



Junior Ranger Book



Name: _____

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
UNESCO World Heritage Site

San Antonio Missions
National Historical Park



Welcome to San Antonio Missions National Historical Park!

We're glad to have Junior Rangers like you!
There's a lot of history here, but if you keep your eyes
and mind open, you'll discover even more.

How to become a Junior Ranger:

Junior Rangers help care for parks so people will always be able to enjoy them.
Knowing your park helps you care about it!

To become a Junior Ranger, complete at least 1 activity from each section in this book.

Sections

Section 1 – Lotería

Section 2 – Telling Our Stories

Section 3 – Nature is Everywhere

Section 4 – Preservation

Section 5 – Reflection



Junior Ranger Book Level Key



Look for these symbols on the bottom of each page to see which activities are the best for you!

Rabbit activities are for everyone, and keep it light and fun!



Cactus activities help you explore deeper into the park story.



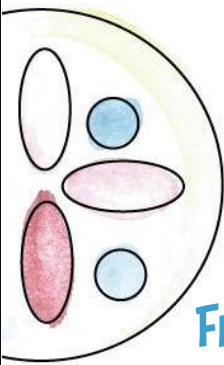
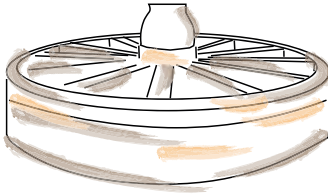
Espada Brand activities offer more challenges and a chance for reflection.

Section 1 - Lotería

San Antonio Missions Lotería

Mark at least 5 things you saw or did that made your visit special.

Lotería, known as 'Mexican bingo' can be traced back to 1500s Europe, and was brought to New Spain around the 1760s.

 Fresco	 Insect	 Park Ranger
 Took a photo	 Explored	 Sculpture
 Reflected	 Flower	 Artifact
 Farm Field	 Grist Mill	 Bird



