

El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park
Programs Department

Fill in the Blank

_____ started it all in 1492 and by 1519 _____ had claimed much of present day Mexico for _____. In 1542 _____ was sent to explore and chart the California coast. There was no further expansion of this coast until 1620, when the Spanish were sending trading ships from the west coast of New Spain to the _____ and back.

While England and France were colonizing the east coast of America, Spain was building forts (presidios) for defense, missions to Christianize the natives, and pueblos to settle their land. Spain began to worry that other countries such as England or _____ would claim California.

A group led by _____ (a soldier to guard) and Father _____ (to start the missions) started for Alta California in 1769. They arrived at _____ and began to build the first Alta California _____ and _____. This started the Spanish colonization of Alta California. Eventually, there were three more presidios and twenty more missions.

Word came to King _____ III that the last presidio in Alta California was dedicated on April 21, 1782 as El Presidio de Santa Bárbara.

Words to be used

Carlos Portola
Cabrillo Presidio
Columbus Russia
Cortez San Diego
Mission Serra
Orient Spain



Santa Barbara Trust
for Historic Preservation



www.sbthp.org / (805) 965-0093 / education@sbthp.org

Answers: 1) Columbus; 2) Cortez; 3) Spain; 4) Cabrillo; 5) Orient; 6) Russia; 7) Portola; 8) Serra; 9) San Diego; 10) Mission; 11) Presidio; 12) Carlos