



## Old Mission Santa Barbara Activity Book



Old Mission Santa Barbara sits on the homeland of the Chumash people, who have lived here for thousands of years. Today, the Mission is a home to a community of Franciscan friars. A friar is a man who has dedicated his life to following the example and teachings of St. Francis, a Catholic saint. Spanish friars, or padres, founded 21 missions in California from 1769 to 1823.



### 1. Begin in front of the Mission

Padre Fermín Lasuén set up Mission Santa Barbara in 1786.

*Turn around to look at the ocean. Why do you think he chose this location?*

---

---

---

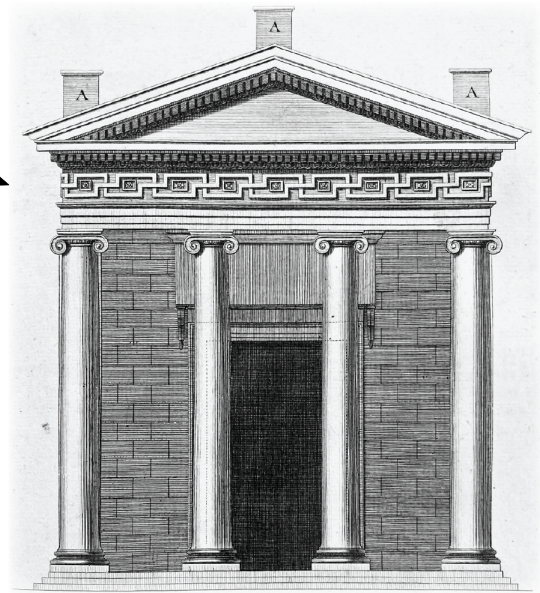
The first Mission Santa Barbara church didn't look anything like what we see today. The original building was a simple wooden structure. As the Mission grew, the community built adobe buildings. **Adobe** is a building material made of soil, clay, straw, sand, and other natural materials.

In 1812, there was a big earthquake, which damaged the church and other buildings. When it was time to rebuild, the people living at the Mission used the drawing on the next page as inspiration for the Mission we see today.





Can you spot 5 differences between this drawing and the Mission in front of you? Circle or draw the differences on the image.



## 2. Walk to the end of the *lavanderia* (closer to the cross)

The stone sculpture in front of you was likely made by a Chumash artist named Paciano Guilajahicet. Paciano was born on Santa Cruz Island. When he was around 16 years old, he was baptized at Mission San Buenaventura. That means he became a member of the Catholic religion. He had to live at the Mission and follow Spanish traditions. Paciano added to his traditional Chumash skills by learning Spanish-style masonry, which means stone-working.



What animal do you think the sculpture represents?

---

Look inside its mouth. What do you think the sculpture was used for?

---



---



## 3. Walk to the fountain

The Chumash people were traditionally hunter-gatherers. This means they got food by hunting, fishing, and collecting wild plants. The Chumash people's **staple food** was acorns. This means acorns were a big part of their diet and their most important source of food.



The Spanish who came to California brought with them their traditions of farming and raising animals. For the Spanish, the most important food they grew was wheat. Wheat was their staple food.

*What is your family's staple food?*

The fountain in front of you was part of the Mission's water system. The people living at the Mission built a system to bring water from nearby creeks to the Mission.

*What are four activities the people living at the Mission needed water for?*

---

---



#### 4. Walk inside the Mission to the Sacred Garden



We now call this space the Sacred Garden. During the Mission Era, this courtyard would have looked completely different. It would have been an open area without any palm trees or flowers. The courtyard was a place where the Chumash people living at the Mission gathered to get their daily work assignments. People would have done some trades here, such as making things from cattle hides, like leather shoes.



#### 5. Walk into the church and take a seat on one of the first pews (benches)



Welcome to the inside of the Mission Santa Barbara church. It looks almost the same as it did in 1820. Take one minute in silence to observe the sights, sounds, and smell of the church.

*What about the church most caught your attention or made you curious? Why?*

---

---

---

---

---

The padres living at the missions brought with them their religion, Catholicism, which is a type of Christianity. The Native Californians had their own traditional belief systems. The Spanish wanted them to be Catholics. Nowadays we know that we should respect everyone's beliefs. All people can live their lives as they choose.

Artists in Mexico created the paintings and statues you see around you. The art tells stories from the Catholic religion.

Chumash artists probably painted the walls of the church. The bright colors they used came from the local natural environment. Some people say the pattern on the lower part of the walls looks similar to an important resource in the Chumash culture: abalone shells.



## 6. Walk into the cemetery



Look at the stone carvings above the door you just walked through. The skull and cross bones are symbols that mean you are in a cemetery.



A few thousand Chumash people are buried here. There are no gravestones for the Chumash people who died during the Mission Era because a different burial practice was followed. Many Chumash people died from diseases the Spanish accidentally brought with them. One of the reasons diseases spread easily was because many people lived close together at the Mission.

The gravestones you see are for people who died in Santa Barbara after the Mission Era ended in 1833. The gravestones tell information about the people buried here.

**Read a few gravestones. Write the name and age of the oldest person:**

---



7. While in the cemetery, walk toward the bell tower.

The most well-known person buried in the cemetery was laid to rest in the shadow of the bell tower. Read the plaque on the bell tower wall.

The Indigenous Californian woman buried here survived alone on San Nicolas Island for 18 years. She was given the name Juana Maria upon her death. Many people all over the world know her story through reading "The Island of the Blue Dolphins," Scott Odell's fictional book based on her story.



8. Walk to the entrance of the museum, but don't enter yet.

The next place for you to explore is a room dedicated to the story of the Lone Woman of San Nicolas Island, or Juana Maria. Stand in front of the entrance to the museum. Turn so the entrance is on your left. Walk straight ahead. When you see the next open doorway on your left, go inside.



Find the following things:



- Photo of what the Lone Woman's dog could have looked like
- Black feather cape
- A fake photo of the Lone Woman

Now find the handwritten notes of anthropologist John P. Harrington. The notes say that the Lone Woman may have had a son. Read the notes.

What may have happened to the son?

---



---



---



Find the photo of archeologists working in the Lone Woman's cave. Then find the photo of what was inside the redwood box that was found in the cave.

*What are three objects that were inside the box?*

---

---

---



Look at the large photo of San Nicolas Island (above the black feather cape).

*Do you think it would have been easy or difficult for the Lone Woman to survive on the island alone for 18 years? Why?*

---

---

---

---

---

Thank you for joining me on this journey around Old Mission Santa Barbara! Continue your visit by exploring the museum.

