Rancho Los Cerritos
Long Ago Long Beach Activity Book

An Historian's Adventure

Name: ____________________________

School: __________________________

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HISTORIAN: a person who researches, studies, and writes about the past.

Note to the Historian:

You are about to embark on an exciting adventure as you travel back in time to learn about early Long Beach!

Are you ready to document, analyze, and examine evidence? There is a lot to learn about the earliest inhabitants of this land - and those who came later.

As an historian, you will participate in a variety of fun activities to help you better understand what life was like here a long time ago. Let’s get started!
Juana Maria was a Tongva woman born on San Nicolas Island. When the Tongva were forced to leave the island in 1835, she did not want to go. She hid in the hills. The sailors left without her because there was a storm coming.

After many years of living alone on the island, Juana Maria moved to the mainland. She had to teach others her language because, by that time, most people in the region spoke English or Spanish.

The Tongva lived throughout the greater Los Angeles basin. The name of the Tongva village closest to Rancho Los Cerritos was Tevaaxa'nga.
What’s Happening Here?

Where do they live?

What are they carrying?

What are they wearing?

How do they travel?

"Wiyot’s Children" by Mary Leighton Thomson. Courtesy of Friends of Ballona Wetlands.
The Tongva built huts from willow branches and tule reeds. They used rabbit pelts as blankets. They made arrowheads from obsidian and carved bowls from soapstone.

The Tongva gathered seeds, acorns, berries, and kelp to eat. They hunted rabbits, deer, and birds. They also fished in the ocean and nearby rivers for trout, abalone, and clams.

The Tongva made clothing from the pelts of the animals they hunted. They used sea shells and bird feathers as decoration and jewelry.

The Tongva lived in numerous villages throughout the Los Angeles basin for thousands of years. They used items that they hunted or gathered from nature for clothing, for food, and to build and furnish their homes.
The Tongva were hunters and gatherers. This means they used the land and water to get the resources they needed for everyday life. When they wanted something they could not hunt for or gather near their village, they would either have to acquire it through trade or live without it.
Junípero Serra was born in Spain. He became a Catholic priest and sailed to Mexico to share his religion. He worked as a missionary there for nearly twenty years before he was sent to California in 1769 with the Gaspar de Portolá expedition.

In Alta California, Serra and the other missionaries taught the native people their Spanish language, religion, and customs — and also how to make adobe bricks, dip candles, grow wheat, mill corn, brand cows, forge tools, and spin wool to support the mission economy.

Mission San Gabriel was the first mission established in Tongva territory. The Spanish missionaries called the Tongva people “Gabrielinos,” after the mission.
Ranchero Words

Starting in 1784, the Spanish king granted ranch land to loyal Spanish citizens, so they could help settle the land between the missions. The rancheros (ranch owners) built adobe homes, planted crops, and raised cattle for the hide and tallow trade. Cow hides (skin) were made into leather goods, and cow tallow (fat) was made into soap and candles.

Use the Spanish words to fill in the labels on the picture above.

Word Bank

horse = caballo
boots = botas
lasso = reata
cowboy = vaquero
cape = serape
bridle = brida
chaps = chaparajos
hat = sombrero
JOHN TEMPLE
1796 - 1866

John Temple was born in Massachusetts. He became a sailor, then settled in Los Angeles in 1827. Since California was part of Mexico at that time, he learned Spanish and began to call himself Don Juan Temple. He also opened the first mercantile (store) in the pueblo (town) of Los Angeles.

Temple bought Rancho Los Cerritos and built a large adobe house on the land. He raised up to 15,000 head of cattle on his ranch, as well as horses, sheep, and hogs. With profits from his store and rancho, he became very wealthy. Temple Avenue in Long Beach is named for him.

