

Pieces of the Past: Teaching and Activity Guide

**Exploring Native American Muwekma and Californio Ranchero
Lives**



Developed by Santa Clara County Parks Interpretive Staff

Revised September 2022

Overview of Bernal-Gulnac-Joice Ranch and Santa Teresa County Park

Thank you for your interest in the Bernal-Gulnac-Joice Ranch. The activities and information in this teaching guide will help you prepare for your park visit. You may print any of these materials for educational use in your classroom.

Before bringing your class to the historic area, we suggest that you:

§ Visit the site ahead of time (in person or at parkhere.org) to locate and familiarize yourself with the facilities.

§ Explore the history of the local tribal region by visiting the Muwekma Ohlone website.

Santa Teresa County Park is an area of parkland that derives its name from Rancho Santa Teresa, a cattle ranch that was established by an 1834 Mexican land grant to the Bernal family. The original rancho was 9,647 acres, located about 13 miles south of el Pueblo de San José. Today, the park is 1,673 acres and offers 18 miles of trails with a variety of recreational opportunities,

including hiking, running, biking, horse riding, picnicking, and wildlife viewing.

The Muwekma Ohlone were known to inhabit this area, and there is archaeological evidence suggesting there was a 3,000-year-old village site located near the spring. The Muwekma are known as one of the most linguistically diverse groups of people in North America, with a rich cultural history and complex social structure. This area, near the Santa Teresa Hills and Coyote Creek, would provide a reliable water source, game like deer and rabbits, and riparian habitats that support fish and tule.



From Muwekma.org

José Joaquín Bernal (age 14) arrived in California as part of the 1775-1776 Anza Expedition, led by Juan Bautista de Anza. He went on to become a soldier in the San Francisco Presidio, settling his family near the Santa Teresa Spring in 1826, a few years following his retirement. He petitioned for the 9,647-acre land grant in 1834, only to pass away in 1837 and leave the property to his wife and children, including his son Augustin Bernal, who also received a land grant near modern day Pleasanton. Following the Mexican-American War, Mexican and Spanish land grants were rendered invalid until proven by the owner. In addition, all claims and evidence had to be submitted in English, which Senator William Gwin admitted, “what he had really sought in 1851 was an act to encourage his fellow Yankees to homestead directly on the land of the old claimants and... force the latter to pack up and relocate on public land.” Augustin petitioned for the Rancho Santa Teresa in a case that went to the Supreme Court, who confirmed their grant of 9,647 acres at the end of 1865. However, with several parcels needing to be sold to pay for legal fees, the original rancho was narrowed down to 400 acres.



The diseño used for the Rancho Santa Teresa land grant. A diseño is a hand drawn sketch of a map used to identify a claimed area of land, highlighting specific features in the landscape like mountains, rivers, and routes of travel.

Under the stewardship of Ygnacio Bernal (grandson of José Joaquín and nephew of Augustin), the ranch transitioned to agriculture, a profitable venture that allowed Ygnacio to repurchase several parcels of land. After his death in 1906, his wife, Jesusita, and son, Pedro, ran several businesses, including a marl fertilizer company, quicksilver mine, and bottled water company.



(Left) Jesusita and Ygnacio Bernal (Right) Jesusita.

The Bernal-Gulnac-Joice Ranch name comes from Carlos Maria Gulnac, who married Rufina Bernal, and Patrick Joice, who married Susan Gulnac. After the deaths of Pedro and his sister, Jacoba Fisher, in the 1930s, the Joice family ran the ranch as a cattle ranch. The land was gradually sold off, with a major purchase made by IBM in 1980 from the younger Patrick Joice (the grandson of the Patrick who married Susan Gulnac). In turn, the land would be donated to the County to help expand the park lands.

Today, the park is open from 8:00 am to sunset, while the museum and historical displays are open on Fridays (11 AM – 4 PM) , Saturdays, and Sundays (11 AM – 5 PM).



Patrick Joice visiting the Bernal-Gulnac-Joice Ranch Museum in 2019.

