

Activity: Furthering Point of View in the Ferdinand Deppe Painting

Materials (use any or all of these attachments as you prefer):

- Image of Ferdinand Deppe's painting, *Mission San Gabriel* (Doc A)
- Primary and Secondary Sources to help interpret painting (Doc C)
- Grade Level Reader (Doc D) or Advanced Reader (Doc E)

Directions:

Have students compare the primary and secondary sources from the attachment above. These sources describe the daily lives of some people living at the missions. Students can create a grid, poster, drawing or writing to show their comparisons. If you feel any of the primary sources are too difficult, you could opt to read them to the class, projecting the passage on a screen.

Teacher's Background Comments on the Daily Life at the Missions:

(Excerpts from the 2016 History and Social Science Framework regarding daily life at the missions)

#216-223: Over time, as Spanish livestock depleted traditional food sources and the presence of the Spanish disrupted Indian village life, many other Indians arrived at the missions seeking a reliable food supply. Once Indians converted to Catholicism, missionaries and presidio soldiers conspired to forcibly keep the Indians in residence at the missions...Cattle ranches and civilian pueblos developed around missions, often built by forced Indian labor.

229-233: The introduction of Christianity affected native peoples, many of whom combined Catholicism with their own belief systems.

#239-249: The historical record of this era remains incomplete due to the limited documentation of Native testimony, but it is clear that while missionaries brought agriculture, the Spanish language and culture, and Christianity to the native population, American Indians suffered in many California missions. The death rate was extremely high; during the mission period, the Indian population plummeted from 72,000 to 18,000. This high death rate was due primarily to the introduction of diseases for which the native population did not have immunity, as well as the hardships of forced labor and separation from traditional ways of life. Moreover, the imposition of forced labor and highly structured living arrangements degraded individuals, constrained families, circumscribed native culture, and negatively impacted scores of communities.