

RANCHO LOS CERRITOS

LONG AGO LONG BEACH

ACTIVITY BOOK

An
Archaeologist's
Adventure

Name: _____

School: _____

This activity book was made possible,
in part, by grants from the
Earl B. & Loraine H. Miller Foundation
and
The Rudolph J. and Daphne A. Munzer Foundation



Rancho Los Cerritos extends special thanks to
Meighan Maguire, Victoria Sanchez, and Tyler Shattuck.

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ARCHAEOLOGIST: a person who studies human history by examining the artifacts people once used every day.

Note to the Archaeologist:

You are about to embark on a historic adventure as you travel back in time to learn about the people of the past.

As an archaeologist, you will examine the lives of the people who lived and worked at Rancho Los Cerritos more than a century ago - and the artifacts they left behind.

Are you ready to find out what life was like here in Long Beach a long time ago? Let's get started!

History Spotlight

JOTHAM BIXBY: 1831 - 1916



Jotham Bixby was born in Maine. He came to California during the Gold Rush. He started out as a gold miner, but soon moved to Rancho Los Cerritos to manage his family's sheep ranch. Eventually, he sold some of his land to start the City of Long Beach, so people call him the "Father of Long Beach."

1800

1850

1900



Mission San Gabriel (1771)



Rancho Los Cerritos Adobe (1844)



City of Long Beach (1897)

Timeline of My Life

What
is a
timeline?

A timeline is
a way of organizing
information. It can help
us understand what
happened in the past
because it lists important
events and shows the
order in which they
occurred.

TIMELINE

1

3

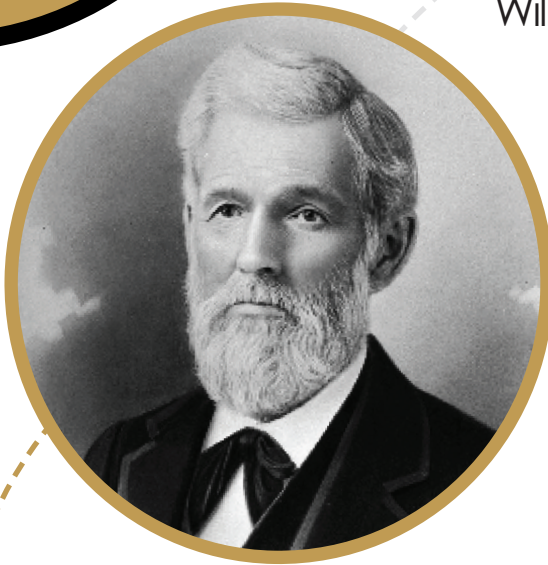
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2

4

History Spotlight

William M. Godfrey: 1825 - 1900



William Godfrey came to California during the Gold Rush. He didn't pan for gold, but he did travel all around the state. He was a photographer as well as a dentist, so he split his time between taking pictures and pulling teeth! He owned a photography studio in Los Angeles for a time, and he was the first person to photograph Rancho Los Cerritos in 1872.

Reflection Questions:

Who in your family takes photographs? What do they like to take pictures of? Why?

Fun with Photos



Rancho Los Cerritos (1872)

The camera was invented by Louis Daguerre in 1837, and it required you to sit still for 20 minutes! "Tintypes" replaced "daguerreotypes" because the film was much cheaper and easier to develop.



Rancho Los Cerritos (2017)

Title

 Paste your picture here!

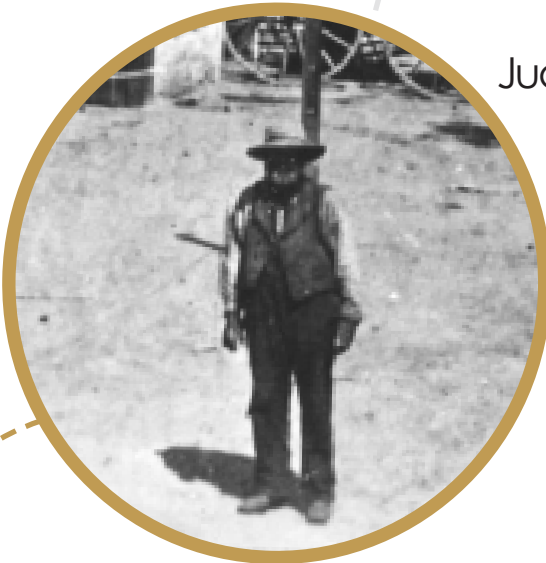
Photography became a popular hobby in the early 1900s when Kodak invented "folding pocket cameras." Digital cameras debuted in the 1990s, and the very first camera phone was invented in 2000.

History Spotlight

JUAN CAÑEDO, Vaquero

“One strong and stalwart character, the most perfect horseman and acknowledged leader of the vaqueros, was Juan Cañedo.”

-Sarah Bixby Smith



Juan Cañedo worked as a vaquero (cowboy) at Rancho Los Cerritos for John Temple, the Rancho's first owner. Señor Cañedo was a valuable employee because he knew how to lasso cows and brand them. When the Bixbys bought Rancho Los Cerritos from John Temple, Señor Cañedo kept his job. He also taught Jotham Bixby's children how to ride horses and speak Spanish.

