

Name: _____

Date: _____

Explore California Missions

You will write a short report using these questions below and create a PowerPoint slide show.

Task 1

Why do you think the builders chose the locations for the missions? What pattern do you see?

Student Steps

1. Using Google Earth, zoom in or out until you can see all of California. Click the check box beside the first mission built. Explore the geography. Is it near a body of water? Is it in the North, South or middle of what is now California?
2. Now click on the second mission. Explore the geography. Is it near a body of water? Is it in the North, South or middle of what is now California.
3. Are the first two missions close or far apart? Measure the distance using Tools > Measure. Write down the distance.
4. Click on missions 3 and 4. Do you see a pattern to where they are building the missions? What do you think the pattern is?
5. Click on the rest of the missions one at a time. What is the pattern in the order they are built? How many missions are near the ocean?
6. Explore the links on the placemarks and other resources to find out more about the purpose of the missions and why they were built.
7. Answer the task question: Why do you think the builders chose the locations for the missions? What pattern do you see?

Task 2

Select a mission. If you were the mission founder would you have built your mission where it is today? Explain why or why not using what you learn from Google Earth and other sources.

Student Steps

1. Explore the land, water resources, elevation, slope, and distance from the coast the way it looks today. Is the mission now in a city or country environment? Write down what you see.
2. Use the links in the placemarks and other sources. What did the missionaries do at the mission? What did the Native Americans do there? What did they grow? What did they make? What problems did they have? How cooperative were the Native Americans?
3. In what ways do you think the location of the mission caused problems for the mission?
4. In what ways do you think the location of the mission helped the mission?
5. Use the links provided and other information to find out if the mission was ever damaged by earthquakes or other natural disasters. In Google Earth, turn on the Earthquakes layer. Have there been any earthquakes over magnitude 5 in recent times? 3. Do a web search for "1812 California earthquakes" to learn about the 1812 earthquakes and damage to the missions.
6. Explore the Quicktime Panorama. What does the modern mission look like? What interior or exterior features do you see?
7. Answer the task question: If you were the mission founder would you have built your mission where it is today? Explain why or why not.

Teachers

Have students create a PowerPoint show of what they learned. Have them create 5 slides. Students will then present their mission to the class. You can have students print out a Google Earth view of a mission or have them sketch a view of the mountains, hills, ocean, rivers, etc.

1. Basic mission facts-- year built, founder, name, number in chain.
2. Geography: why was it important?
3. Mission Life: what did they do? What problems did they have?
4. The mission today (advanced: embed the Quicktime Panorama)
5. What you would have done: Would you have built the mission where it is? Why or why not?

Google Earth Tips

1. Use pan, tilt and zoom to better view the geography.
2. In the menu, go to Tools > Options and the View Tab. Change the "Elevation Exaggeration" to "2" to better see variations in geography.