

Online Book Club

The Mystery on the California Mission Trail

Bring It To Life!

1. Map it out! Draw a basic outline map of California. Label each of the 21 Spanish missions. Then, label a California city closest to each one. What do most of the mission locations have in common? Why were those locations chosen?
2. Create a mission! Start with a very large box, like an appliance box. Cut off one side of the box. Draw the front of a mission on the remaining middle section. Cut away the excess cardboard from the mission outline. Cut out bell towers, windows, and doors. Make little bells out of aluminum foil and hang them from the bell towers with thread or string. Stand your mission up by using the side panels for support. Finally, give your mission a name!
3. Put on a play! Ask for volunteers to portray some miners looking for gold in California. Dress the part—wear some boots, jeans, cowboy hats, and bandannas. Create a scene where the hard-working miners find gold! Eureka!
4. Write about it! Ask for volunteers to write a new ending for the mystery. Ask each volunteer to read his or her new ending to the group. Ask book club members what they think about each new ending! Which one do they like best? Why?

