

# Curriculum for the Rancho San Andrés Castro Adobe



## Overview

The Mexican Rancho Era lasted from 1821-1850 and it was during that time that California was under Mexican rule. Before the Mexican Rancho era, was the California Mission period, which lasted from 1769-1834. This is when the Spanish established the California missions and changed the lives of the native peoples forever. These 60-plus years made a huge impact on the native people of what is now Santa Cruz County. The lives of the Ohlone people changed as they were slowly assimilated into the new emerging culture of the area. This unit includes background information on the Ohlone, the Mission Period and, finally, the Rancho Era. The primary focus is on the Mexican Rancho Era and the Juan Jose Castro family at the San Andrés Castro Adobe in Watsonville.

## Academic Content Standards

Subject areas: SOCIAL STUDIES and MATH Grade Level: 3-4

SOCIAL STUDIES 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.)

ELA: Reading Informational Text RI 3.1-9; 4.1-9

ELA: Speaking and Listening: SL 3.2, 3.3; 4.2, 4.3

ELA: Writing: 3.2, 3.3, 3.4; 4.2, 4.3, 4.7

MATH: Measurement and Data: 3.4, 3.5, 3.6; 4.3; \*5.6

### Time Required

45-60 minutes depending on the grade and class for each lesson, and at least one hour for the field trip to the Rancho San Andrés Castro Adobe.

# Objectives and Vocabulary Words/Terms

## OBJECTIVES

Through classroom lessons and participating in the field trip, students will be able to:

- Describe the early history of Santa Cruz County from when the Spanish explorers and missionaries came up until the Rancho Era.
- Explain how the life in the Santa Cruz area changed for the Ohlone by the presence of the Spanish explorers, missionaries and Californios.
- Explain what life on the Rancho San Andrés was like for the Castro family and the native peoples who served them.
- Be able to describe the history of the Rancho San Andrés Castro Adobe over the last 170 years.

### Possible Extensions

Learn about the Spanish-Mexican-American History of Alta California: [www.pbs.org/kera/usmexicanwar/timeline\\_flash.html](http://www.pbs.org/kera/usmexicanwar/timeline_flash.html)

## VOCABULARY WORDS/TERMS

**Adobe:** a mixture of dirt, straw, and water formed into bricks and dried in the sun, used for building houses and other structures

**Alta California:** former Spanish and Mexican province comprising the present state of California

**Anza Expedition:** the second Anza Expedition (1775-1776) explored Alta California for Spain. The expedition traveled from Mexico to San Francisco. (See map.)

**Brasero:** masonry stove

**Branding:** cattle are marked with a unique brand in order to show ownership—the branding iron is heated in a fire until it's red hot and then applied to the cattle

**Caldera:** a Spanish word for cauldron, large pot for cooking

**Californios:** descendants of Spanish-speaking settlers who came to California in 1769

**Cocina:** the Spanish word for kitchen

**Comal:** a flat ceramic or metal disc used over a flame to cook tortillas, seeds, chilies, and other foods

**Diseño:** a hand drawn map of land grants

**Embarcadero:** landing place; pier or wharf

**Fandango:** dance party; various kinds of Mexican dances

**Fiestas:** parties

**Frijoles:** the Spanish word for beans

**Land grants:** land given to settlers in Alta California

**Mano y metate:** a stone grinding tool used to grind corn, chilies, and other spices. The *mano* is the tool used on the *metate*. (Similar to a mortar and pestle.)

**Matanza:** the yearly selection of cattle killed for their hides and tallow

**Nopales:** a cactus with flat “leaves” that bears fruit called tuna. Both the flat leaves and the fruit are edible

**Molinillo:** a carved wooden tool used for whipping Mexican chocolate

**Olla de barro:** a special pot used when making Mexican hot chocolate

**Padres:** the Spanish word for priests

**Rancho:** the Spanish word for cattle ranches

**Ranchero:** the man who owned a rancho

**Reatas:** lassos, also called lariats

**Rodeo:** a roundup of cattle on a ranch for counting and branding; an exhibition or contest in which vaqueros show their skill at riding horses, roping calves or wild bulls

**secularization:** the end of rule by the Catholic church of the missions

**tallow:** the hard fat of animals, such as cattle, used to make soap, candles

**vaquero:** the Spanish word for cowboy



# Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail Map

