

FOREWORD

This guide was developed for San Antonio Missions National Historical Park by the South Texas Rural Collaborative for Excellence in Science Teaching (RCEST) at Our Lady of the Lake University. These units were developed and field-tested by classroom teachers.

Purpose:

Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills stipulate the study of Texas history in fourth grade. This guide includes interdisciplinary activities for intermediate schools to provide an integrated focus on the Spanish missions and will assist teachers to maximize the benefits of a trip to San Antonio Missions National Historical Park.

Topics:

Units include food, soap, bricks, toys, and dyes used in early Texas by mission inhabitants. You may pick and choose units that are best suited for your class. We recommend that your students start their study by viewing the video, *Gente de Razón*, which you may borrow from the park. They will gain an understanding of the history and culture of the Spanish missions before moving on to science and math topics.

Features:

- ◆ Activities are correlated with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) in science, mathematics, social studies, and language arts.
- ◆ The instructional method includes pre-visit, visit, and post-visit activities, utilizing the 5E instructional model adapted from the Biological Sciences Curriculum Study.
- ◆ Teachers earn professional development training by attending the workshop for this curriculum.

This guide was made possible through funding and support provided by:

**National Park Foundation
San Antonio Missions National Historical Park
Los Compadres de San Antonio Missions National Historical Park
Southwest Parks and Monuments Association
Our Lady of the Lake University**