



Time Travel Quest 7

Haciendas and Hides: Establishing Cattle Ranches

July Theme: Trade & Travel

Historical Background

Raising cattle in Spanish Florida was no easy task, but without their cows the colony would not have survived. In the 17th century, Spanish settlers at San Luis and other colonies needed to produce enough food to sustain themselves, making farming a high priority. While growing Apalachee crops like corn, beans and squash could easily feed villagers, the Spanish wanted to use some of the land to raise animals, especially cattle. These cattle ranches, called *haciendas* in Spanish, provided the village with beef, hides, tallow, and many other products. The descendants of the cows brought to Florida by the Spanish are now the oldest breeds in the present-day United States, including the famous Florida Cracker cows. Ranchers have continued to raise this rare breed for their distinctive small size, adaptability to Florida's hot weather, and long life span.



The cattle industry was booming in San Luis by the 1670s with 150 cow hides and 3800 pounds of tallow, or beef fat, exported in the year 1675. Just six years later, this number of goods increased to 700 hides and over 5000 pounds of tallow. Goods were sent from San Marcos (St. Marks), the port south of San Luis, and shipped to places such as Cuba in the Caribbean. Better prices were offered for these goods in Cuba and the voyage to get there was actually shorter compared to traveling to Spanish Florida's capital, St. Augustine. Unfortunately, trading with Cuba meant paying large taxes to

the Spanish government, who wanted to make sure that trade between San Luis and St. Augustine continued.

By 1700, there were nine haciendas at San Luis. In the warmer spring and summer months cows would graze freely until the winter where they'd be moved into the woodlands. Owning a hacienda gave their owners wealth and power, not just in the form of profit but also status. Like expensive meals such as caviar and champagne today, livestock such as cattle and pigs were status symbols. If a villager had access to these animals or even owned their own hacienda, they likely had some power in the village. Some Franciscan Friars and Apalachee leaders and chiefs owned cattle and cattle ranches of their own. However, most haciendas were managed by Spanish settlers who used Apalachee workers to establish the ranch, raise cattle, and transport supplies to and from the ranch.

However, for other leaders of the Apalachee, haciendas close to their community were a threat to their authority. Haciendas took land that previously grew native staples like oak trees – for their acorns – and palm trees and used them primarily for Spanish needs. Cattle would overgraze land, including Apalachee farmland. One reason that this kept happening was that Spanish settlers allowed their cows to graze without fences. With no fences to keep the cattle in one spot, any mistake by the vaqueros (cowboys), could lead to the cattle walking away. Relations became

so bad that in 1699 a letter recording native leaders' complaints was sent to Governor Salazar, who himself owned a hacienda. While the King was quick to order an investigation into the issues raised in the letter, no investigation was carried out as war soon broke out with England. Some haciendas were moved to protect Apalachee land, but some individuals like Francisco de Florencia had enough influence through his links to St. Augustine that his hacienda remained. Even after some of these moves, cattle ranches continued to struggle with overgrazing.

Time Portal: Villagers through Video

We are going to use virtual time travel to talk with one of the villagers of Mission San Luis! Today, a vaquero (Spanish cowboy) will explain how important cattle ranches are to the trade and economy of Mission San Luis!

Quest 7 Video Link: [youtube.com/watch?v=x1hvuX77j8E&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x1hvuX77j8E&feature=youtu.be)

Quest Questions

Questions can help you focus your journey into the past!

Here are some questions to think about that will help guide you in your exploration:

- What animal provides several of the main goods that are traded or sold from Mission San Luis?
- What are three products that this animal provides people living in 17th century Florida?
- Who raises these animals at Mission San Luis? Where are they raised?
- Can you list one benefit and one problem with having cattle ranches at Mission San Luis?

Quest Craft: Cow Spanish-Spice Holder



It's time to spice up our beef!

There were many cows raised on large haciendas – or cattle ranches – at Mission San Luis over 300 years ago. One of the main reasons the Spanish villagers raised cattle was to be able to have beef to eat: one of their favorite foods! And the Spanish used many different spices to flavor their meats, like beef! Now, it's your turn to create your own cow spice holder!

If you would like to get complimentary supplies for this craft (EXCEPT for the spices) they will be available for pickup in front of the Mission San Luis visitor center carved doors from 11 am to 2 pm on Wednesday, 7/29/2020.