Reflection Questions:

What is a useful skill you have learned in school, like the Bixby children learned Spanish from Juan Cañedo? Who taught you that skill, and when?

Design Your Own Brand

In the box below, you can design your very own brand. Feel free to include letters and shapes. Your brand should be easy to see from far away, so it needs to be simple and bold. Then try "branding" the cow to see how your design looks!



Francisco
Avila



Juan
Bandini



Jotham
Bixby



Juan
Dominguez



Antonio
Lugo



Pío
Pico



Abel
Stearns

Brands of Local Rancheros



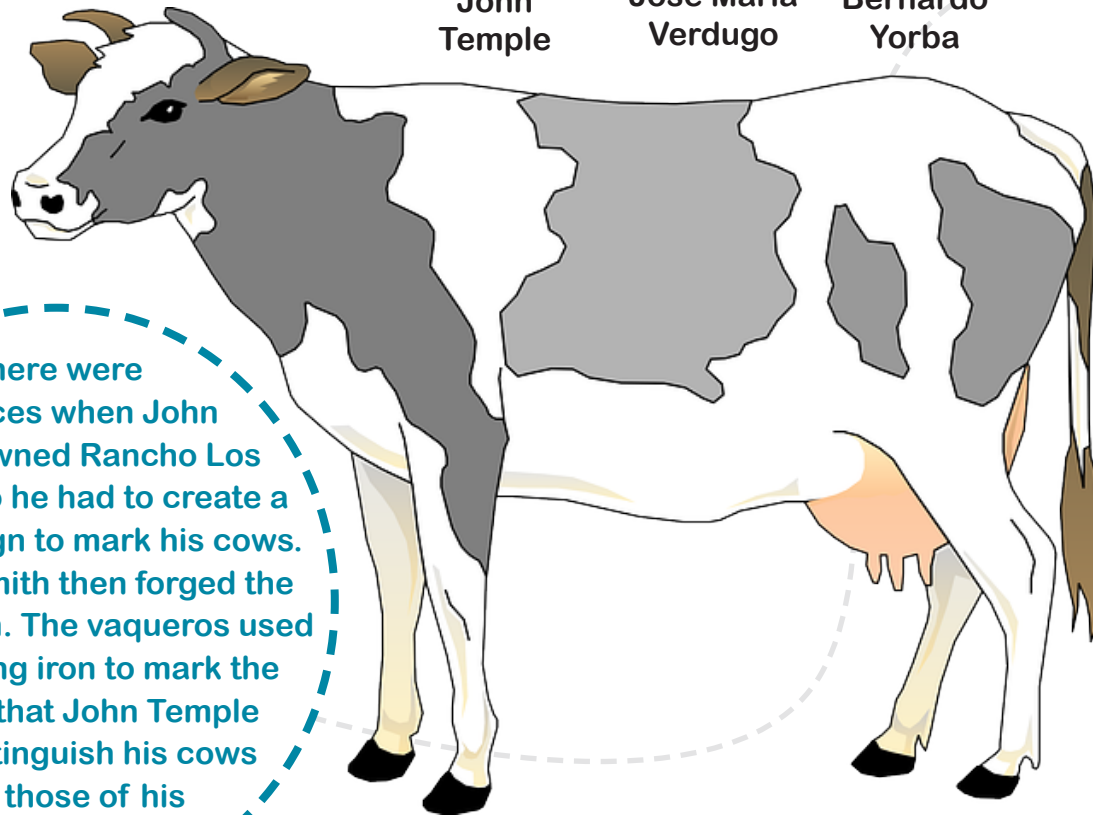
John
Temple



José María
Verdugo



Bernardo
Yorba



There were no fences when John Temple owned Rancho Los Cerritos, so he had to create a unique design to mark his cows. The blacksmith then forged the design in iron. The vaqueros used the branding iron to mark the cows, so that John Temple could distinguish his cows from those of his neighbors.



History Spotlight

AH YING Cook and Laundryman

"Ying made cakes decorated with frosting and curly-cues, and custard pies so good that grandfather always included one with the donuts and cheese."

-Sarah Bixby
Smith



Ah Ying was born in China. It is not known whether he came to California for the Gold Rush or later, but by 1870 he lived and worked at Rancho Los Cerritos. When the Bixbys owned the Rancho, Ying cooked breakfast, dinner, and supper for about 30 people every day. He also did all the laundry, a task that took two days each week! Ah Ying was a very important worker at the Rancho.

Reflection Questions:

Who cooks the food and washes the clothes at your house? What chores do you do to help your family?

Planning the Day's Menu

If you had to plan the meals that your family would eat for a whole day, what would you choose? Write or draw out a menu for each meal.



When Ying worked at Rancho Los Cerritos, people called lunch "dinner" and dinner "supper." Like us, they called the earliest meal of the day "breakfast."

The Bixby family liked to eat mutton (sheep meat), fruit, vegetables, cheese, donuts, pies, and porridge. The workers favored spicy food like beans, tortillas, onions, and chilis.


