

PLUGGED IN

FUN FOR KIDS

A COOPERATIVE PROJECT OF THE SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS AND THE EDUCATORS' ROUNDTABLE TO PROMOTE LEARNING AMONG YOUNG READERS IN NATURAL SCIENCE, HISTORY, TECHNOLOGY AND ART

This Month's Theme: "LIVING HISTORY"



What Is Living History?

By Jenna Berger, Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation

"Living history" is a fun way to learn about our past. The phrase "living history" describes any program, often in an historic setting, that brings history to life. Sometimes actors dress in costume and re-create famous occasions or simply demonstrate how earlier people lived their lives. One of the best-known "living history" sites in the United States is Colonial Williamsburg in Virginia where families often vacation to learn about our nation's past.

El Presidio, the birthplace of Santa Barbara, is a museum that uses "living history" to teach about our history. Some of the original buildings that stood on the actual grounds of the old fort set the stage for visitors to step back 200 years in time. Knowledgeable guides, dressed in the type of clothing worn by early settlers, offer a glimpse into their daily lives. Visitors learn about the food settlers ate, their skills, and how they survived on the frontier. These "living history settlers" answer questions and have you participate in old-fashioned crafts.

Junior Docents hard at work mixing mud with their feet to make adobe bricks.

Los Soldados: Making History Come to Life

By Jessica Hutchins, Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation

Have you ever dressed up and pretended to be a cowboy, a doctor, or a soldier? For the members of *Los Soldados del Real Presidio de Santa Barbara*, dressing up is a way to make history come to life. These individuals are part of a living history group dedicated to teaching others about the soldiers, or *soldados*, who lived at the Presidio in Santa Barbara over 200 years ago.

Soldados manned the *presidios*, or forts, on the Spanish frontier in the late 1700s and early 1800s. Their uniforms consisted of a short blue coat, or *chupa*, with a red collar, cuffs, and lapels, blue breeches with brass buttons, and a black, wide-brimmed hat. Heavy leather, sleeveless coats called *cueras* served as a type of armor. Every soldier carried a shield, a musket, two pistols, a short sword, and a lance.

The members of *Los Soldados* wear the same clothes as the soldiers did in the 1700s. They memorize and practice 18th century military drills that are demonstrated at special events. *Los Soldados* participate regularly in local parades and in special events at the Santa Barbara Presidio. To see them for yourselves, come to Presidio Pastimes on June 29th and watch *Los Soldados* make history come to life!



Living History Puzzle

Circle the hidden living history words:

- | | |
|----------------|----------|
| LIVING HISTORY | CUERA |
| COSTUME | BREECHES |
| SHIELD | CRAFTS |
| SOLDADOS | PRESIDIO |

G G E C J A L T V C H S K
 V T P R E S I D I O L C K
 I S I A U D V P Y S G Y C
 B Z Q F P X I O G T W B L
 R T G T J K N N H U P F C
 E X C S Q X G G Y M W L M
 E U V J C F H I K E D Q C
 C F S N U E I Z M A L H T
 H X V E E C S H I E L D A
 E D J E R Z T W P S D G A
 S O L D A D O S V U U I L
 O U O F F J R O I N L O B
 O F Z Y Z V Y K U Z G E S

By Jenna Berger, Sybil DeMauro and Jessica Hutchins, Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation

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