Supplies:

- One small plastic tube with plug
- Cow shapes (on the next page)
- Crayons, colored pencils, and/or markers
- Pair of scissors
- Glue
- Choose from a variety of spices listed in the Spice Rack List on the next page.

Instructions:

1. **Color the cow shapes** on the next page with crayons, colored pencils, and/or markers. Many cows are brown, tan, black, or black and white, but you can color your cow whatever color you want!
2. **Cut out the cow shapes** carefully with a pair of scissors.
3. **Glue the cow's head to the front legs** (the legs that do not have a tail) provided in the "Cow Shapes" section. Let the glue dry.
4. **Glue the head and front legs to the plug of the tube.** Make sure to let the glue dry completely before continuing.
5. Finally, **glue the back legs** (the legs with the tail) **to the bottom** (rounded end) **of the tube.** Let the glue dry.
6. The last step is to **fill the tube with spices** you chose from the Spice Rack list on the next page! You can mix spices together if you want! (Make sure to ask a parent or guardian before handling spices). Now you have your own Cow Spanish-Spice Holder!

Cow Shapes:



Spice Rack List

Traditional Spanish spices that you can add to your spice holder. **ASK AN ADULT BEFORE USING OR HANDLING ANY SPICES.**



Black Pepper

A mildly spicy spice popular in Europe for seasoning meats and sauces. It originally came from India!



Cinnamon – This spice was used to sweeten certain savory foods and the popular Spanish drink, hot chocolate.



Paprika – This is a mild to hot spice that is made from several different peppers from the Americas. It was used to season and add color to many types of dishes.



Salt – Was an important spice for not only flavoring foods, but also drying out meat and keeping it from going bad.



Chili Powder

Usually has several ingredients, with chili peppers from South America being one of the main ones.

TAKE CARE WITH SPICES!

Don't eat too much of them!

Don't breathe them in!

Don't touch your eyes after handling them!
(Wash your hands)

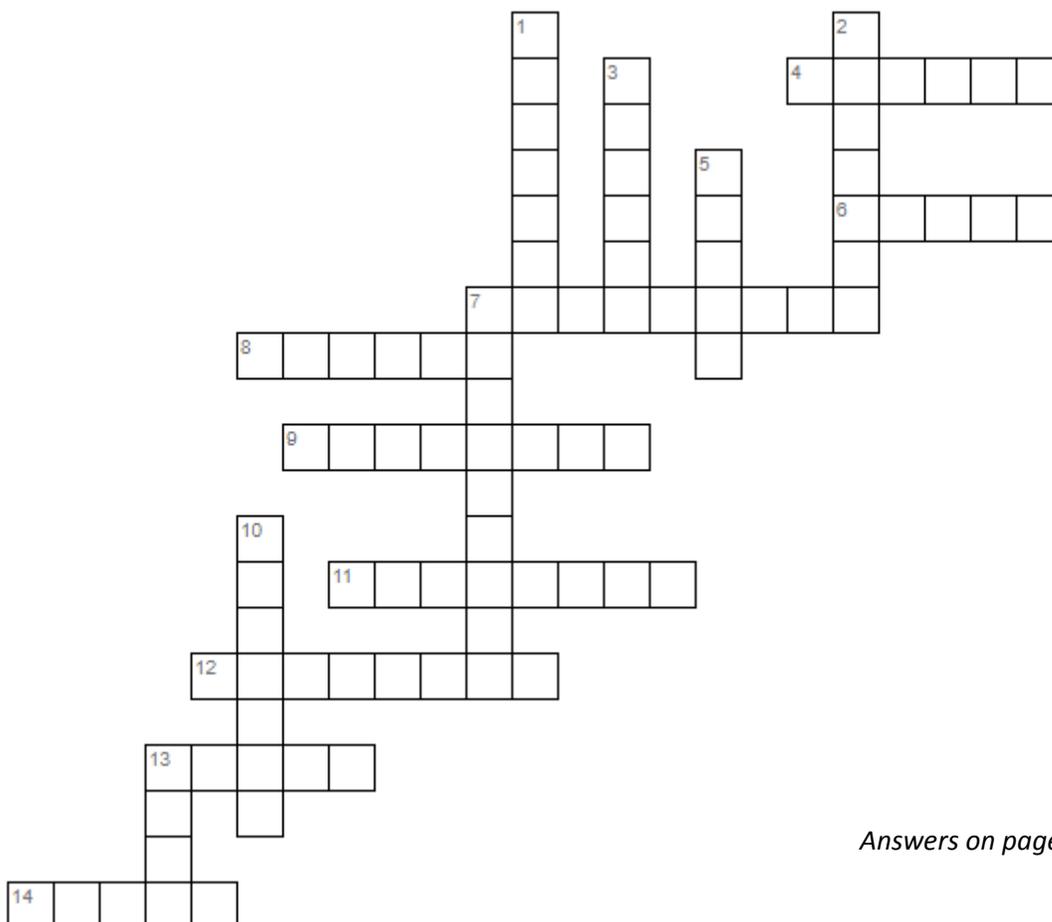
Adventure Activity: Lingo at the Ranch Puzzle