School Field Trip Program

Pieces of the Past investigates how human needs were met by the past inhabitants of the Santa Teresa Spring in Santa Teresa County Park. Led by a Park Interpreter, this educational program explores the domestic lives of Muwekma Ohlone, Californio rancheros, and Victorian households of the Santa Clara Valley. Through a series of games, observations, hands on activities, and peer communication, Kindergarten and first grade students will learn about the natural resources available near the Santa Teresa Spring and how they were used to meet basic needs. Kindergarten and first grade history/social science standards are supported through peer discussions and firsthand experience of activities from 1776-1910 at this historic site. Through natural resource gathering, steer roping, and livestock chicken encounters, students will learn the contributions of these groups to California's history.

Field Trip Overview

How did people survive in the past?

The essential question guides students to:

- § Recognize and relate common themes throughout the lesson.
- § Reflect upon intangible universal concepts.
- § Apply program lessons to real life application for Muwekma and Bernal Ranchero living.
- § Provoke discussion based on academic learning and personal experiences

Program Goals: Students will...

- § Recognize how different resources available near the Santa Teresa Spring can be useful to people.
- § Experience activities that are influenced by Muwekma Ohlone village life, California Ranchero and Victorian Era domestic life.
- § Understand how some of the same survival needs could be met by using different resources and different forms of technology.

Program Objectives

§ All students will be able to identify four basic survival needs - food, shelter, heat, and water.

§ Students, when asked, will be able to state how the resources available at the Santa Teresa Spring relate to the four basic survival needs.

§ All students will practice the cattle roping skill.

History Social Science Content Standards:

K.3 – Students match simple descriptions of work that people do and the names of related jobs at the school, in the local community, and from historical accounts.

K.4 – Students compare and contrast the locations of people, places, and environments and describe their characteristics.

2. Distinguish between land and water on maps and globes and locate general areas referenced in historical legends and stories.

K.6 – Students understand that history relates to events, people, and places of other times.

3. Understand how people lived in earlier times and how their lives would be different today (e.g., getting water from a well, growing food, making clothing, having fun, forming organizations, living by rules and laws).

1.2 – Students compare and contrast the absolute and relative locations of places and people and describe the physical and/or human characteristics of places.

4. Describe how location, weather, and physical environment affect the way people live, including the effects on their food, clothing, shelter, transportation, and recreation.

1.4 – Students compare and contrast everyday life in different times and places around the world and recognize that some aspects of people, places, and things change over time while others stay the same.

3. Recognize similarities and differences of earlier generations in such areas as work (inside and outside the home), dress, manners, stories, games, and festivals, drawing from biographies, oral histories, and folklore.

1.5 – Students describe the human characteristics of familiar places and the varied backgrounds of American citizens and residents in those places.

2. Understand the ways in which American Indians and immigrants have helped define Californian and American culture.

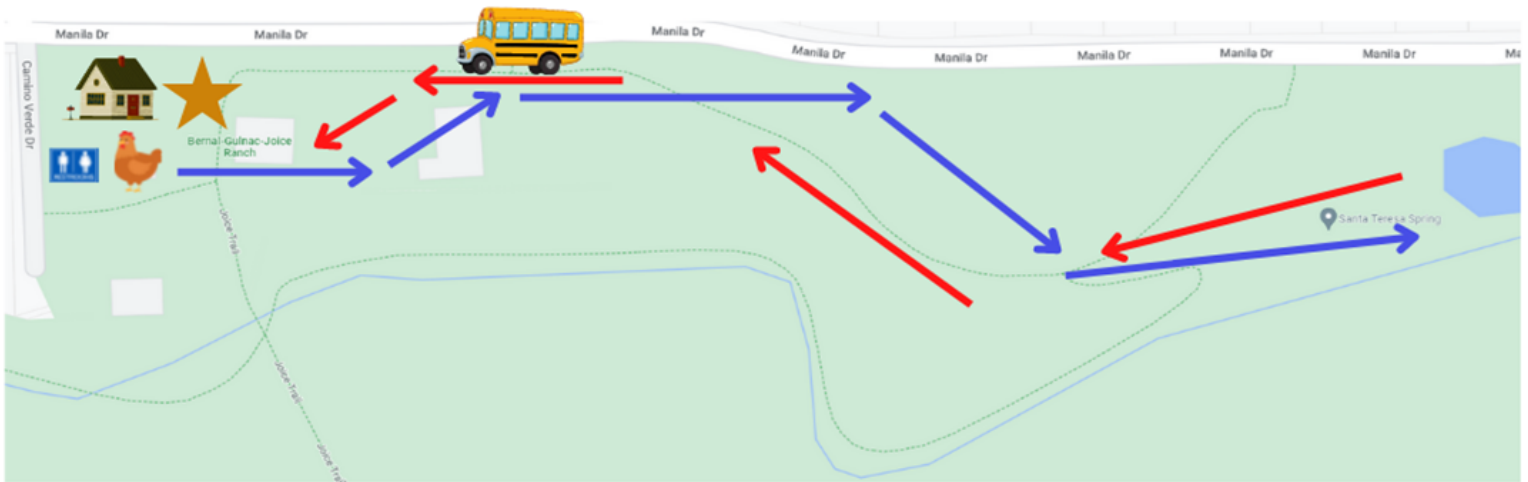
3. Compare the beliefs, customs, ceremonies, traditions, and social practices of the varied cultures, drawing from folklore.

