

Answers to Questions for Each County

Santa Cruz

Activity: Color the drawing of the woman with the *rebozo* based on your visit to the Tumacácori or Tubac museums.

Answer: Colors during Anza's time would be blue, red, striped, or black. Use some of the patterns seen on the people depicted in the chapter as a model.

Pima

“You are in danger” in *O'odham* is Heg 'o s-ta-ebidama. S-ne'neida. Some of the other words that could have been heard during the Anza expedition are given in the chapter. Try to say them after listening to the audio track for Pima County. Can you pronounce them?

Pinal

After visiting the area surrounding the *Gila* River, answer the question: How has the diet and culture of the Gila River Indian Community changed since Anza passed through?

Answer: The O'odham of Anza's day cultivated and ate watermelons, squash, corn and beans and collected seeds such as those from the pods of mesquite trees. Today, many American Indians in the area eat more processed foods that contain more calories and sugar. This has caused concern for the health of Gila River Indian Community tribal members, and has prompted programs that foster more traditional diets among their children.

Maricopa

The spirals and other patterns on the black rocks at the Painted Rocks *Petroglyph* Site are also seen at other sites from Mexico to Northern California. Nearby Gila Bend was a stopping point for the 1846 Mormon Battalion Trail and for the Stagecoach line.

Question: Why has the Gila River area been an important migration route for thousands of years?

Answer: The Gila River connected areas to the east with the Colorado River area, and ultimately the West Coast and California. In the arid desert environment, it provided shade and water for both people and animals. The animals provided food for traveling peoples so that they could make the journey. Rock art throughout North America reflects the fact that ancient peoples migrated throughout the continent.

Yuma

Members of the *Quechan* tribe helped to protect the expedition's men, women and children during their Río Colorado crossing on November 30, 1775.

Question: What dangers and challenges did the colonists face on the crossing?

Answer: If the American Indians were not friendly, they could attack the group when it was vulnerable during the crossing. Although the Quechan were friendly to Anza and the members of his two expeditions, this was not the case during the Fernando de Rivera y Moncada expedition of 1781. This effectively closed the trail that Anza had opened. Another danger was that people and animals could be swept away by the current of river and could drown. On November 30, 1775, during the crossing, one little girl fell off a horse into the river, but she was quickly recovered to safety.



Drawing by: Tamra Fox

Imperial

Anza took Sebastián Tarabal with him on both his 1774 and part of his 1775-76 expedition, and Sebastián later accompanied Father Garcés on a remarkable trek to California through the Mojave Desert and the Sierras during the same year. Anza called him *el Peregrino*, the pilgrim or traveler.

Question: Name one American Indian who might be honored in the Anza Trail Logo.

Answer: Sebastián Tarabal.

Bonus: Name another possibility from a county near Imperial.

Answer: Salvador Palma of the Quechan tribe in Yuma.



Graphic: Bill Singleton

San Diego

Font's *quadrant* was a protractor with a viewing tube on one side and a string (and weight) that pointed directly to the ground. From the angle of the sun in the sky and the date, the latitude was determined.

Question: When you are in the desert, why would it be especially important to know exactly where you are and where you are going? What is a *Global Positioning System*?

Answer: The terrain in the desert is often without landmarks, so it's easy to become disoriented and get lost. If you get lost in the desert and you don't

have food or water, you could die.

A Global Positioning System (GPS) is a modern electronic device that allows a person to accurately establish their latitude and longitude (i.e. their position) using the known positions of several artificial satellites orbiting the Earth and an accurate measure of the time. Father Font, instead, had to rely on the known position of the Sun and a measurement of time. Even so, his calculations of the position of several places along the Anza Trail are remarkably accurate.

Riverside

Question: How are traveling families now similar to those that Anza brought to California? How are they different?

Answer: They are similar in many ways, including their basic needs (food and water), and that the people themselves come from many backgrounds and traditions. Mothers, then as today, can give birth while traveling, and they need rest during traveling.

Families are different in several ways, including the fact that both mother and father were present for most of the children of the Expedition. That is not always the case today, and, in addition, Anza's people rode horses and mules, while today we can travel in cars, trains and planes.

Los Angeles

On March 24, 1776, Fr. Francisco Garcés arrived at the Mission San Gabriel after wandering through the Colorado and Mojave Deserts with Sebastián Tarabal. He stayed two weeks, and he presided over the marriage of expedition member Feliciano Arballo to Juan Francisco López on April 7. On his way back home from Monterey to San Miguel de Horcasitas, Anza returned to Mission San Gabriel on April 29, 1776 with several soldiers and Father Font.