Diseño of Rancho Los Nietos

John Temple bought a portion of Rancho Los Nietos from Manuel Nieto’s family in 1843. The part Temple purchased was known as Rancho Los Cerritos, or "Ranch of the Little Hills."
To request a land grant, a person had to draw a diseño (map) of the land he desired. The petitioner often used natural landmarks like rivers, foothills, large boulders, or the ocean as the boundaries of his property. The viceroy (governor) reviewed the request. A new ranchero (ranch owner) then built a house on the property and stocked the land with 150+ cows.
Born in England, William Willmore moved to California and encouraged other Europeans to immigrate too. In 1880, he leased 4,000 acres of Rancho Los Cerritos land to start a new farming community, which he called “Willmore City.”

Willmore installed a water system, laid out streets, and arranged for railroad service, but he only sold a few lots. Since his town did not attract as many new families as he had hoped, he could not pay for all his expenses. "Long Beach Land & Water Company" later bought the property and renamed the town. Today, nearly half a million people call Long Beach home.

**Thinking Time!**
William Willmore thought this area would be a good place for a city. What do you think are the best things about Long Beach? Why?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
Plan a Town

A human settlement is a place where people live together, whether in a small Tongva village or a large industrial city. All people in a community need access to resources like food, water, shelter, and clothing. They also want to work, play, learn, and connect with others.

If you could design a town, what would it include?
Earl Daugherty
1887 - 1928

The first transcontinental flight landed on Long Beach's sandy coast in 1911. The beach continued to serve as a runway until an airport was built in 1923. Daugherty Field (now part of the Long Beach Airport) was named for Earl Daugherty, who gave flying lessons and performed aerial stunts near Rancho Los Cerritos in the 1910s and 1920s.

Make your own airplane.

STEP 1: Fold paper in half vertically (hot dog style).

STEP 2: Open the paper, and fold down the top two corners to the crease line.

STEP 3: Next, fold the top half down to almost the bottom (about one inch).

STEP 4: After that, fold down the top two corners to the crease line (a little triangle flap)

STEP 5: From there, fold the little triangle flap up.

STEP 6: Now you should have two symmetrical sides. Fold one side over.

STEP 7: Take the flap and fold it from the top corner. Repeat with the other side.

STEP 8: Now fly it!
Boosters (promoters) of early Long Beach wanted to attract tourists, so they made postcards that showed the town as a fun and interesting place to visit.

Make a Postcard

Write a short note to tell someone all about your town.

Draw a picture of your town.

To: _________________________

Rancho Los Cerritos

4600 N. Virginia Road

Long Beach, CA

From: _________________________
THE REDWOOD IS THE STATE TREE
THE GRIZZLY BEAR IS THE STATE ANIMAL AND IS ON THE STATE FLAG
THE STATE FISH IS THE GARIBALDI
THE CALIFORNIA QUAIL IS THE STATE BIRD
THE GOLDEN POPPY IS THE STATE FLOWER
SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK IS CALIFORNIA’S FIRST NATIONAL PARK AND THE SECOND IN THE USA
MOUNT WHITNEY IS THE TALLEST MOUNTAIN IN CALIFORNIA & THE USA
GOLD WAS DISCOVERED AT SUTTER’S MILL IN 1848
Mottos & Seals

Our nation, state, and city each have both a motto (phrase) and a seal (picture) that symbolize what citizens value the most.

“From Many, One”

“Eureka”

“The International City”
### History Spotlight

**Rancho Los Cerritos**  
Long Beach  
rancholoscerritos.org

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<td>heritagesquare.org</td>
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Future Adventures!
You can learn even more about "Long Ago Long Beach" by visiting historic places in your community and recording what you see and hear.

Historian's Log

I visited ____________________________ .
Date: __________ Location: ____________________________
I recognized ____________________________
__________________________
I learned ____________________________
__________________________

I visited ____________________________ .
Date: __________ Location: ____________________________
I recognized ____________________________
__________________________
I learned ____________________________
__________________________

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Date: __________ Location: ____________________________
I recognized ____________________________
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I learned ____________________________
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