission Santa Barbara in 1812. Restoration is the process of repairing or returning something to its first condition. You have been given the project of repairing stone statues to place near the bell towers or restoring the decoration of a doorway inside the Mission church. (See page 22-23 for design and doodle space.)

Have you ever experienced an earthquake? What did it feel like?

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

If you want to restore a decorative doorway, turn to page 4

If you want to restore a statue, turn to page 6
The space around doorways was often painted with floral or patterned designs. Much of the inspiration for painted decoration came from books which taught about European and Roman designs. Native Peoples were also skilled artists. You can see their influence throughout the missions in symbols like the deer figure that
holds a bow and arrow above a doorway at Mission San Fernando.

Before an artist could paint, the walls were covered with a white plaster, or paste. They would then scratch out the intended design with a sharp tool or use a stencil with a design already cut out. The artist could then begin painting. Artists also used a technique called marbelizing to decorate the walls. Marble or stone was popular in buildings in Europe but was not available in California, so artists tried to make the walls look like marble with paint.

If a mission used local resources to make paints, it was cheaper and faster than importing, which involved bringing oil paints from a different area or country. A wide variety of brightly colored oil paints could be imported from Spain or the United States.

Do you have a favorite flower or animal that you could use in your design?

__________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________

If you want to use local colors, turn to page 8

If you want to use imported colors, turn to page 10
Statue Restoration

Statues were usually religious figures, including saints and representations of ideas such as hope or charity. Some sculptures featured animals such as the bear or mountain lion waterspout that filled the lavanderia at Santa Barbara, where the mission community did their laundry.
The stone used to create statues at Mission Santa Bárbara was cut from local sandstone and then carved out into a shape.

Stone work was an important trade in mission life. The Chumash had been working with stone for centuries and were experts with stone tools. Mission documents record many payments to Chumash masons, who worked with stone by laying floors, constructing reservoirs to hold water, and working on the aqueduct that carried water from the creek to the mission. Well known artisans also included those who were born in Mexico or Spain and travelled around Alta California for work.

What person or idea or symbol will your statue reflect and why?

If you want to employ Chumash artisans, turn to page 12

If you want to employ other artisans, turn to page 14
Local Colors

Bright colors and design were popular in the decoration of California Missions. Local sources of minerals were used to create paints for decorating. Minerals make up rocks, sand, and soil. They are an inorganic material, meaning they aren’t made from plants or animals. Yellow colors were made using ochre, a type of clay, and
green colors were often made using copper found in rocks. Muted or dull red colors could be sourced from iron ore or cinnabar. The only non-mineral color used was black, which was created from charcoal or soot. The paints were in a powder form and then would be mixed with liquids such as cactus juice.

Now that you have chosen what type of paint you will use for your design, you are ready for your artist to begin. But first, how would you like to pay your artist? You can either pay with money called Reales or you can pay with items, such as food, that you have at the mission.

What combination of colors do you plan to use in your design and why?

If you want to pay an artisan with Reales, turn to page 16

If you want to pay with Items, turn to page 18
Imported Colors

Bright colors and design were popular in California Mission decoration, and imported oil paints from Spain or the United States were the best type of paint for getting the brightest colors. Bright oranges, reds, and blues had to be imported from other places. But remember, 1812 was a bad year to order imported paints. The War
of 1812 disrupted the supply ships. While you wait for your supplies to arrive, complete the exercise below.

**Symmetry** was a popular part of design during the Mission Period. A line across a figure where the figure can be folded along that line into two matching parts is called a Line of Symmetry. Draw a line of symmetry in the architectural drawing below:

Now that you have chosen what paint you will use for your design, you are almost ready for your artist to begin. But first, how would you like to pay your artist?

If you want to pay an artisan with Reales, turn to page 16

If you want to pay with Items, turn to page 18
Chumash Artisans

The Chumash excelled at canoe building before contact with the Spanish. Some scholars believe that canoe building was thought of as a similar skill to masonry. A mason is an artisan that works with stone.
Generally, Native American artisans were underpaid by Mexico City standards at the time. Sometimes, like with the stonemason Pancrasio, artisans with highly valued skills were paid more than usual. Spanish rules at the time demanded kind treatment and fair payment for any Native American artisan.

Native Artisans in the Santa Bárbara area included:
  - Benjamín José Palulahuit, a mason from Santa Cruz Island
  - Paisano Guilajahichet, a mason and carpenter
  - Santiago Kuhi’i, a mason from Ventura
  - Vicente, a mason (location unknown)

What qualities do you think make up an artisan?

Select an artisan from the above list. Write their name here:

If you want to pay an artisan with Reales, turn to page 16
If you want to pay with Items, turn to page 18
Other Artisans

At least four non-Chumash artisans were in the Santa Bárbara area around the 1820s. First, there was the retired soldier Josef María Domínguez who moved from Sinaloa to Santa Barbara in 1781 (31 years before the earthquake!). José Sánchez and Pablo Vásquez were two masons born in Mexico. The fourth mason was José Antonio
Ramírez, a master mason, master carpenter, architect, and painter.

Which artisan will you employ and why?

Complete the exercise below as you wait for your artisan to arrive:

**Symmetry** was a popular part of design during the Mission Period. A line across a figure where the figure can be folded along that line into two matching parts is called a Line of Symmetry. Draw a line of symmetry in the architectural drawing below:

If you want to pay an artisan with Reales, turn to page 16
If you want to pay with Items, turn to page 18
Money during the 1820s in Alta California included *pesos* and *reales*. Artisans during the 1820s received 4 reales for painting marbling or borders. Artisans painting something as detailed as a horse and rider would be paid 6 to 10 reales. Highly skilled stonemasons would be paid 3 reales per day.

I will pay: ___________________________
Using the colors you selected, review your decisions and illustrate your design here:
Pay with Items

The account book for the Santa Barbara Mission shows business transactions for workers. Typical payment included grain, blankets, and articles of clothing. Payment was sometimes in chocolate.

I will pay: ___________________________
Using the colors you selected, review your decisions and illustrate your design here:
Discuss

Use the questions on the next page to reflect on your experience of restoring Mission Santa Barbara. Share your answers with your class, group, or a partner.
What was challenging or surprising about the process?

What would you do differently if you were asked to restore again?
Design and Doodle here.