STUDIES WEEKLY, ISSUES 12 and 13 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. **Adobe** is a clay-like material, dried in the sun and used to make bricks
5. **Tallow** is beef fat used in making candles and soap
6. **Agriculture** is the science of farming
7. A **siesta** is a short afternoon rest or nap
8. **Blacksmithing** is the action of making and repairing things made of iron.
9. **Cornmeal** is ground corn
10. The pueblos were laid out in the shape of a **square.**

**IMPORTANT CONCEPTS**

1. The Spanish built missions, presidios and pueblos to make sure everyone knew that the land belonged to Spain. The missions and pueblos provided food for the soldiers, and the soldiers in the presidios provided protection for the settlers.
2. The Spanish called the northern part of their land “Alta California” and the southern part was called “Baja California”.
3. The Spanish brought longhorn cattle to California, which provided settlers with some of their basic needs. They also sold and traded the cattle to get money for other things.
4. The Spanish padres used the missions to convert the American Indians to the Christian religion.
5. Native Americans did most of the hard work involved in building the missions. In return they received food, clothing, shelter and protection.
6. Some parts of life at the mission were good, but some parts were difficult for the Indians:
   1. new way of life
   2. new language
   3. new religion
   4. diseases
   5. cruel treatment by the soldiers
7. 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.
8. In 1834 the Mexican government ruled that all of the California missions should be shut down.