Question: By how many days did they miss Father Garcés? By how many days did they miss the marriage?

Answer: If Fr. Garcés left the mission on April 8, but Anza arrived April 29, then Anza missed Garces by about 21 days. Anza missed the marriage by 22 days.

Bonus: Anza and the colonists had arrived at San Gabriel January 4, 1776 on their way to Monterey, and left January 21. Since Fr. Garcés arrived April 24, the two missed each other then too (by 32 days).

Question: Could they have visited the *Pueblo* of Los Angeles?

Answer: No, it was not founded until 1781 when Fernando de Rivera y Moncada brought settlers that founded the town. The Anza Trail was used during this later Spanish Expedition.

Ventura

Question: Father Font thought Santa Cruz Island was some twenty leagues long. If Font's league was about 2 1/2 miles, then how big did he think the island was? Was his estimate off by much?

Answer: 2.5 miles per league x 20 leagues = 50 miles. Font's answer was off by a factor of two; the island is about 24 miles long.

Question: Who were the people that Font was talking about? How did these people get to the islands? What could they eat and how could they live?

Answer: The Chumash people had well-built plank canoes/boats and could fish off the coast and travel to the Channel Islands to hunt, gather plants and collect shellfish.

Santa Barbara

Question: Where can you see futuristic rocket launching pads today on Anza's historic route?

Answer: Vandenburg Air Force Base north of Lompoc.

Question: Are the hillsides grazed by cattle today (pasturage) as Font predicted? What would make the land good for this?

Answer: Yes, there are still ranches in the area. The land is suitable for this because of the mild climate, the moisture brought by the sea and the fertile soil that nourishes grasses that cattle like to eat.

San Luis Obispo

Question: Can you see the woodpeckers or their holes in some of the trees?

Answer: If you see a tree like the one in the chapter for San Luis Obispo, then the birds are nearby.

Monterey

Question: About how many city blocks was the *Presidio*?

Answer: About 1 block in area, and today's *San Carlos* Cathedral (formerly the Spanish Royal Presidio Chapel) was along one wall. One can view parts of the wall of the Presidio in back of the Cathedral.

Question: Where is the U.S. Presidio of Monterey Museum?

Answer: It is north of the San Carlos Cathedral on Cpl. Ewing Blvd. between Artillery St. and Pvt. Bolio Rd. as a central part of the Lower Presidio Historic Park. It is on a hill overlooking the Monterey Harbor. A monument to father Serra is located close by at the site of *El Castillo* (Spanish and Mexican Battery).

Question: Was father Serra alive when the Anza expedition arrived?

Answer: Yes, Anza visited him during both expeditions.

Question: What Spanish explorer is commemorated with a statue outside the Monterey Conference Center?

Answer: Gaspar de Portolá. He came to Monterey in 1769 and 1770, and was governor of California. Anza knew about his destination, in part, because of him.



Colton Hall in Monterey, California on Pacific Street

Photo: Greg Smestad

Question: Colton Hall was where California's constitution was written in both Spanish and English. Why were both languages used? Does the Anza expedition have a plaque on the sidewalk outside Colton Hall?

Answer: Spanish was used because it was the language of the government of Alta California from 1769-1846. When it became part of the United States of America, with English as its primary language, it was decided to have both local people (*Californios*) and people who came from the east coast serve at the *Constitutional Convention*. Representatives of both these groups wrote the first Constitution for the state. Descendants of members of the Anza expedition were among them. There is a plaque on the sidewalk commemorating the Anza expedition, as well as the events that led up to the Constitutional Convention.

San Benito

North of San Juan Bautista is *Chitactac*-Adams Heritage County Park, where visitors can see a Costanoan village site, similar to one the expedition passed. There, one can learn about the Mutsun, one of the tribes later brought to Mission San Juan Bautista.

Question: What did Anza's name in *Mutsun* mean?

Answer: My mother.

Question: When Anza was given a fish, what word in Mutsun was likely heard?

Answer: Fish is huuyi, and the beads given in return are called maas.

Santa Clara

Question: Coyotes are often seen in Coyote Valley south of San Jose and at Henry Coe State Park. What could they eat now and in Anza's time?

