

Mission San Juan Capistrano Teacher's Guide

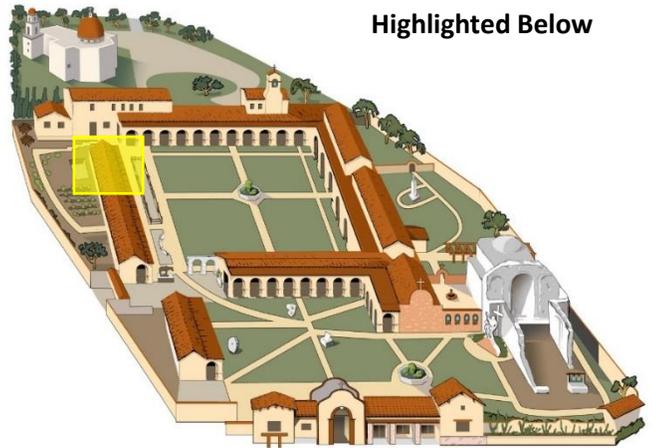
Mission Treasures Exhibit



Dear Teachers,

The Mission Treasures Exhibit meet California State Curriculum Standards for fourth grade Social Science as well as the Common Core State Standards in informational text reading. To enhance the student learning experience, the education and museum staff have incorporated interpretive panels with each displayed artifact or painting. The exhibit features artifacts from the Mission's Founding Period (1700s) to the Early Preservation Era (1900s). This guide provides the topics and themes covered in the exhibit, to assist teachers coming on field trips to the Mission, or to provide information for extracurricular activities for students.

Treasures Exhibit Location Highlighted Below



Educational Standards:

Common Core State Standards

(CCSS) English Language Arts Standards—Reading Informational Texts

Key Ideas and Details

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.3 Explain events, procedures, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text, including what happened and why, based on specific information in the text. Craft and Structure

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.5 Describe the overall structure (e.g., chronology, comparison, cause/effect, problem/solution) of events, ideas, concepts, or information in a text or part of a text.

California State Standards 4th Grade 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.

4.2.5 Describe the daily lives of the people, native and nonnative, who occupied the presidios, missions, ranchos, and pueblos.



Chalice, 19th century

Exhibit Themes

Preservation – The long-term stewardship of a historic site, combined with educating the public about the importance of caring for the landmark. The goal of preservation at Mission San Juan Capistrano is to prolong an artifact's lifespan while maintaining its original meaning with a minimal amount of change.

Conservation – The process of combining art and science to repair or save objects of cultural, iconic, or historic significance. **Renewal** – The act of restoring or rebuilding.

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Treasures Exhibit Gallery, 2012

Founding Period Artifacts (1776-1833)

Father Serra arrived in San Juan Capistrano in 1776 and established the mission with just a few supplies that included horses, iron tools, food provisions, and religious items. As the mission flourished over the next fifty years, many of the native Acjachemen people converted to Catholicism and worked hard to make the mission a success.

Related Artifacts:

Tabernacle (18th century) - A tabernacle is used to store the Eucharist (consecrated bread for parishioners). This colonial tabernacle was designed to stand out from furnishings in the Serra Chapel and to encourage reverence for the contents inside.

Serra Vestment (18th century) – Catholic priests wear a collection of garments called vestments while celebrating mass. The chasuble, stole, and maniple on display were reportedly worn by Father Serra, possibly when he celebrated mass in the Serra Chapel in 1778 and 1783.

Altar Adornments (18th and 19th centuries) – Candlesticks on an altar represent the joy of Christ's birth. These silver candlesticks were included in the original supplies Father Serra brought to found Mission San Juan Capistrano in 1776. A crucifix is symbolic of the sacrifice Jesus Christ made by dying on the cross. It is the main adornment on a Catholic altar. The reflection of light on silver altar frames symbolizes the glory of God. The frames are used to display cards with passages from the gospels and assist priests when they recite prayers during mass.

Gloria Bell Wheel (18th century) – Bells were an important part of daily life at Mission San Juan Capistrano and rang for solemn and celebratory occasions. This bell wheel was rung to celebrate Easter during the 18th and early 19th centuries.

Juaneño Basket (19th century) – Juaneño women were known for the beautiful and durable baskets they wove from a variety of grasses that included deer grass, sumac, and juncus. The tradition continues in the Juaneño community today.



Serra Vestment



Gloria Bell Wheel

Rancho Period Artifacts (1845-1865)

In September 1821, Mexico was granted independence and California became a Mexican territory. The new government wanted to do away with the old Spanish ruling system and dismantled the missions, redistributing the land to private owners. Following this practice of secularization, Governor Pio Pico sold the 45-acre property of Mission San Juan Capistrano to his brother-in-law, John Forster, for \$710. By 1845, much of the mission was already in ruins, and by occupying the South Wing the Forster family is credited to saving what was left.

