

## Project Summary

The Californias-Missions.org Project has been an interesting journey through the academic world of history/social studies education as well as the historical importance of the Missions themselves. The website has been reviewed by several educators and parents and has been well received. Positive comments regarding the overall layout and clarity of content have been the most common. The Project's site fairs well against other comprehensive mission research websites in both content and usability.

My personal understanding of the Mission Period has been enhanced and my appreciation of the Missions has grown greatly. Since I teach at a school on the campus of Mission San Carlos I have a unique perspective on the history, beauty, and effects that the Missions bring to visitors. It is my hope that this Project will provide a doorway with which students and teachers, as well as parents, will come to appreciate the Missions' history and what the era meant for the California we enjoy today.

## Recommendations

I am even more convinced now than I was before beginning the project that this website will be valuable to its three target audiences. With that in mind this project is not finished. There is so much more to include and always room to improve. For students, I will continue to add historical information and future sections will include more information on the Mission Tribes. With 21 missions to cover there will be much more to include. For parents, I hope to include additional resources to help them guide their student in their research. Future sections include a report template and a list of guiding questions to help parents narrow their child's research. Lastly, the Teachers section will continue to be expanded through Lesson Plan ideas that allow integration into all

curriculum areas and an area for helpful links. In addition, I hope to include a section on the use of primary sources as well as what types of primary source materials are available for viewing at each Mission. I have already investigated the possibility of including this type of section with those in charge of Mission San Carlos. Finally, one of the most important features of a quality resource website is its timeliness. My plan is to stay abreast of mission related issues and update the website accordingly.

After completing this project I can see the merit in further research into applications of curriculum in history/social studies. How do we make the importance of these types of topics real to the students? How do we incorporate an understanding of the historical significance into their lives? With future investigation we, as educators, can increase students' appreciation of our history and how that understanding is important for our futures.

*The challenge of history is to recover the past and introduce it to the present.*

*~David Thelen*

*(Distinguished Professor, Indiana University, Bloomington)*