

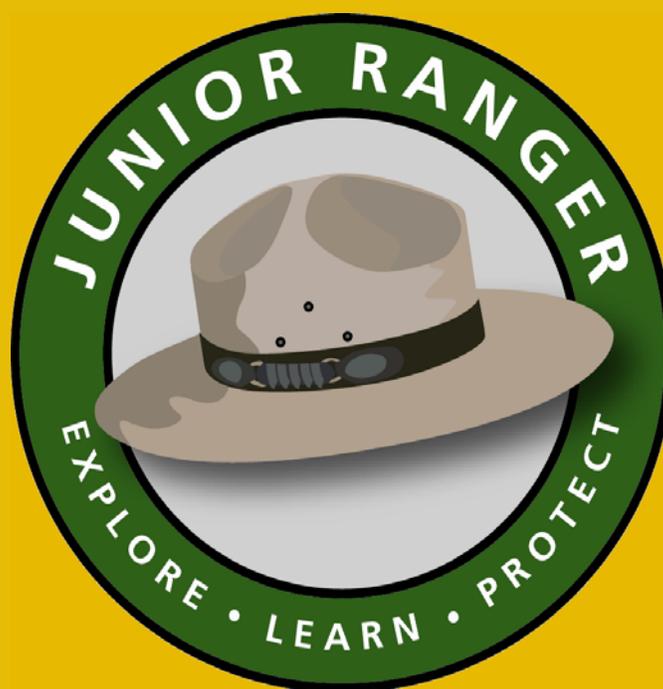
San Antonio Missions

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

San Antonio Missions
National Historical Park



Junior Ranger



Activity Guide

Recommended for ages 6-12

This publication was made possible by



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You are well on your way to becoming a Junior Ranger just by opening this guide! How easy is that? Well, I hate to say it gets a little harder from here...

Instructions

HAVE FUN!!!!

Visit as many of the sites within our park as you can. Answer questions marked with a ➡️ 

Answers can be found all around you or by asking a Park Ranger or volunteer. But don't expect them to give you the answer! They will only help you find it yourself!

When you have finished as much as you can, show your work to the staff at the visitor center or contact station desk. They will check your answers and swear you in as an official JUNIOR PARK RANGER!

FACT: The Missions were added to the list of National Parks in 1978. President Jimmy Carter signed the bill creating San Antonio Missions National Historical Park in November of 1978. All four of the churches remain active parishes...that means services are still held in them every week!



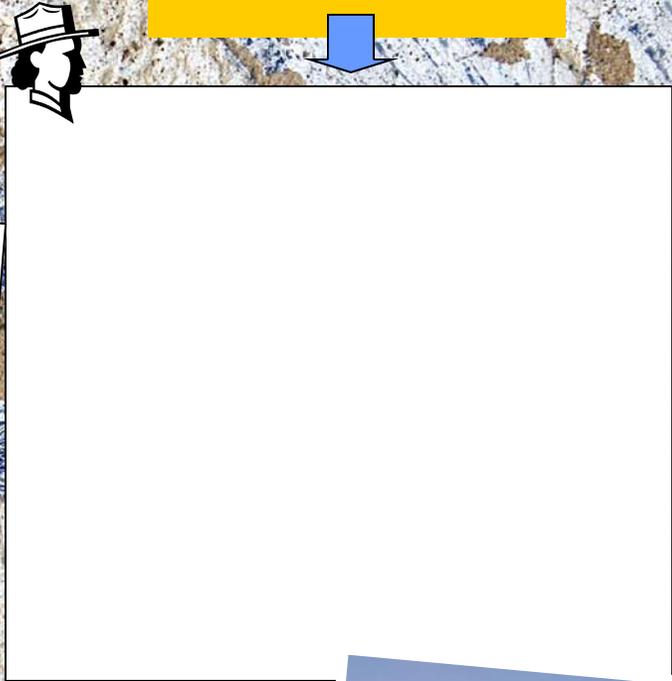
National parks are pretty much everywhere! There are more than 390 national parks. San Antonio is shown on this map with a star. Mark where you live on the map. Shade any other states you have been to. Was there a national park there? Mark it on the map if you can!

EXPLORE

Here is your chance to be an explorer! Tour through the missions and see what you can find. Are all of the missions the same? In what way? How are they different? Don't just walk around, really think about what life was like here.

FACT: Mission Concepcion is one of the oldest, un-restored stone churches in America. Completed in 1756, it was covered with beautiful art. The wall art or *frescoes* were done by mixing dry pigment into wet plaster.

**If you were making a fresco...
what would you draw?
Draw your fresco here!**



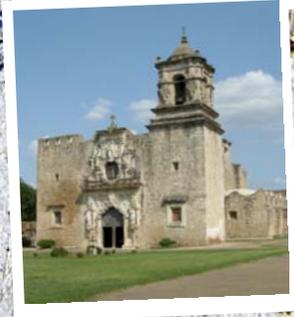
Match the mission name to the picture.

Concepcion

San Jose

San Juan

Espada



LEARN

What is a mission anyway?

As Spain explored the area we now know as the American Southwest, they created communities to help spread their laws, culture and beliefs. The missions along the San Antonio River were built to protect those who lived there while they learned a new way of life.

People

Indian citizens, Spanish soldiers and Franciscan friars made up the population of a mission. Each had a job to do. The friars were the teachers and leaders. The soldiers or "soldados" were there for protection. The Indians came into the mission to learn new ways and become citizens of New Spain.

True or False:

1. Soldiers were in charge of the mission.
2. Mission Indians became citizens of New Spain.
3. Soldado is just another word for friar.



Acequias

The missions needed water to survive. Built near the San Antonio River, the citizens dug *acequias* (a-SEH-kee-yas) to bring water to each site. Some of these ditches are still used today.

List three reasons a community needs water.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



Imagine ...



Compare your life today to what it must have been like at the missions in the 1700's. What are some of the things that would be different? What would be the same?



FACT: The natives that lived in the San Antonio River Valley were hunter / gatherer bands. They were not farmers. They moved their camps with the seasons to find food.

PROTECT



Can one touch hurt? YES!!!!
Mission walls were built to withstand wind, rain and hostile attack. What they can't stand up to is time and abuse. Many of the structures at San Antonio Missions National Historical Park are more than 250 years old. If the millions of visitors that have been in the park each did just a small amount of damage...it would really add up!!

Helping your park with the three "R"s

When you reduce, reuse and recycle you are eliminating the chance for unwanted waste to find its way into the national parks. Of course that's only one small reason to think **green**. What's good for your park is good for the whole Earth!



How Do You Use the Three "R"s?

Name three ways you can reduce, reuse and recycle.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



FACT: San Antonio Missions National Historical Park recycles over 20,000 pounds of waste every year!

The San Antonio River Habitat

The San Antonio River Valley is home to many different types of animals. This rich *habitat* helped support the growing mission communities. Match the animal to the habitat by writing it's number in the circles on the photo below.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. White Tailed Deer | 2. Red Shouldered Hawk |
| 3. Western Diamondback Rattle Snake | 4. Flathead Catfish |



My Travel Journal



- Write about your favorite things at San Antonio Missions NHP.



The Junior Ranger Pledge

As a Junior Ranger I promise

to leave all animals, plants and objects as I found them for others to enjoy,

to reduce, reuse and recycle every chance I can,

to learn more about the National Parks and

to share what I have learned with my family and friends.