

Trazando los Pasos del Camino Real

An Integrated Field Trip Using Language and Technology
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The International School of the Americas is a magnet high school in the North East Independent School District in San Antonio, Texas. Through its integrated curriculum and travel experiences the school prepares students to be global citizens. The theme of the sophomore class trip to Zacatecas, Mexico is cultural identity. The purpose of the activities associated with the trip is to help students examine the culture of San Antonio and compare and contrast it to the culture of Zacatecas. In preparation for this trip students participate in a field trip to the San Antonio Museum of Art and to Mission San Jose at the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park. The goal is to create a visual vocabulary for students prior to the trip. This visual vocabulary helps them “see what they see”. Below are the field trip activities.

Field Trip

Half of the students travel to the museum and the other half to Mission San Jose. At noon groups switch locations. The time frame forces a focus on the tasks, yet is unrushed.

San Antonio Museum of Art

Nelson A. Rockefeller Center for Latin American Art

Students work in small groups and rotate through the identified pieces of artwork or galleries. Each student has a museum packet containing the activities below.

1. **Robert K. Winn Gallery of Folk Art**

Students select two masks from the collection. They draw them and provide information about the materials, purpose, and origin. Students then choose one of the masks and explain what they liked about it.

2. **Meadows Gallery of Pre-Columbian Art**

This worksheet has a grid with 16 spaces. As students move through the gallery they record different patterns and textures that they find in this collection.

3. **Robert Barclay/Margaret Barclay Goldsbury Gallery of Spanish Colonial and Republican Art**

Armadillo Incense Burner



Pamela Valentine 5/2001

Students write answers before looking at museum information.

1. Describe the piece.
2. List the steps taken to make this object.
3. What would owning this piece say about the owner?
4. What was its use?

“Monjas Coronadas” Crowned Nun
Portrait of Hermana Francisca Leal Y Bidrio



Students list ten questions about this image. The first student to complete ten raises his or her hand. They are then asked to write ten more.

Students select their favorite or most pressing question and discuss.

Santa Teresa of Avila



Using this image students write a biography, journal entry, poem, tongue twister, or resume that they will be willing to share with the class.

Sharing of writing and discussion follow.

Mission San Jose – Photo Journal Experience

Students work in small cooperative groups as they move about the ground of Mission San Jose. Each group has a topic to research. The post trip product is a Power Point presentation containing all nine topics.

Preparation for this part of the field trip includes an introduction to photography and the use of a digital camera covering the following topics:

Digital Images

- Using a digital camera
 - Putting in battery
 - On/Off
 - Putting in disk
- Camera Settings
 - Still/movie
 - Record mode
 - Quality
 - Image size
- Tips for Capturing an Image
 - Image Concept/Main Idea
 - Holding the Camera level
 - Using a Flash
 - Avoiding mystery objects - eye sweep
 - Avoiding backlighting
 - Correcting distance to object
- Optimizing digital images

Topics of Investigation

1. Openings
2. Artwork
3. Arches
4. Building Materials
5. Flora/Fauna
6. Patterns
7. Buildings
8. Private and Public Areas
9. Documentation of the Trip

Each group has a digital camera, a sheet to log images, and a topic to research. The attached sheet is an example. These sheets are adapted by topic.

Adult:

Group

Topic: Artwork

Chairman:

Secretary:

Reporter:

Members:

Chairman please read this paper to your group as you go along.

On this field trip the class has been organized into groups. You will be exploring the San Jose Mission. It will be your mission as photojournalists to observe, photograph, and draw your topic. The chairman will lead your group. It is the chairman's job to help keep you organized, to watch the time, and to make sure that everyone has a fair chance to work together. The chairman will have to be a good leader and make sure that the group stays together. The chairman is in charge of the camera and must carry it when it is not being used. The chairman should ask other members to take turns carrying the backpack.

The **secretary** will write down the photo information and write the report. There is a sheet for the secretary.

The **reporter** will want to pay attention to what the group wants to say about the topic. This person will report when we have the presentation.

Your mission is to explore: **ARTWORK**

There are many types of **artwork** at Mission San Jose. Be sure to notice both the two and the three-dimensional work. Don't stand too far away from the artwork unless you are photographing something big. Remember the main idea of your picture. Pictures inside must have a flash. You must stand about 9 feet away from what it is you want to shoot. If you are too far, the flash won't reach. If you are too close, it will make the picture look white. While you are exploring your topic think about what your group wants to tell the class about it.

- 1 Walk around the grounds of the mission. The first job is to plan your shots and sketch them. After you have about 8 possible shots, you must choose the (4) that you think will be the best. As a group you want to be sure to have examples of as many different kinds of **artwork** as you can. Remember viewing and think about how you can make your shot interesting. Each person should be able to take 4 shots. You can delete the shot if it is not successful.
- 2 Chairman, help your group get organized to take pictures. Take the pictures. Watch your time. At the beginning of your trip to San Jose you were given a time to finish. Keep that time in mind.
- 3 Chairman, choose a good spot for the group to sit and write their report. The group will decide what they want the secretary to write and the reporter to share.
- 4 After the photographs have been taken, and the report written, if there is time, the group will choose a spot and begin to plan their presentation (text, images, etc.)

Post Field Trip Power Point Presentation

Each Zacatecas travel group creates a Power Point presentation. This presentation is a collaboration of each student's work done during the Mission San Jose Field trip. It will have a section on each of the photo journal topics

Length: the length will depend on the topic. Each topic must be completely covered. Students may use the digital photographs, drawings, and words that they collected during the field trip.

Criteria

- | | |
|---|----|
| 1. Content – communicates the topic in a complete way | 50 |
| 2. Visually easy to read | 10 |
| 3. Images optimized | 20 |
| 4. Overall aesthetics of presentation | 20 |

Total Possible	100
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Conclusion

The products of the field trip prepare students for their activities while traveling in Mexico. Students become highly engaged at both sites. In addition to the field trip activities teachers have integrated lesson related to the trip. For example, the chemistry class examines properties of metals in preparation for the trip to the silver mine. The World History class looks at the history and art of Mesoamerica. The Geometry class studies relationships in architecture.

Sites Visited in Zacatecas

El Acueducto del Cubo	La Bufa	Cathedral
Mask Museum	La Quemada	San Francisco Convent
Palacio de Gobierno		

Resources

International School of the Americas

<http://www.neisd.net/isa/index.html>

San Antonio Missions National Historical Park

<http://www.nps.gov/saan/index.htm>

San Antonio Museum of Art

<http://www.sa-museum.org>

Images from "The Nelson A. Rockefeller Center for Latin American Art" CD-Rom,
ISBN:1888350208X