Related Artifacts:

John Forster's Saddle (19th century) – This expensively made silver mounted and embroidered saddle represents John Forster's wealth as a prominent rancho owner.

Ysidora Pico Forster's Shawl (19th century) – As a wife of a wealthy rancho owner, Isidora was able to dress the part with beautifully made shawls and other fine clothing.



John Forster's Saddle

Renewal Period Artifacts (1895-1910)

When preservationist Charles Lummis arrived in San Juan Capistrano at the end of the 19th century, he discovered a crumbling mission. His desire to save the site led to the formation of the Landmarks Club, with the goal of saving California's missions.

Related Artifacts:

Sheep Grazing Mission San Juan Capistrano (1897) – This painting is by Mt. Rushmore sculptor John Gutzon Borglum and shows the mission in decline. The sun in the background symbolizes hope for the future.

Mission San Juan Capistrano (1895) – John Borglum's wife, Elizabeth, was also an accomplished painter. Her painting of the mission is much brighter and focuses on beauty rather than decay.

El Camino Real Bell (1906) – This bell was created as part of a movement to memorialize the King's Highway (El Camino Real). Hundreds of bells were made to mark the journey to build California's 21 missions.



El Camino Real Bell, 1906

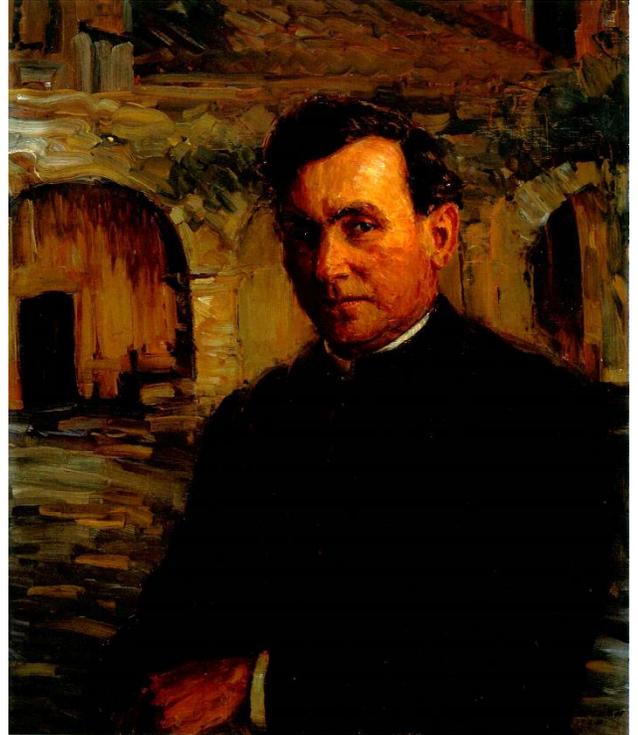
Early Preservation Era Artifacts (1896-1933)

The mission has been in a preservation period since 1896, when the Landmarks Club completed its first project: the re-roofing of the kitchen of the South Wing Building. In 1910, Father St. John O'Sullivan arrived as the Mission's resident priest, and lived here for 23 years, despite suffering from tuberculosis. He built the Gate House Building (1919) and charged admission to the mission to raise funds to restore Serra Chapel. Eventually, he built a parish school and convent for the teaching nuns (North Wing Building). Father O'Sullivan recognized the miracle of the swallows returning to San Juan Capistrano and redefined the mission as a place of worship, peace, and history.

Related Artifacts:

Portrait of Father St. John O'Sullivan (1924) – Hungarian artist Joseph Kleitsch lived in Laguna Beach and exchanged his artwork for occasional room and board at Mission San Juan Capistrano. This portrait features Father O'Sullivan and the mission he is credited with saving.

Chandeliers (1920's) – These chandeliers hung in the Serra Chapel after it was restored by Father O'Sullivan.



Portrait of Father St. John O'Sullivan

Current Mission Preservation Efforts (2004-Today)

There are several paintings in the mission's collection that are in need of or have recently undergone conservation. A conservator looks closely at the condition of a painting and considers the artist's intent when he created the work. The Mission has conserved thirty-two Spanish Colonial paintings within its museum collection since 2004.

Related Artifacts:

The Penitent and Sinful Woman (19th century) – This oil painting on canvas is in dire need of conservation. It is an example of what paintings look like prior to being conserved.

Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem (19th century) – This recently conserved painting is a great example of what art conservators can do. Look at the image on the panel to see the before conservation image showing



The Penitent and Sinful Woman,
The Painting is currently awaiting conservation