

CASA NAVARRO

state historic site

ACTIVITY GUIDE



INTRODUCTION

José Antonio Navarro was a well-known **Tejano** politician and **patriot** during the early days of Texas independence from Mexico. He served as a member of **Congress** under Mexico, the Republic of Texas, and the State of Texas. He was one of two native-born Texans who signed the Texas Declaration of Independence. He helped write the **Constitution** of the Republic of Texas and the first state Constitution when Texas joined the United States. Through his **leadership**, he preserved Tejano citizenship and voting rights. Navarro was also the first Tejano to write about Texas history. He wrote newspaper articles and a book about the role of Tejanos in the fight for Texas independence.

Navarro bought the property on the corner of Laredo and Nueva Streets in 1832. The land already had a one-room **adobe** cottage, or **jacal**, built on it. Navarro added two rooms to the **jacal** in 1854 or 1855. At this time he also built the main house and the two-story building on the corner. Both buildings are made of **limestone**. The original **jacal** became a kitchen and slaves quarters. Navarro lived in the main house. He used the other new building as an office. He sometimes rented the office space to other businesses.

Navarro's home was in the center of a Tejano **neighborhood** called Laredito. Laredito means "little Laredo." It got its name from Laredo Street, a busy road that connected San Antonio to the City of Laredo. Navarro built his house on this street. Navarro also owned a large ranch, named San Geronimo, but he called Casa Navarro the house "in which I actually live." He died at his much loved San Antonio home in 1871.

VOCABULARY WORDS

Look at the words and their definitions below. They are also written in bold letters in the Introduction.

adobe—a brick or other building material made of sun-dried clay and straw.

Congress—the legislative body of a nation. In the United States, it includes the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Constitution—the basic principles and laws of a nation, state or social group that determine the powers and duties of the government and guarantee certain rights to the people in it.

jacal (pronounced: hu-kall)—a small building with walls made of upright poles covered with clay or adobe.

leadership—traits of a person who is good at inspiring others to follow.

limestone—a sedimentary rock formed mainly of calcium carbonate, often the fossilized remains of small marine organisms.

neighborhood—a section of homes that share a style or materials and are lived in by similar people.

patriot—one who loves and supports his or her country.

Tejano—a native Texan of Hispanic descent.

WORD FIND

Find the words in the list below. (Hint: Words can also be written backwards.)

adobe	Congress	Constitution	jacal	Laredito	leadership
limestone	Navarro	neighborhood	patriot	San Antonio	Tejano

S A B S S E R G N O C P L O O
A C D Q E W D T X L F I J R V
N W U O S O O N W C M C A R D
A F S O B I T O W E M P C A E
N L P W R E X I S W S G A V Z
T K E T H K D T D F F T L A C
O T A A P Y O U M E T K G N N
N P C J D N Q T A S R Z L X U
I E D I E E C I Q O T A Z Y C
O U Z Q I R R T G N T L L Z K
B A C Y G B B S V K I I D J B
Q Z W W S K V N H R I M A C K
T V S M Y J D O L I R S U L S
T E J A N O Q C J F P I G D I
N E I G H B O R H O O D B G W

HEROES

José Antonio Navarro was a strong supporter of Texas independence. He has been described as a hero, a community leader and a patriot.

Based on what you know, what are other words you would use to describe him? _____

Who are your heroes? What words would you use to describe them? _____

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

José Antonio Navarro lived in the neighborhood of Laredito, which was a center of the Tejano community in San Antonio.

Think about the area where you live and the people who live around you.

Describe your neighborhood: _____

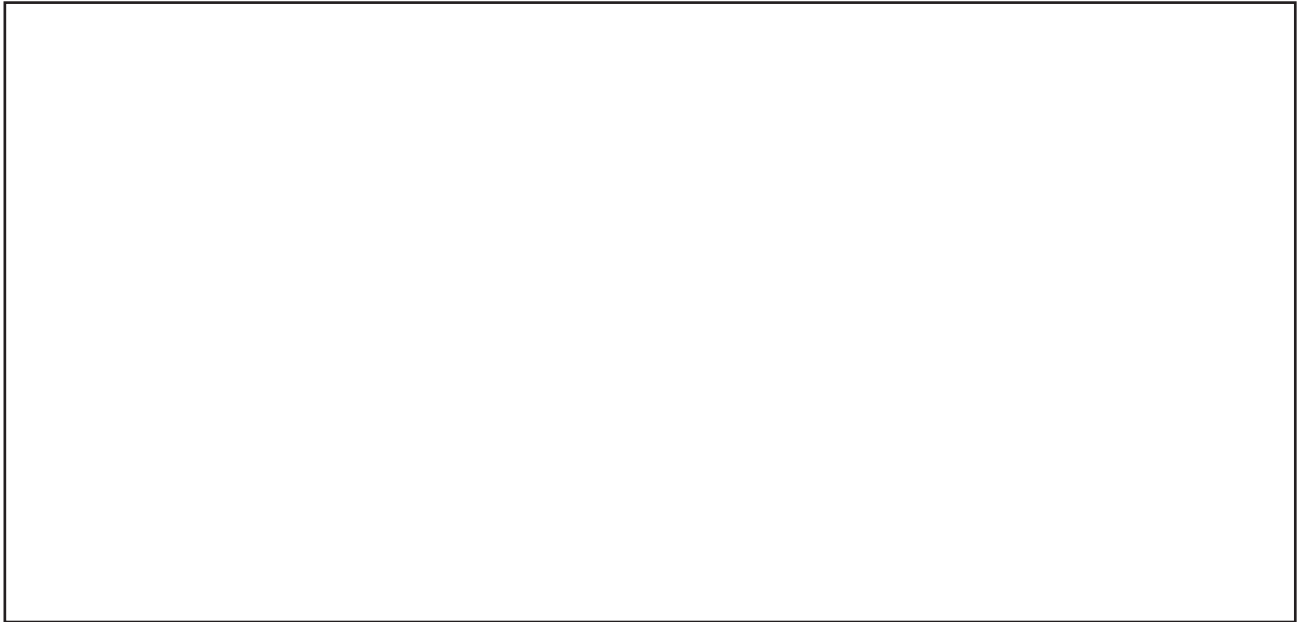
Who are the people who live there? Where are the places you go? _____

Draw your favorite place in or near your neighborhood.




SENDING A LETTER HOME

Writing was the most important form of communication for José Antonio Navarro. Imagine that you are sending someone a postcard about your visit to Casa Navarro. Draw a picture of something that you want to remember about the house on the front of your postcard.



Write a short note to a friend or relative about what you have seen in the space below. Remember to address your postcard, too!

<p>Dear _____,</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	 <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
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