BREAKFAST	LUNCH	DINNER

History Spotlight


HARRY BIXBY: 1870 - 1902



Jotham Bixby's son, Harry, was born at Rancho Los Cerritos. He loved to fish in the river, collect stamps, and play marbles. He did not go to school when he was young because there were no school houses in the area. Fortunately, his mother and aunts could teach him how to read, write, and do arithmetic. He was also expected to do chores, like cleaning the rugs and collecting eggs.

**Reflection Questions:**
What are your favorite hobbies? What are your favorite games?

Writing Cursive

Here is the alphabet in cursive, which the Bixby children had to learn. Try to write your name using these letters as a guide. Some of the letters may not look familiar, but they are written in alphabetical order so you can find the letters in your name if you know your A-B-Cs. 

A B C D E F G
H I J K L M N
O P Q R S T U
V W X Y Z
a b c d e f g h i
j k l m n o p q
r s t u v w x y z

Rancho *Rancho*

If you have time, try
writing the names
of your classmates
and siblings, too!

History Spotlight

SARAH BIXBY: 1871 - 1935




Sarah Bixby was Harry's "double cousin" because their mothers were sisters and their fathers were brothers. After Sarah's family moved to Los Angeles in 1878, she spent a lot of time visiting the Rancho Los Cerritos. She had fun hosting tea parties, playing croquet, and eating watermelons. Sarah also enjoyed going to the beach and swimming in the river. She especially loved visiting her cousin at Christmas, Fourth of July, and sheep shearing time.

Reflection Questions:

Where do you
celebrate holidays?
With whom? What is
your favorite part?

Rhyming Games

In one fun parlor game, someone says one sentence and then someone else says a sentence that rhymes with it. Try it for yourself by filling in the blank spaces below with rhyming words from the word bank. This poem was written by Sarah Bixby. 

Don Juan's Garden

Don Juan built a garden miles from _____;
fenced in from the mesa, four wide acres _____.
To mark off beds and pathway, he brought brick around the _____,
and there behind his ten-foot fence, a rare garden was _____.
Two lemon trees he planted and pomegranates, _____,
And close beside the corridor a dozen oranges _____.
He planted gray-green olives to meet his need for _____,
And cypress out of Italy in his adobe _____.

When the
Bixbys lived at
the Rancho, they
liked to play games
after supper in
their parlor.



Sarah and Harry Bixby
as young children.

Word Bank

anywhere

oil

Horn

too

there

soil

born

grew

Artifacts from the Past

Draw the Rancho artifact you liked best in the box below. What is it?
What is it made of? Who used it? How? 

An artifact
is something
made by people, like
a metal tool, a clay
bowl, a patchwork
quilt, or a shell
necklace.

Museums
like Rancho Los
Cerritos collect and
display artifacts that
were made long ago to
show visitors what life
was like in the
past.



ITEM: _____

MATERIALS: _____

USES: _____

A Letter to the Bixbys

Write a letter to a friend, telling them what you learned during your experiences in **Long Ago Long Beach**. Use the hints on the side to help you write your letter. 

Dear _____,

Who came to your class?

What new skills did you learn?

What fun activities did you try?

What surprised you most?

Sincerely,

Historic Spotlights

Rancho Los Cerritos
Long Beach
rancholoscerritos.org



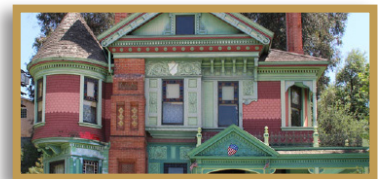
Rancho Dominguez Adobe,
Compton
dominguezrancho.org



Bembridge House,
Long Beach
lbheritage.org



Banning Residence,
Wilmington
thebanningmuseum.org



Heritage Square Museum,
Los Angeles
heritagesquare.org



Drum Barracks Museum,
Wilmington
drumbarracks.org



Rancho Los Alamitos,
Long Beach
rancholosalamitos.com



Pío Pico State Historic Park,
Whittier
www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=621



Workman Temple Homestead,
City of Industry
homesteadmuseum.org



Point Fermin Lighthouse,
San Pedro
pointferminlighthouse.org



Centinela Adobe,
Inglewood
centinelaadobe.org



Avila Adobe,
Los Angeles
calleolvera.com/history/adobe



Mission San Gabriel,
San Gabriel
sangabrielmissionchurch.org

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.

I visited _____ .

Date: _____ Location: _____

I recognized _____

_____ .

I learned _____

_____ .

I visited _____ .

Date: _____ Location: _____

I recognized _____

_____ .

I learned _____

_____ .

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Timeline Activity

To make your own timeline, think of 5 important events that have happened in your life. Draw a picture of each event. Be sure to include the title and the year. Cut out the rectangles and glue them on the "Timeline of My Life" page in chronological order.

I was born in

Year:

Ideas:

- another state
- a theme park
- a relative

I visited

Age:

I joined

Age:

Ideas:

- a sports team
- a club
- a church

Ideas:

- to ride a bike
- to make a bed
- to read a book

I learned

Age:

I met

Age:

Ideas:

- a friend
- a celebrity
- a sibling

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