

Designing a Co-Habitable Space for Native Americans and Missionaries

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Students will be designing...

This lesson is an introduction to the California Mission system. The students will have learned about California's regions and geography and about the various tribes that inhabited these regions. This lesson will require another class and teacher that also need to learn about this time period. If that is not available, the students would have to be split into two groups. The lesson will kick off with the two teachers assuming the roles of Father Serra and Chief Chowig. The students will be asked to take notes during the debate in order to form questions for the characters later. The teachers will have a debate in front of the classes. After that, working in groups of two, they will come up with questions for the characters. They will then come up with a plan and prototype for how the two groups can cohabitate in California.

Through engaging in this challenge, students will learn...

- To empathize with historic people
- To make inferences
- To strategize
- To plan, design, and prototype
- To have a deeper understand of the motivations, impact and perspectives of this period in history
- To define the criteria and constraints of a design problem with sufficient precision to ensure a successful solution, taking into account relevant scientific principles and potential impacts on people and the natural environment that may limit possible solutions. (NGSS MS-ETS1-1)

Lesson 1

In this lesson, two teachers will assume the roles of Father Serra and Chief Chowig. The students will be asked to take notes during the debate in order to form questions for the characters later. The teachers will have a debate in front of the classes. After that, working in groups of two, they will come up with questions for the characters and write a needs statement based on what is learned in the interviews. (90 minutes)

Lesson 2

In this lesson, students will work together to brainstorm ideas for designing a space for Chief Chowig and Father Serra to cohabitate peacefully. (65 minutes)