

Lesson Plan: Day 1 Horcasitas to the Gila River

I. Concept:

Anza was a Spanish soldier who lived over 225 years ago. He found a trail overland to Alta California to help settle the area because Spain was afraid other countries would claim that land. He was asked to lead over 240 people to Alta California in 1775. The class will pretend to be some of the actual people who went on this trek while learning about this part of California history. On Day 1 of their trip, students will make their journal, get their identity card, and prepare their first journal entry. The teacher will read Anza's letter with them and discuss why it is written the way it is. The students will read the journal entry example and use it as a model for their own journal entry.

II. Preparation:

- Make a journal for each student
- Organize identity cards to suit class numbers
- Approximate time for lesson: 45 – 50 minutes

III. Classroom Activities:

- Teacher reads Anza's letter to class
- Students given outline of Program Daily Themes (as seen on p.1)
- Students given a journal
- Students read aloud "The year is ..." in journal
- Students given an identity card
- Teacher demonstrates completion of first page in journal by using Anza's identity card and filling in a copy of the first journal page on overhead projector or board
- Students complete first page of journal with their identity card
- Teacher and students read the Day 1 Summary

Notes:

There are 37 identity cards, one for the teacher (Anza), 18 boys, and 18 girls.

Of the close to 300 people who made this trek from Tubac to Monterey there were several different categories of people. Anza (teacher), as leader, had a second and third in command (Moraga and Grijalva). These two cards should be given to boys or girls who can handle leadership. There were three priests at the start of the trip, but only Father Font went all the way - the other two stayed in the Colorado River area to work with the Yuma Indians and explore an alternate route to Monterey. (Font should be given to a boy or girl who can handle leadership also.) Font's character will be different from all the rest. He was the religious leader for the group and he held a special knowledge of the astronomical quadrant. Information on quadrants in "Extras".

The other people fit into three categories: (1) soldiers and their families from the Presidios of the Sonora frontier of New Spain, (2) soldier recruits and their families from the Sinaloa and Sonora areas of New Spain, and (3) farmers and their families from the Sinaloa and Sonora areas of New Spain. Also traveling with the group are muleteers, cowboys, servants and a commissary who kept track of supplies.

DIRECTIONS FOR MAKING STUDENT JOURNALS

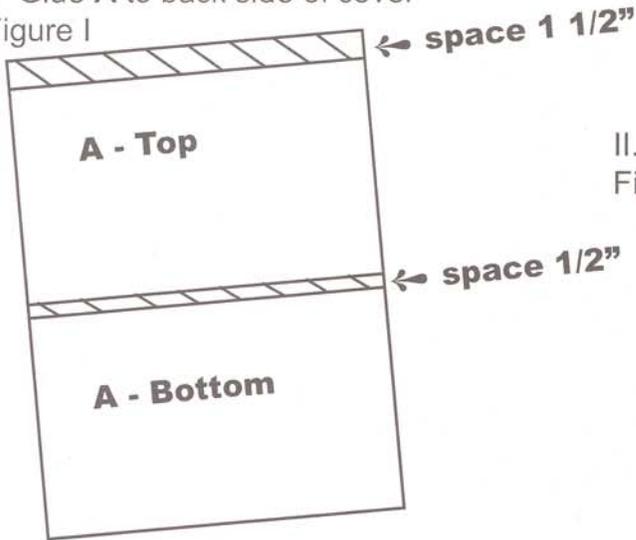
Materials needed:

- Cover 13" X 8 1/2" (wallpaper samples work well)
- 3 pieces of light cardboard: two 8 1/2" X 5 1/2" (A), one 8 1/2" X 2 1/2" (B)
- Glue (see Figure I)
- Staple (see Figure II)
- Punch (see Figure III) (use standard setting for binder)
- Pages copied for activities and punched at the top
- 2 brads

Directions:

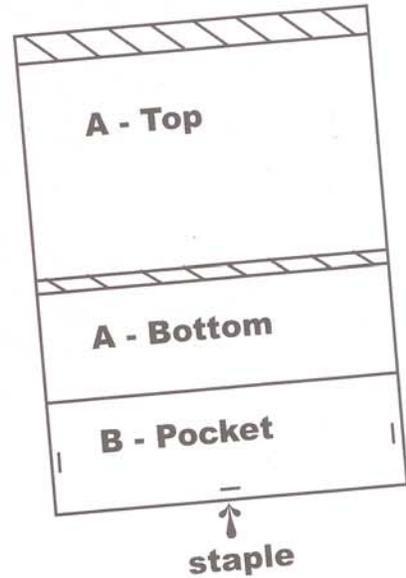
I. Glue **A** to back side of cover

Figure I



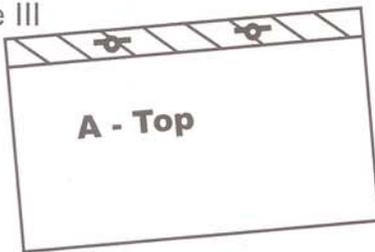
II. Staple cardboard **B** to bottom for pocket

Figure II



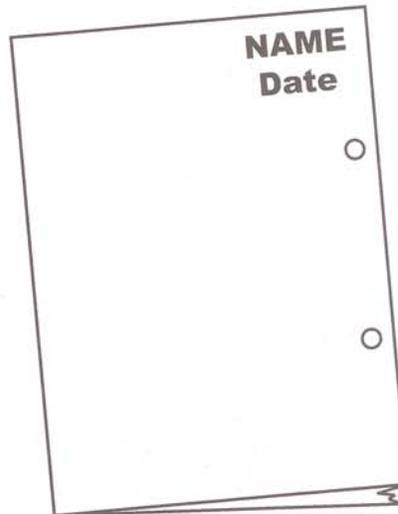
III. Fold top over and punch through two layers

Figure III



IV. Insert journal pages and secure with brad from the front side. Name and date applied to the front.

Figure IV



Anza's letter to Don Antonio Maria Bucareli de Ursua, Viceroy of New Spain, to be read to students to begin this unit of study.

Most Excellent Sir

Sir,

The superior order of Your Excellency, dated the second of the present month, advised me that upon completion of the journey of my expedition to Monterey, I must deliver to Commander Don Fernando de Rivera y Moncada the soldiers and families that I took from Sonora, to the end that they take up residence at the Port of the San Francisco River, which particular I will fulfill exactly.

I will verify the same without the loss of time by going in partnership with the said commander to the aforementioned Port, to the end that the terrain will be examined, in view of which we will determine the site for the location of the fort to be erected as Your Excellency has directed me to travel.

I hold in my possession the corresponding packet of documents for Don Fernando de Rivera y Moncada, Reverend Father Junipero Serra and Father Francisco Garces, which I will deliver in person to prevent any accidental loss.

Our Lord guard the life of Your Excellency many years. New Spain, January 7, 1775.

Most Excellent Sir

Juan Bautista de Anza (rubric)

Anza 's Letter-Teacher 's Key

Most Excellent Sir (common heading for letters in 1775)

Sir (This letter was sent to Antonio Maria Bucareli y Ursua, Viceroy of New Spain)

The superior order of Your Excellency, dated the second of the present month, advised me that upon completion of the journey of my expedition to Monterey (the first Anza Expedition 1774 -1775 that discovered the trail to Alta California), I must deliver to Commander Don Fernando de Rivera y Moncada (Commander of Alta California Military and Governor of the Province) the soldiers and families that I took from Sonora (the group he was to select and recruit), to the end that they take up residence at the Port of the San Francisco River (at this time it was thought that the bay was the mouth of a large river), which particular I will fulfill exactly.

I will verify the same without the loss of time by going in partnership with the said commander to the aforementioned Port, to the end that the terrain will be examined, in view of which we will determine the site for the location of the fort to be erected as Your Excellency has directed me to travel.

