An Adventure in History!

Join us as we take a walk into the past...

Old Town San Diego State Historic Park, Department of Interpretation and Education

Cosmopolitan Hotel, 2020

We define history as a 'record' or 'story' of the past. Family history – those baby photos of you! – are a part of your past. This photo is part of San Diego's past or history. It shows the same hotel. Do you notice any changes ? Look closely at both pictures and see how many different things you see.

Cosmopolitan Hotel, 1800s

From the First People, the Kumeyaay, to the Spanish, to the Mexican era and eventually the Americans, San Diego has been and still is a culturally diverse community, rich in heritage and history. The pictures below show Old Town State Historic Park in the 1800s and today.
Notice any changes?

Old Town, 1800s

Old Town, 2020

The people who lived here in the 1800s, worked very hard. They owned land and animals. Children had to help the family with chores. You might have helped......
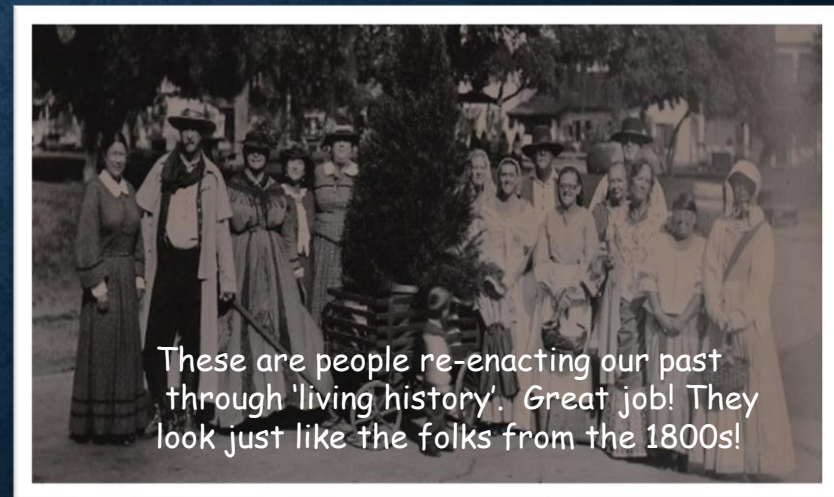

wash clothes

Churn or make butter

Cook a meal

These are people re-enacting our past through 'living history'. Great job! They look just like the folks from the 1800s!

This photograph shows some of the people who lived here in the past.

Machado-Silvas House (Commercial Restaurant)

Commercial Restaurant today

The Machado-Silvas home as it looked many years ago and as we see it today. It was a family home and a restaurant serving many travelers passing through town on horseback, stagecoach, and by sailing ship.

These pictures represent artifacts - objects made by people. They can be seen around Old Town San Diego State Historic Park. People who lived long ago may have made and used a cart or oven such as these.

An 'horno' or oven

A windmill

ACTIVITY: On page nine of your logbook, draw a picture that would help people in the future know how you lived today.

A 'carreta' or cart

Old Town San Diego State Historic Park helps to preserve our history. Some of the buildings seen today have been restored or rebuilt. Preservation and restoration are ways to keep our history for future people to enjoy. Most of these places are now museums and represent how the people of the past lived.
The past is our history – part of who we are today.

Washington Square – 'The Plaza', 2020

R-13

The Plaza
Old Town San Diego Cal

Schoolhouse, 2020

To complete this lesson, use your 'Picture Bingo!' game sheet. Did you notice some of these pictures in the slides during the presentation? Look closely and once you find a matching picture you can cross it out using an 'X'. Write down the number of the slide where you found each picture. Take a photograph of your finished game sheet and email to: OldTown.SanDiegoSHP@parks.ca.gov

Have fun and enjoy!