

# California Missions

## Introduction

From 1769 to 1823, twenty-one Spanish missions were built along a stretch of 500 miles from San Diego to Sonoma. Figuring out where a mission could be constructed was very important. The missions had to have access to water, land for livestock, and good soil for planting crops. The missions were approximately 30 miles apart. This way it would take about one day to get from one mission to the next on horseback or about three days on foot!

## Activity

In our Scratch lesson, we're going to look at four missions: San Diego, Santa Barbara, San Juan Bautista, and San Francisco Solano.

Below there are photographs of the actual missions and Scratch Sprites representing these missions. Draw a line from the photograph on the left to the matching Sprite on the right.



San Diego



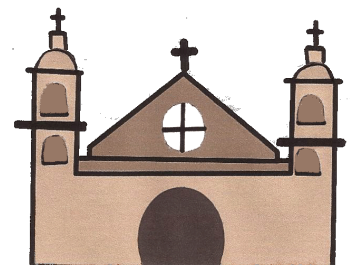
San Francisco Solano



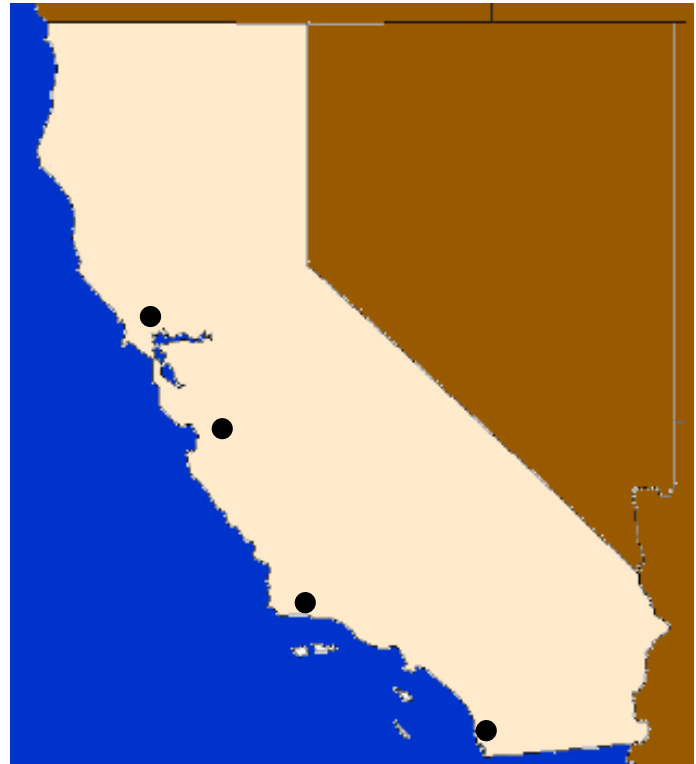
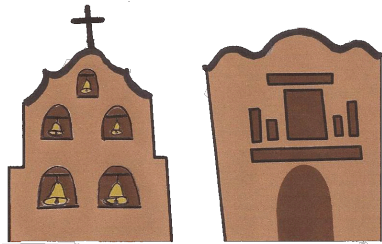
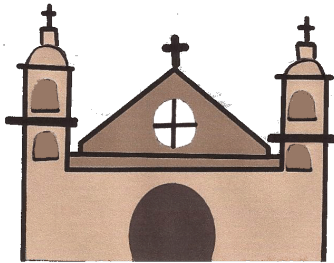
San Juan Bautista



Santa Barbara



Great! Now match the Sprite to the correct location on the map of California.



Great! Do you know where the capital of California is? Draw a star on the map where it should be.

**Challenge Question:**

Why were the locations of these four missions helpful to the early missionaries?

References: <http://www.californias-missions.org/teachers.htm>;  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spanish\\_missions\\_in\\_California#Mission\\_Trail](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spanish_missions_in_California#Mission_Trail)

### **For Teachers**

This activity is aligned with the History-Social Science Content Standard:

4.2.4

**Describe the mapping of, geographic basis of, and economic factors in the placement and function of the Spanish missions;** and understand how the mission system expanded the influence of Spain and Catholicism throughout New Spain and Latin America.