

El Rancho de las Golondrinas Quiz #4 Answers

1. What kinds of items might you find inside the Morada?

This morada has a chapel, dining room and a small inner storeroom. The works of art associated with the Penitente Brotherhood include life-size sculptures used during reenactments, crosses with symbols of the Passion and a figure of La Doña Sebastiana. There are also candles.

2. To whom did Catholic New Mexicans pray to when they wanted to ensure a bountiful harvest?

San Ysidro, the Patron Saint of Farming

3. What structure on site was used primarily for defensive purposes during the Spanish Colonial Period (1598-1821)?

El Torreón, a defensive lookout tower which could store shields and weapons

4. Why are some doors smaller than they are today (list as many as you can find)?

Limited resources, using less materials

Smaller doorways keep in warmth

Smaller doorways are beneficial for defensive purposes

5. What is the Santa Fe Trail and what year did it officially open?

It is a commercial, then military, highway between the U.S. and Mexico (at that time New Mexico was part of Mexico, not the U.S.). It officially opened in 1821, and ran from Independence, Missouri to Santa Fe, New Mexico.

6. El Rancho de las Golondrinas was more than a home. What types of activities took place here?

It was a “paraje” or resting place along two major commercial trails, The Santa Fe Trail and El Camino Real. Mercantile business was conducted here. Like today, it was also a farm and ranch, with livestock and crops to maintain.

7. There is an acequia madre (mother irrigation ditch) on site. Have you ever seen any other acequias? Where?

8. Who runs the acequia?

The acequia system is a rural form of government, as well as a cultural institution. The acequia community was overseen by a Mayordomo and managed by parciantes, or members of the community who all shared the acequia, taking turns using the water and being responsible for its upkeep.

9. What were sheep used for when they were first brought to New Mexico? What breed of sheep were first brought over by the Spanish settlers?

Initially Churro Sheep were brought along by Spanish settlers as a source of food. Eventually their wool was prized for its using in weaving and was later adopted by the Pueblo community.

10. What role did animals have in the threshing area?

Before the invention of farm equipment, animal labor was used to separate grains and seeds from harvested crops. Goats, sheep, horses or burros were made to walk about the threshing floor, sometimes pulling a threshing sled or simply stomping the gains until they separated from the stalks.