

California Mission Project

Introduction

As a central component to our Fourth Grade Social Studies of California history and culture, you will choose a mission, research its particular history, and build a scale model that represents the physical depiction of your mission. There are two parts to this project, and you will be graded separately for each element.

First, the **Research Report** will be explored in depth, at school. You will use classroom computers, the school library, Room 8 reference materials, and time in the computer lab to research and type an essay about the mission and its history. The entire report will be completed at school immediately following Winter Break.

The second part of the project, **The Mission Model**, will be constructed at home and will be presented in the classroom on Monday, February 10th. You will be given over eight weeks to complete your model. You may work on the project with a sibling or a parent, as long as you are responsible for a majority of the work. It will require a lot of hard work, but I guarantee you'll learn a lot, have some fun, and produce a genuine Mission model to show for your efforts!

Before You Begin Creating Your Mission Model

This is a fairly advanced project that will require a good deal of skill and plenty of patience. Among the elements you'll need to successfully execute your model, will include designing, acquiring the needed materials, cutting, painting, and gluing.

Make sure that you and an adult supervisor carefully read this entire packet BEFORE you begin.

Things to Keep In Mind

- The more time you take in planning - the easier the building.
- Your project is limited to these dimensions: 11 x 14 inch base and a height limit of 10 inches. (You may build higher than ten inches but that component must easily detach at or below the ten-inch limit. More on that later.)
- Mrs. Polay will provide the base for your structure and you must use this base with its area limits. No exceptions.
- You may use a "model kit" to help you in both design and in construction. Remember, it may need to be *modified* to come into line with the area

limitations. Simple, inexpensive, kits can be purchased at the Mission gift shops, at Michaels, Lakeshore, or online.

- Your Mission must not be too heavy. I recommend using cardboard construction or lightweight plastic materials. Do NOT attempt to use clay, wood, or dough. (Too heavy)
- This is a **BIG PROJECT** and it will take multiple sessions to execute. Take a carefully planned step-by-step approach. Do not attempt to complete this project over one weekend. It simply cannot be done!
- If possible, find a large flat area, about the size of a card table, on which to work. Keep your materials organized and always clean up after each work session.
- Do not use spray adhesives indoors. Always get help from an adult when using products like these or when cutting anything. Scissors and hobby knives are very sharp! Always get help.
- Have all the supplies you will need, on hand, before you begin.
- Allow plenty of time for paint and glue to dry before you proceed with additional elements. **I cannot stress this enough: DO NOT wait until the last minute to construct your model - ALLOW PLENTY OF TIME!**

Supplies You Will (Probably) Need

- White School Glue or Tacky Glue to assemble buildings
- Glue sticks work well for smaller components
- Good scissors and a hobby knife with a cutting mat
- Newspaper to protect furniture and floor
- Masking tape
- Straight pins (Recommended to bind building elements)
- A ruler or measuring tape
- Decorating supplies: Acrylic paints, markers, crayons, construction paper, etc.
- Special elements. You can purchase a few special feature items that might be hard to replicate. (I bought some wee Mission Bells and some shrubs - but don't spend a lot of money!)

Step One

Establish a good location in which to assemble your Mission model. Keep all of your supplies together in a box or large shopping bag. Have an old rag and other clean-up items available. Print pictures of your mission and write down elements you want to construct. With an adult or older sibling carefully design your mission. This might include drawing out walls, rooflines, and towers. Remember: Your completed Mission must fit on top of the 11 x 14 inch platform provided. Please note: Your finished Mission should be no taller than ten inches in height. This will allow you to store your project in a standard cardboard filing box (banker's box). If you have, say a tower that you want to be taller than ten inches, the tower should easily detach at some point, so it can be stored within the box. If you are using one of the typical cardboard mission kits (recommended) as a starting point, please be advised to carefully review the dimensions before you begin. Many are quite large. You can easily scale down the size and still represent a sizable portion of your Mission. Careful planning will pay off.

Step Two - Cutting

Cut out the different parts. Begin with laying out the larger walls. Start by cutting out just one section and play around a bit to see how the parts can be fit together. Remember: "Measure twice, cut once!"

Step Three - Gluing

Glue the walls. This can be a bit tricky. Experiment with different techniques. Tacky glue works well. Using straight pens helped me keep walls inline. Don't forget to set aside elements until they have thoroughly dried to avoid calamity and headaches.

Step Four - Join the Building Sections

Attach building elements, such as walls, to one another. Later you can attach multiple elements together. (Consider painting certain sections now - it might be easier to paint while it is disassembled)

Step Five - Attaching Roofs and Towers

Be sure you have nothing you need to do inside the building before you attach roofs and towers. Walls and doors can be reinforced within, by using stiff

cardboard and glue. You should be able to lift your entire Mission up in the air, like a shoebox, before you secure it to the base.

Step Six - Decorations

If you haven't painted the walls, now is the time. Try using several different color varieties to add pizzazz. Play around with ways to add texture to adobe walls. You can use crayons and markers to help with design elements like windows and doors and crosses.

Step Seven - Name and Title

Display your name and the name of the mission on your project.

Step Eight - Secure Everything

Make sure, at least a full day before due date, that everything is fully secured to base. Transport in cardboard file box. Yippee!