



## Summary

**Events in American History: Spanish Missions of the Old West** explains the missionary system that tried to convert and change American Indians into Christians loyal to Spain. Although the system was often forced upon most Indians, the missions became thriving towns that provided centers of manufacturing and commerce in the western United States.

Vocabulary		Comprehension Strategy	Genre Study	Text Features	
adobe	aqueduct	Determining main idea and supporting details, Using graphic features	Text structure: Description	table of contents	headings
Catholic	colony			photographs	maps
convert	drought			labeled photograph	captions
habit	hostile			sidebars	text boxes
irrigation	native			timelines	glossary
ritual				index	

### Standards: Social Studies

- Understands that religious systems might include dominant religious beliefs and values, religious practices, assignment of gender roles, and attitudes toward natural resources
  - Understands that political systems might include concepts of political authority, civic values, and the organization and practice of government
  - Understands the economic, social and cultural influence of location and physical geography on various Native American societies
  - Understands aspects of the conquest of Spanish America in the centuries following Columbus
  - Understands aspects of the Spanish exploration and immigration in the Americas in the centuries following Columbus
  - Understands the similarities in motivations between people in the English settlements and those in the French and Spanish settlements
  - Understands differences in motivations between people in the English settlements and those in the French and Spanish settlements
- Kendall, J. S., & Marzano, R. J. (2004). *Content knowledge: A compendium of standards and benchmarks for K-12 education*. Aurora, CO: Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning (McREL). Online database: [www.mcrel.org/standards-benchmarks/](http://www.mcrel.org/standards-benchmarks/)

### Discussion Prompts Prior to Independent Reading

#### Vocabulary Building and Background Knowledge:

Read the title as students look at the cover. Ask students to talk about what they observe on the cover and what they already know about Spanish missions in the Old West. Introduce students to the vocabulary words as they examine the glossary on page 47.

Discussion questions:

- A *Catholic* is a member of a worldwide Christian religion. What other worldwide Christian religions do you know?
- The word *habit* can have more than one meaning. How is the meaning of *habit* in the glossary different from another meaning of the word?
- What word can be used to describe the dry climate of the Southwest U.S.?

#### Genre Study and Text Features:

State that **Events in American History: Spanish Missions of the Old West**

is an informational text written as a description. Highlight genre characteristics and text features that will support students in reading the text.

Highlight prompts:

- Look at the table of contents of your book. Make a list of items you think you will learn from reading this book.
- Examine the timeline on page 46. What is the span of time represented on the timeline? What is the earliest event? What is the latest event?
- The book includes many photographs, captions and drawings that relate to the Spanish missions. Examine the pictures in the book. What can you learn about Spanish missions from them?

#### Reading the Book:

Have students read the book independently or with a partner.

### Comprehension Questions

After students have completed reading **Events in American History: Spanish Missions of the Old West** gather students together for a discussion based on the questions below or assign students to answer the questions independently or with a partner.

- What were the three main groups of people that lived in the missions? What was the job of each group of people in the mission?
- Why did Spain set up missions instead of colonies in the Southwest?
- In the missions, many American Indians were physically abused and forced to accept the Catholic religion. Why did some American Indians willingly stay at the missions?
- Although some Native Americans willingly stayed at the missions, others did not. How did other groups of Native Americans react to the missionary system?
- How did the missions of Texas impact the eventual American takeover of the region?
- How were the missions of Arizona different from the others in the Old West?
- What was the Camino Real, or "Royal Road"?
- What led to the end of missions in the Southwest?

### BLM: Extension Activity

Students may use the next page to complete a Venn diagram comparing and contrasting the founding of the United States on the East coast to the West coast.



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# EXTENSION ACTIVITY

## Events in American History: Spanish Missions of the Old West

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Compare and contrast how the East coast and the West coast were founded by completing the Venn diagram.