Answer: Coyotes are an adaptable and resourceful animal. In Anza's time, they could eat rabbits, squirrels, mice, small reptiles, and leftovers from the meals of bears and other predators. Today, there are no bears, but coyotes have added animals killed on the road and people's garbage to their diet. They also eat cats and small dogs.

San Mateo

Along the San Francisco Bay Trail in *San Mateo*, visit the Coyote Point County Recreational Area & Museum.

Question: What are some of the animals that roamed the area?
Which have disappeared since Anza's visit?

Answer: During Anza's time, there were bears (species of the genus *Ursus*), tule elk (*Cervus elaphus*), and pronghorn “antelope” (*Antilocapra americana*). Father Font specifically mentions these animals in his diary. They have disappeared today from San Mateo, but can be seen in zoos (and stuffed in museums). Mountain lions (*Felis concolor*), present during Anza’s time, can sometimes still be seen in the hills, where they prey on mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) and small mammals.

San Francisco

In March of 1776, the Spanish Mission and Presidio sites in San Francisco were selected by Captain Juan Bautista de Anza.

Question: Does the Anza Trail deserve commemoration?

Answer: Anza brought over 200 colonists to northern California so that they could begin the process that would plant European culture on the shores of the San Francisco Bay. It’s a matter of your opinion and your perspective if this was good or bad. For the colonists that came with him, this meant a new life and a new home, and it led to seventy years of Spanish culture. For the local *American Indians*, however, this meant drastic changes in their way of life, and death from new diseases in many cases. In either perspective, Anza’s ambitions and his expeditions forever changed the face of California, Arizona and the West. He was a loyal Spanish soldier who, living at the same time as George Washington, was influenced by the thinking and morals of the late 18th century. Diaries and letters written by him, and those that describe him, paint a picture of a fair and kind man who treated those who attacked him as enemies and those who worked with him as friends. He had high praise for American Indians like Sebastián Tarabal and Salvador Palma and he lived among American Indians all his life. He treated other American Indians that he met during his California expeditions with respect, and initiated trade with them. Unfortunately, those who came after Anza did not follow his example, or heed his recommendations regarding the treatment of the Quechan people at Yuma. History is built up by the actions of many people over a long time. Anza certainly changed the course of history, but did not act alone, and he did not control events that followed his passage.



Photo: NPS

Question: Which illustration do you think best depicts Anza’s travels in the area of San Francisco? What part of the expedition is the other illustration showing then? What can you find in these spots today that Anza could have seen?

Answer: The top illustration is of Anza, Father Font and a small party of men as they explore the area that is today near Fort Point in San Francisco. The bottom illustration shows the crossing of the Colorado River near Yuma (on November 30, 1775). The hills and water at both these sites can still be recognized today. Today in San Francisco, you can see the Golden Gate Bridge, and

at Yuma is an international crossroad. Anza and the colonists he guided could never have dreamed of these things.

Alameda

The *San Carlos* (otherwise known as The Golden Fleece) was the first European sailing ship ever recorded to enter, and explore, the San Francisco Bay. It mapped areas including today's East Bay. The area we know today as Alameda and Oakland is known today for its international port and the shipping to ports worldwide.

Contra Costa

Question: Who founded the Presidio, and when?

Answer: Although later commanders (*comandantes*) of the Spanish Presidio included Argüello and Martínez, José Joaquín Moraga, Lieutenant on the 2nd Anza expedition, was the Presidio's founder and its first commander.

Getting Back - Mt. Diablo Range

Anza and the small band of soldiers started their return trip to Monterey in April of 1776 after their exploration of the East Bay Area. He received a warm welcome by the American Indians at each end of this segment, and he gave colored beads to each of these tribes. In eastern Contra Costa County, it was the Bay *Miwok*, and in Santa Clara County it was likely the Mutsun (a *Costanoan* tribe).



Circular pattern at
Chitactac (Santa
Clara)

Photo: Greg Smestad



Spiral at Painted
Rocks (Maricopa)

Photo: Ron Ory

Your Turn

After spending some time on the trail or using the Trail Guide chapters, please send us your comments on it, as well as your Anza-related photographs, and stories of your experiences on the trail. Ask everyone you travel with to keep their own record of the journey, just as Anza and Font each kept their own diaries. Half the fun will be comparing what each person found important or interesting enough to record. If you'd like to share your Anza-related photographs and diaries, please send copies of them to:

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