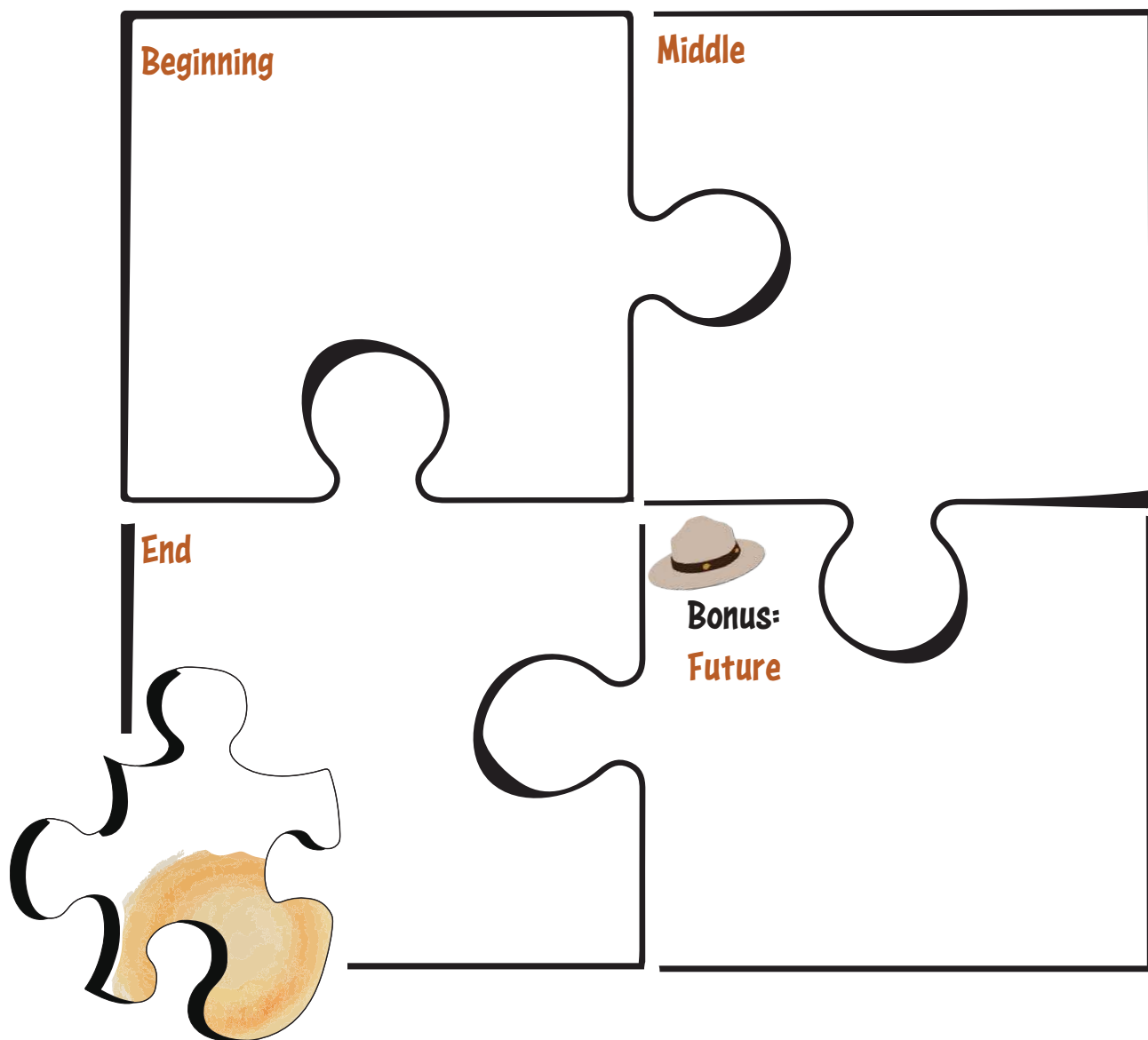
Section 2 - Telling Our Stories

Piece the Story Together

This park is about stories. There are so many stories here that it can be hard to see the whole picture. If we piece them together like a puzzle, we can gain a better understanding.

To learn the story you could watch the park movie, explore the museum or mission grounds, listen to the audio tour, or go on a ranger tour.

Write or draw about the story you learned below:



Section 2 - Telling Our Stories

Find Your Identity

Knowing your history helps you find your identity. Many of the people who live nearby have connections to the stories of San Antonio Missions. Some are Indigenous, grown-ups, Spanish, **Tejano**, Junior Rangers, Catholic, and some are San Antonians.

Tejano/a:

someone whose family is native to Texas and lived here before Texas was a state

Write or draw your identity here.

(You can have as many as you want!):



Bonus: Talk with your group about how your identities are shaped by history and culture.



*I'm Tejana
and a mother*



Section 2 - Telling Our Stories



Find More Stories

Park Rangers find stories in many places. Through the frescoes in the Mission Concepción Convento, the baptismal records the Church keeps, and archaeological research, we can learn a lot. Even today, we can continue to reveal more stories. Scientists use ground penetrating radar (like an x-ray for the dirt) to help us see artifacts and foundations.

Match the picture with the correct word below:

oral histories artifacts frescoes records ground penetrating radar

If a park ranger was telling a story about you 300 years from now, where could they find information? Do you keep a journal? Have you shared stories with your family before?

List three artifacts that a park archaeologist might find that would help them learn your story.

artifact:

object made
and used by
humans



Section 3 - Nature is Everywhere

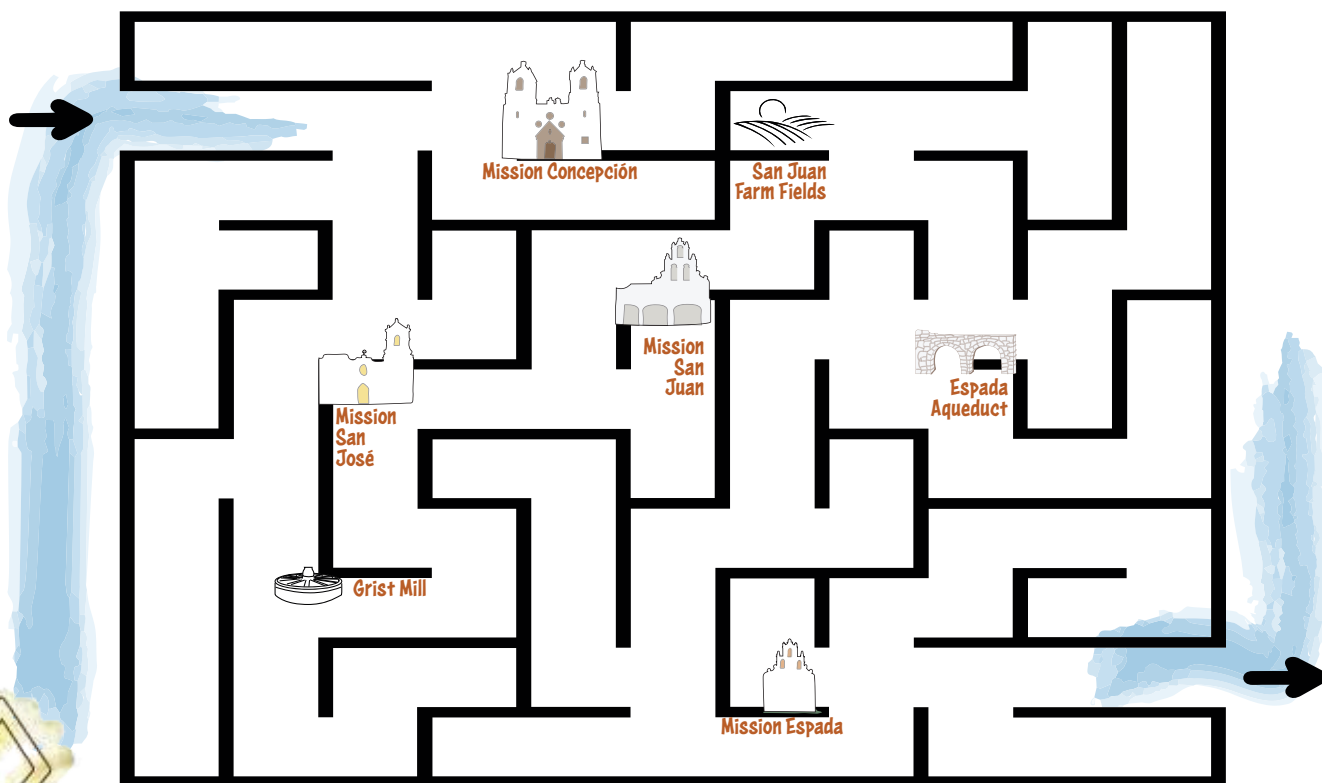
Go With the Flow

The native and Spanish people who lived here knew how to use water in a smart way. Each mission had acequias (a-SEH-kee-yas). These ditches brought water from the San Antonio River to the missions, mills, and farm fields. The acequias at Mission San Juan still provide water to farm fields in our park that grow food for San Antonians each year!

Think about how you use water daily. Where does your water come from?
(Use the internet to help you if needed.)



Follow the acequia! Complete the maze and circle the places you visit.



The best places to see acequias: Espada Aqueduct, Mission San Juan and Farm, Mission Espada, Mission San Jose's Grist Mill.



Section 3 - Nature is Everywhere

Hide & Seek

The San Antonio River is home to many plants and animals. Junior Rangers like you protect and respect all the creatures here. You might not find bison or bears, but we more than make up for it with birds, snakes, lizards, butterflies, and fish.

Take a hike along a park trail: Mission San Juan, the San Antonio River's Hike and Bike Trail, or even around the mission compound. Where have you walked?