Across

4. Beef fat used to make candles
6. English word adapted from the Spanish word "Lazo" meaning "to knot or tie, when harnessing animals"
7. Spanish word meaning "a rush of panicking animals"
8. Term for a fenced area or pen holding animals
9. Spanish word meaning "a large ranch house"
11. Putting a unique mark on an animal to show ownership
12. English word adapted from the Spanish word for "cowboy" (see clue #10)
13. Term for meat that has been preserved through drying
14. Leather is produced from a animal _____

Down

1. Spanish word meaning "Let's go!"
2. Spanish word meaning "horse"
3. Spanish word for a stable's tack room where saddles and horseback riding gear are kept
5. English word adapted from the Spanish word "Chapajaros", meaning "leather leggings"
7. Spanish term meaning "The Second." Title for the person who is 2nd in command on a ranch.
10. Spanish word meaning "cowboy"
13. Spanish word meaning "boss"



Answers on page 6

*S = Spanish
E = English*

*Spanish words are
printed in italics*

WORD BANK: *Bodega S* Chaps *E* *Hacienda S* Lasso *E* Branding *E*
 Corral *E* Hides *E* Tallow *E* Buckaroo *E* *El Segundo S* Jefe *S* *Vamos S*
Caballo S *Estampido S* Jerky *E* *Vaquero S*

Additional Exploration Resources

Your time travel adventure doesn't stop here! If you want to learn more about this subject, here are some suggested resources:

- *Mission San Luis de Apalachee: A Teacher's Guide (Illustrated)*
https://www.missionsanluis.org/media/1099/01-teachers_guide.pdf
- *Florida Cracker Cattle: A Spanish Legacy - Video (Florida Museum of Natural History)*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mtMgsv5miHg>
- *Florida Cattle Ranching (Florida Memory, Florida State Archives)*
https://www.floridamemory.com/learn/exhibits/photo_exhibits/ranching/
- *Fort Mose: And the Story of the Man Who Built the First Free Black Settlement in Colonial America (discusses the vaqueros of Fort Mose) (Glennette Tilley Turner)*
<https://www.amazon.com/Fort-Mose-Settlement-Colonial-America/dp/0810940566>
- *Colonial History Bibliography for Young Readers (Museum of Florida History)*
<https://museumoffloridahistory.com/learn/colonial-history-bibliography-for-young-readers/>

Virtual Time Traveler Checklist

Prizes await your journey's end! For all virtual time travelers who complete four of the weekly summer camp *Time Travel Quests*, your family will receive free admission passes to Mission San Luis Living History Museum for a future visit! Steps to getting your prize are:

- **Complete at least four of the twelve Time Travel Quests** provided between June 15 and August 31, 2020.
- Fill out the *Virtual Time Traveler Checklist* (blank checklists can be found at:
http://www.missionsanluis.org/media/1742/virtual-time-traveler-checklist-2020_2ue.pdf
- Email the checklist to Rebecca.Woofter@dos.myflorida.com or print and mail it to:

Mission San Luis (c/o Rebecca Woofter)
2100 West Tennessee Street
Tallahassee, FL 32304

FOR YOUR PRIZE: the **deadline is September 14, 2020** for completing and sending in your 2020 *Virtual Time Traveler Checklist*

Lingo at the Ranch - Answer Key

