STUDIES WEEKLY, ISSUES 11 AND 12 STUDY SHEET

THE MISSIONS

VOCABULARY

1. A **presidio** was a Spanish fort
2. A **mission** is a Catholic community where missionaries raised food and tried to convert people to Christianity.
3. A **pueblo** is a town, which was built near the California missions for the Mexican settlers.
4. To **forge on** means to move forward steadily or to create a new road or path
5. The word **obvious** means clear, plain, easily seen, right in front of your nose
6. **Adobe** is a clay-like material, dried in the sun and used to make bricks
7. **Tallow** is beef fat used in making candles and soap
8. **Agriculture** is the science of farming
9. **Pigments** are natural colors from plants and animals that are used to make paint
10. A **siesta** is a short afternoon rest or nap
11. **Blacksmithing** is the action of making and repairing things made of iron.
12. **Cornmeal** is ground corn

**IMPORTANT CONCEPTS**

1. El Camino Real is the Spanish word for Royal Road or King’s Highway; it was a road that linked the 21 missions. It stretches over 600 miles from San Diego to Sonoma. Missions were built so that you could walk from one to another in about a day’s time. It was a difficult journey.
2. The Spanish built missions, presidios and pueblos to make sure everyone knew that the land belonged to Spain.
3. The Spanish padres used the missions to convert the American Indians to the Christian religion.
4. Native Americans did most of the hard work involved in building the missions. In return they received food, clothing, shelter and protection.
5. Some parts of life at the mission were good, but some parts were difficult for the Indians:
   1. new language
   2. new religion
   3. diseases
   4. cruel treatment by the soldiers
6. When Mexico gained its freedom from Spain, the Mexicans started breaking up the missions. The church was allowed to keep the churches, but most of the farmland was given to Mexican soldiers and settlers.
7. In 1834 the Mexican government ruled that all of the California missions should be shut down.