Yanaguana Trail



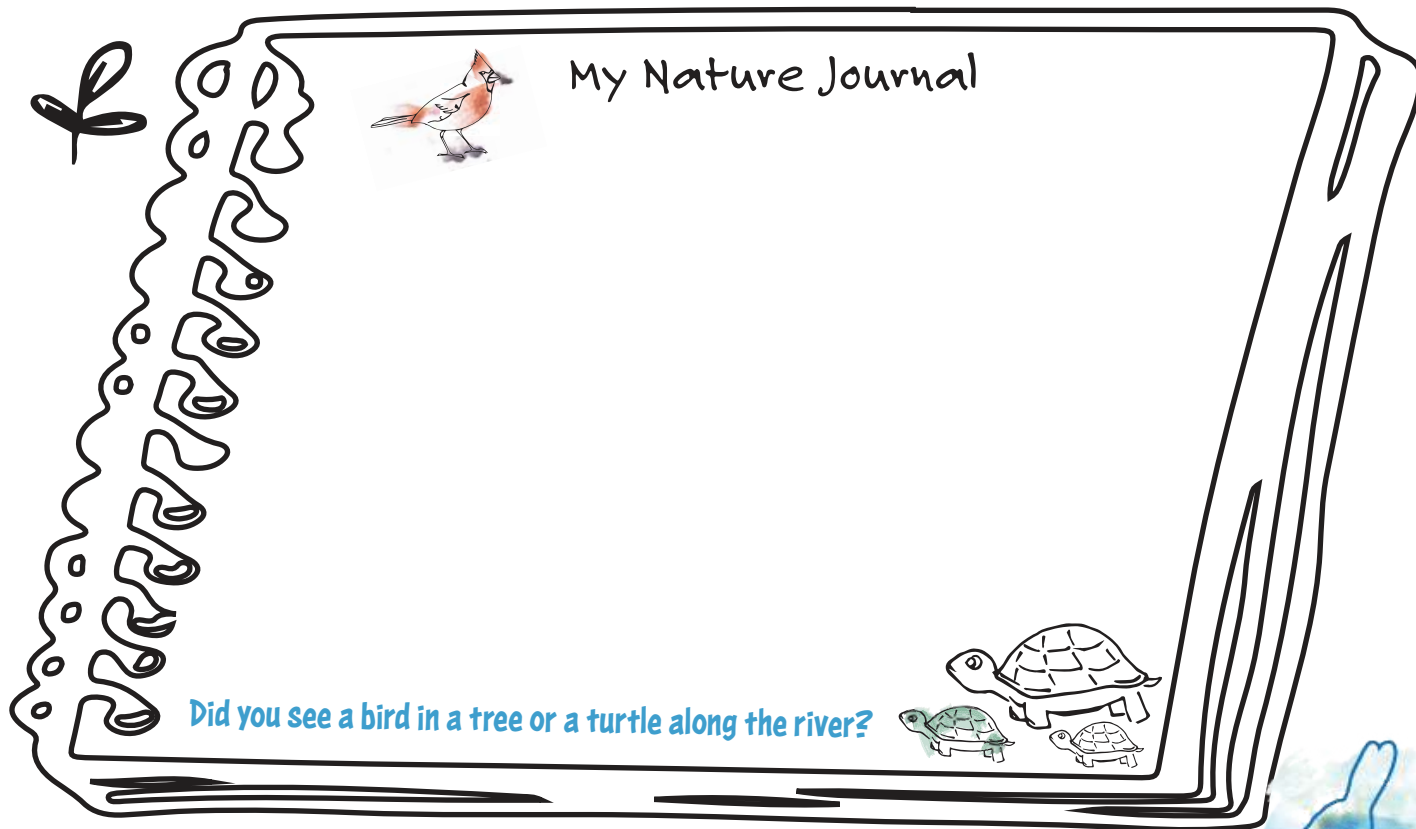
Acequia Trail



Mission San José



Draw some of the plants and animals you saw on your hike.



Section 3 - Nature is Everywhere

Refreshing Waters

Our history is connected to water.

The Spanish chose to build their missions here because of the San Antonio River. Today, along with the missions, the river is a symbol of the city.

Go to the river. If you need help, ask a park ranger for directions. When you get to the water, write down the following:

What is one thing that might have always been here?

What is one thing that people have changed?

Prior to Spanish colonization, the San Antonio River was known as **Yanaguana** or "Spirit Waters" in the Payaya language.