I hold in my possession the corresponding packet of documents for Don Fernando de Rivera y Moncada, Reverend Father Junipero Serra (he had asked for this group) and Father Francisco Garcés (Garcés went, but only to the Colorado River, Font was selected to go in his stead because he could use the quadrant and record latitudes), which I will deliver in person to prevent any accidental loss.

Our Lord guard the life of Your Excellency many years. New Spain, January 7, 1775.

Juan Bautista de Anza (rubric)

Journal Page (to be read orally in class)

The year is 1775 and the King of Spain wants many Spanish people to move up into the new strange lands called Alta California where Native Americans have lived for thousands of years. The King is Afraid that some other countries may take the land away from Spain if no Spanish people are living there. If Spanish people are living there other countries will know that the land belongs to the Crown of Spain.

I have lived in the northern part of New Spain all my life and I'm not sure that I want to move. The King has sent his representative to ask us to move. So we are going on a long trip by land to Alta California. Our leader on this trip will be Captain Juan Bautista de Anza. He is well known and has been to Alta California before. The trip will not be easy, but Captain Anza will see us through I'm sure.

There is much to do before we can start. There will be soldiers, priests, muleteers, vaqueros, scouts, servants, interpreters, farmers, wives and children. This will be close to three hundred people all together. We will need 340 horses, 165 mules, and 302 beef cattle. When everything is gathered and we are all packed we will meet at the Tubac Presidio to start our trip.

After we all get to Tubac the rest of the trip will be in four stages. First we will leave Tubac to go to the Gila River. From the Gila River we will travel to the Colorado River. After we cross the Colorado River we will cross the desert to the Mission at San Gabriel in Alta California. From Mission San Gabriel we will reach the Pacific Ocean and travel north to Monterey. For most of us our final destination is San Francisco Bay. There we will build a new presidio and mission.

Demonstration Page

The Second Anza Expedition to Alta California

*My name is _____ . I am going on a long
trek to Alta California from my home in _____, New Spain.
I will be keeping this Journal as I travel.*

First I will tell you a little about myself.

Day 1 Summary

Having recruited nearly 200 people to settle San Francisco and almost 100 soldiers, cowboys, and escorts to help bring them north, Anza stopped his expedition in Horcasitas in present day Sonora to prepare for their journey across the Sonoran and Arizona deserts. Although Anza had gathered hundreds of horses and mules to aid the travelers on their trip, the night before their planned departure, Apache Indians arrived and took the majority of the animals. Anza and his soldiers tried to find as many replacements as possible, but there simply were not enough horses in the Sonoran frontier to make up for the loss. In the end, the expedition left with less horse than they needed. Many settlers would end up walking large portions of the route when animals were weak or died.

The trail from Horcasitas to the presidio at Tubac was well established. Yaqui and Tohono O'odham Indians had traveled over these river valleys for centuries. Spanish settlers had lived in this region for many generations and had established a network of small communities. Anza was the commander of the presidio of Tubac. He had spent most of his life living in the region and knew the people there. Saying goodbye to his wife and friends would have been very difficult.

The expedition traveled north from Tubac along the Santa Cruz River. The river corridor was flat and provided a water source for the nearly 1000 animals traveling on the expedition. Anza knew the countryside as well as the culture of the Native Americans that lived there. He had worked with soldiers from the Indian community and had learned to speak some of the languages.

On their first night out from Tubac, the expedition experienced their one and only death. Manuela Piñuelas died while giving birth to a son. After she was buried at the Mission San Xavier del Bac, the sadness of the day was broken by the joy of three separate weddings for couples leaving on the expedition. They left the mission with mixed emotions about the trials that awaited them along the trail.

The farther north the expedition traveled, the less Spaniards they saw. The small foundation of the recently established presidio in Tucson would be their last Spanish contact until they reached the recently created San Gabriel Mission, almost 500 miles and two immense deserts away. As the water in the Santa Cruz River began to disappear, Anza's big concern was where he would find his next water supply. Anza sent scouts down the trail to see if water was available. They returned with good news: recent rains had left some pools of water between Tucson and the Gila River – a three day trip for the expedition. The expedition said good-bye to the last Spanish outpost and embarked on their epic journey.