Program Summary:

The field trip activities are divided into four topics based on survival needs of food, water, shelter, and heat/fire. The program begins between the barns, where students are introduced to local natural resources and how they are things that can be used to meet these needs. Following this game, students are given a fire making demonstration and participate in a hearth-making group activity. Afterwards, the class will walk up to the spring to make observations about the Santa Teresa Spring and learn how water is connected to the needs of the Ohlone and Ranch families, as well as make connections with how water sustains other needs, like food.

Following the visit to the Spring, the class will return to the corrals to learn about and practice cattle roping skills, which were vital to the Bernal family's livelihood, and an example of a skill needed to raise livestock which were used for food. As a final reflection on the program, students will also have the opportunity to meet the resident livestock at the ranch – a flock of chickens – to discuss chores and the role people in Victorian households played in maintaining their shelters.

Pieces of the Past Field Trip Map



Field Trip Schedule

Time	Activity
9:45	Meet Interpreter, restroom, snacks, & introduction.
10:00	Begin walking, play resource game, and introduce vocabulary.
10:15	Fire making demonstration, hearth building activity.
10:40	Spring and pond visit, discussion, and observation.
11:00	Cattle roping activity.
11:15	Discussion of chores, meeting chickens, and reflection.
11:30	End of program. Lunch and/or departure.

Supplemental Resources & Activity Sheets

Pieces of the Past: Field Trip Vocabulary

Food - Things we eat to give us energy and help us grow.
What are some of your favorite foods?



Fire - What happens when something is burned to provide us with light and heat.
What are some ways we can use fire?



Water - A colorless liquid that all living things need to survive.

What are some things you use water for?



Shelter - A space that protects us from things like weather, giving us a safe place to sleep or rest.
What are some of your favorite things to do at home?



Resources are things people used to meet their needs of food, water, shelter, and warmth. The pictures below are examples of resources. Write what they are beneath each picture.



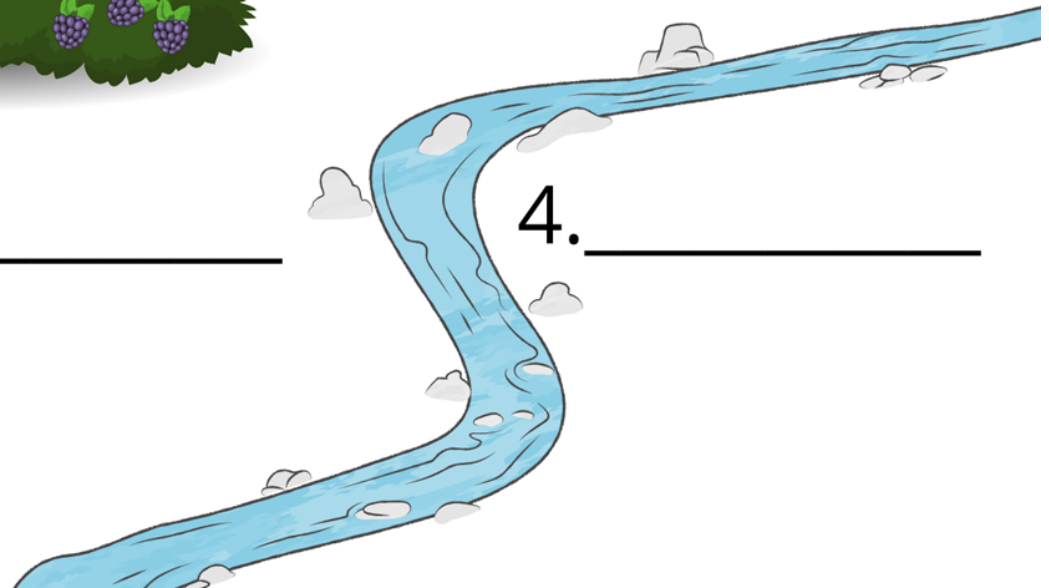
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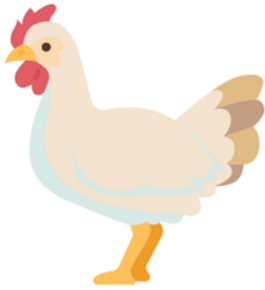


