





Rancho Los Cerritos

The first people who lived on this land were Native Americans. Today they are called the Tongva. They lived throughout the area we now call Los Angeles and Orange counties, but one of their villages – Tevaaxa'nga (pronounced: Te-vaah-ha-nga) – was located nearby.

Once Spain claimed California as part of its empire, the Spanish King sent priests and soldiers to build missions (churches), *pueblos* (towns), and *presidios* (forts). He also gave large “land grants” to his soldiers, including Manuel Nieto. Many of the Tongva moved to live at Mission San Gabriel, some by choice but most by force. There, they learned to speak Spanish, build with adobe, prepare Spanish foods, and work as *vaqueros* (the Spanish word for cowboys).

In 1843, Nieto's family sold part of their land grant to a man named John Temple. He hired Tongva workers to build the large adobe house that you see today. The house is now more than 175 years old! Mr. Temple owned about 15,000 cows and sold their “hides” (skin) and “tallow” (fat). When he retired in 1866, Temple sold Rancho Los Cerritos to Flint, Bixby, & Co.

The next owner, Jotham Bixby, and his family moved into Temple's adobe house. They also had a ranch of 30,000 sheep, raised for their wool. The Bixby family lived at the Rancho until 1881, when they began selling parts of their land to become new cities — Long Beach, Bellflower, Lakewood, Signal Hill, Paramount, and parts of Downey and South Gate.

Jotham Bixby's nephew, Llewellyn Bixby, Sr., remodeled the old adobe house in 1930. He added electricity, heating, and indoor plumbing – and also all of the landscaping you see today. The site is almost five acres.

Rancho Los Cerritos has been a museum since 1955. We welcome thousands of visitors every year – just like you – to see the adobe, explore the grounds, and learn about local history.

Scavenger Hunt

Answer these questions as you walk around the site. Check the site map to see where to look for each clue. Thank you for wearing a mask and keeping social distance!

Keep track of what you see!

There aren't any cows or sheep here anymore, but there are plenty of lizards, birds, butterflies, and other kinds of critters. There are also many different colored flowers.

Use the boxes below to tally (**||||**) what you see around the entire site:

Lizards	Birds	Butterflies		

Purple Flowers	Blue Flowers	Yellow Flowers	Orange Flowers	Red Flowers	Pink Flowers		

California Native Garden

1. Just before you enter the native garden, there is a plaque made of metal and brick. Rancho Los Cerritos is California Registered Historical Landmark # _____?

What year was this plaque placed? _____

2. What type of berries are named on the panel labeled "Giving Rainwater New Life"?

3. Name an animal pictured on the panel labeled "Groundwater and Our Environment."

_____ Have you seen one in real life? _____

Courtyard of the Adobe House

4. All of Mr. Temple's cows had his "brand" on their hip, to show they belonged to him. The brand was burned onto them using a tool called a branding iron. Can you spot the branding iron in the **foreman's room**? (HINT: To find the branding iron, look for something with a very long handle.)



What material you think the branding iron is made of? _____

5. The Bixby family didn't have indoor plumbing. In the **laundry room**, you might see a tool that their workers used to carry water from the well in the backyard, when they were ready to wash the family's clothes.

What is it? _____ Where is it? _____

6. (Window) The stick you see on the table in the **furniture storeroom** is called a "counting stick." On the Bixbys' sheep ranch, it was used to tally the sheep at shearing time (when workers cut the sheep's wool to sell). You can see about 90 notches (tally marks) on the stick. If each tally mark represents 10 sheep, how many sheep does that make?

(HINT: 90×10) _____

7. (Window) Name some of the foods that you recognize in the **food storeroom**:

8. Before cars, people rode horses to get from one place to another. Can you find an item in the **blacksmith's shop** that was used to protect the horse's hooves?

What is it? _____ What is it made of? _____

Orchard on the South Side of the Adobe House

9. This orchard has many kinds of fruit trees. Which ones look familiar to you?

10. In general, the south side of a building gets the most direct sunlight. What problem would be solved by planting trees on the south side of this adobe home?

Veranda of the Adobe House

11. Near the center door, covered with plexiglass, is the Bixby family's growth chart. Many of the markings are dated. What is the oldest year you see? _____

12. Stand next to the growth chart to find someone who is about the same height as you. Can you figure out their name and what year their height was measured?

Name (or initials): _____ Year measured: _____

13. Looking at the plaque on the other side of the door, can you figure out what year Rancho Los Cerritos become a registered national landmark? _____

Garden Paths in the Backyard

14. In the center of the **herb garden** is a sundial, which uses sunlight to tell time. Using the dial, try to tell the time. (HINT: For help, try www.wikihow.com/Read-a-Sundial)

What time does the sundial show? _____ Is that the correct time? _____

When would a sundial NOT work? _____

15. As you exit from the garden into the small parking lot, you will see something that looks like a birdhouse on a post. It's not really a birdhouse, but rather a collection spot for _____ (HINT: Look at the writing on the post).

Do you have any questions? Write them down and ask them at the welcome desk on your way out!

THANK YOU FOR VISITING RANCHO LOS CERRITOS!

www.rancholoscerritos.org

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