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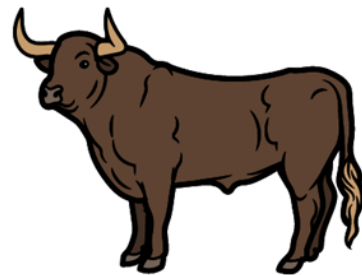
Circle the animals that you think people would take care of on a farm!



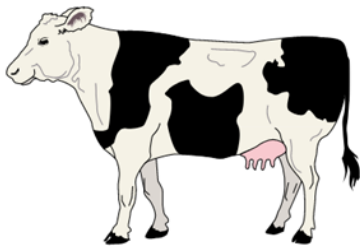
Chicken



Snake



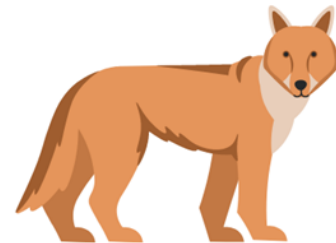
Bull



Cow



Bear



Coyote

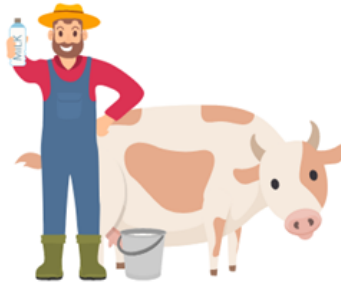
Rancho Chores

Kids had lots of chores on a ranch.

Some of these chores included:



Feed chickens



Milking cows



Gathering eggs



Picking vegetables
from the garden



Gathering
firewood



Doing
laundry

Do you have chores like kids from the past? What is a chore you do at home? Draw a picture of you doing that chore!

Reading and Resources

Site Relevant Books

Clendenen, Jenny, *Mine: El Despojo de Maria Zacarias Bernal de Berryesa*, Jenny Clendenen, 2017.

Font, Pedro, *With Anza to California, 1775-1776: The Journal of Pedro Font*, The Arthur H. Clark Company, 2011.

Additional Resources

[Introducing Bernal Ranch](#) - Youtube video by Santa Clara County Parks.

[Parkhere.org](#) – The Bernal-Gulnac-Joice Ranch is open on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. There are several wayside panels with historical information about the Ranch and Santa Teresa Spring, and we offer a free event to the public called La Fuente each summer, featuring music, folklorico dancers, and displays from local organizations.

[Bernal-Gulnac-Joice Ranch](#) - Youtube video by the Santa Clara County Newsbeat featuring Patrick Joice, the last resident of the ranch house.

<https://www.californiafrontier.net/ranchos-in-california/> - “Ranchos in California: The Spanish and Mexican Eras.” Article written by Damian Bacich, associate professor of Spanish at San Jose State University.

<http://www.muwekma.org/> - Official website of the Muwekma Ohlone, Chairwoman Charlene Nijmeh.

<https://www.nps.gov/juba/index.htm> - NPS website dedicated to the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail, of which the Bernal-Gulnac-Joice Ranch is a part.