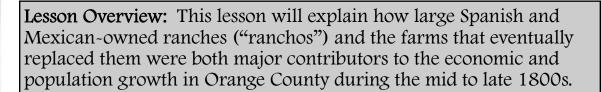
### Lesson 2: From Ranchos to Farming





#### **Expected Learning Outcomes:**

In this lesson, students will be able to:

- Identify at least three reasons why ranchos were important in the development of Orange County.
- Explain why farms eventually replaced ranchos in the county.
- Discuss the impact that the transition had on the economic opportunities and population growth of the county.

### Correlations to California's Content Standards:

- History-Social Studies: 3.1; 3.3; 3.5;4.1; 4.2; 4.3; 4.4
- English-Language Arts (Listening and Speaking): 3.1
- ◆ English-Language Arts (Written and Oral Language Conventions): 3.1
- Sciences (Life Sciences): 3.3

#### Materials:

- Map showing historic Orange County ranchos, map of current Orange County cities and rancho map with overlay of modern cities
- Copy of "hidden picture" rancho worksheet for each student
- ◆ Copy of *My Orange County* history book page for each student

#### Target Vocabulary:

Write these words on the board before each lesson to reinforce key lesson concepts:

- ♦ rancho
- agriculture
- drought
- ◆ ranchero

# Starting The Lesson – Activating Prior Knowledge:

- Review teacher background information for this lesson plan.
- Brainstorm with the students:
  - ♦ Draw two columns on the board. Above one column, write the word "ranch" on the board and above the other column write the word "farm."
  - Ask students to share words that come to mind when they think of farms and ranches. Records their answers under the appropriate column.
  - ♦ Help students identify the main differences they perceive between ranches and farms.

#### The Lesson - Learning Together

- Show students the classroom map.
  - ♦ Tell students that Orange County began as an area divided into large pieces of land called ranchos.
  - ♦ Explain what a rancho was, how settlers acquired them and what life was like on a rancho.
  - Ask students to identify what might cause a rancho to fail. Lead them to say "drought."
  - Explain to students how droughts and money problems led to the demise of the ranchos, but opened up the opportunity for establishment of farms.
- Class Discussion:
  - In what ways did ranchos help Orange County grow in size and in industry? In what ways did farms help the county grow in size and in industry?
  - What do you think might have happened if a drought did not wipe out

- the ranchos? What might Orange County look like today?
- Why do you think the farmers thought it was a good idea to grow crops and focus on agriculture in Orange County after a drought ended the ranchos? What worries do you think the farmers had about the success of their own crops?
- If you lived in Orange County in the 1800s, would you prefer to have lived and worked on one of the ranchos or on one of the farms? Why?

#### Check for Understanding/Assessment:

My Orange County history book page from this lesson:

- Distribute page to each student. Either alone, in small groups or as a class, students will complete the sentences using target vocabulary words from the lesson. Have students review and self-correct.
- Students add this page to their *My Orange County* history book.

# Beyond the Lesson – Extension Activity

Distribute hidden picture worksheet to students for in class follow-up or for homework.







### Teacher Background

The Mission Period in California lasted 65 years, from 1769 to about 1834. The rancho period overlapped with it, continuing on into the 1860s, when the agricultural industry began to take root in Orange County. Spain began its occupation of California with the establishment of missions, presidios (forts) and pueblos (towns). Beginning in the 1780s, the Spanish Government also began to allow retired soldiers and other settlers to establish <u>ranchos</u> on land not being used by the missions. These were not true land grants, only grazing concessions; under

Spanish law, all land was considered the property of the King.

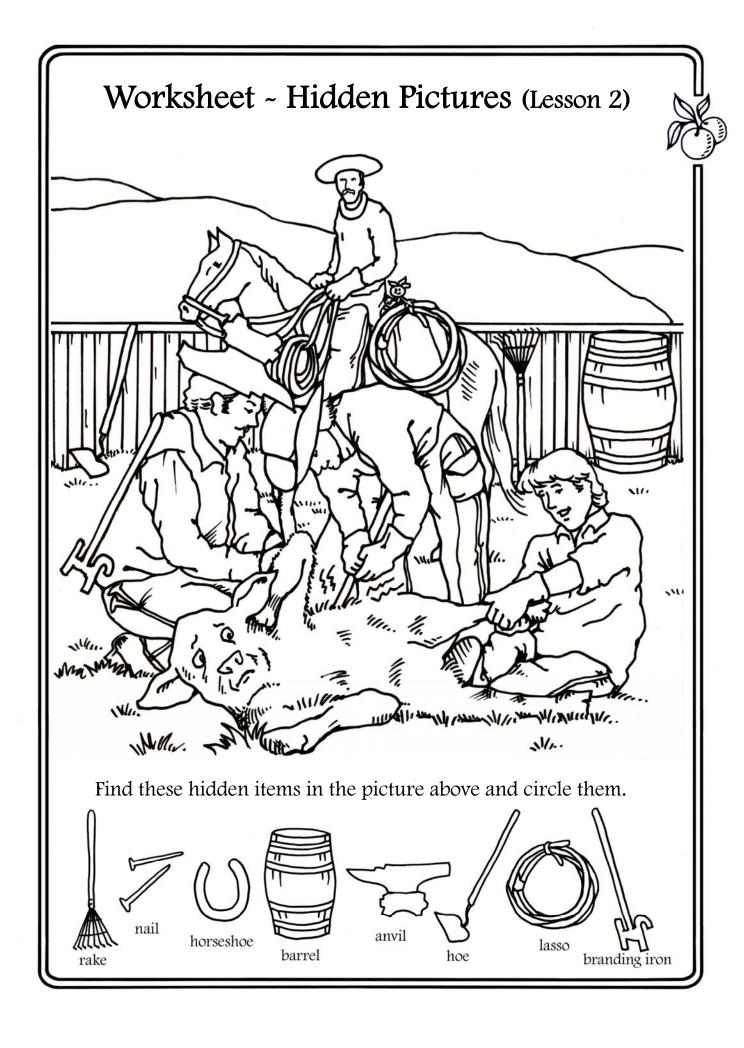
Manuel Perez Nieto held the first grazing concession in what is now Orange County. In 1784, he was given permission to graze his cattle over 300,000 acres between the Santa Ana and San Gabriel Rivers. Around 1800, another retired soldier, Juan Pablo Grijalva, petitioned for grazing rights along the Santiago Creek. In 1810, his son-in-law, José Antonio Yorba, and grandson, Juan Pablo Peralta received a formal concession for all the land along the east side of the Santa Ana River, from the Santa Ana Canyon to Newport Bay.

It was not until after Mexico broke away from Spain in 1821 that formal land grants were authorized. These grants were designed to encourage <u>agriculture</u> and settlement, and to reward retired soldiers and other public officials. After the mission system was abandoned in the early 1830s, more and more ranchos were granted in California, right up to the end of Mexican rule in 1846. By that time, hundreds of ranchos covered some of the most fertile lands in the state, and the hide and tallow trade was the area's primary source of income.

Then came the Gold Rush, opening vast new markets for cattle and sheep to feed hungry miners. But after California became a state in 1850, the Federal Government required rancho owners to prove their claims of land ownership before a special Land Commission. Some rancho owners were unable to show legal proof of property ownership. Others could not afford to pay the tax assessments levied upon them. Some of the cases dragged on through the process for more than 30 years.

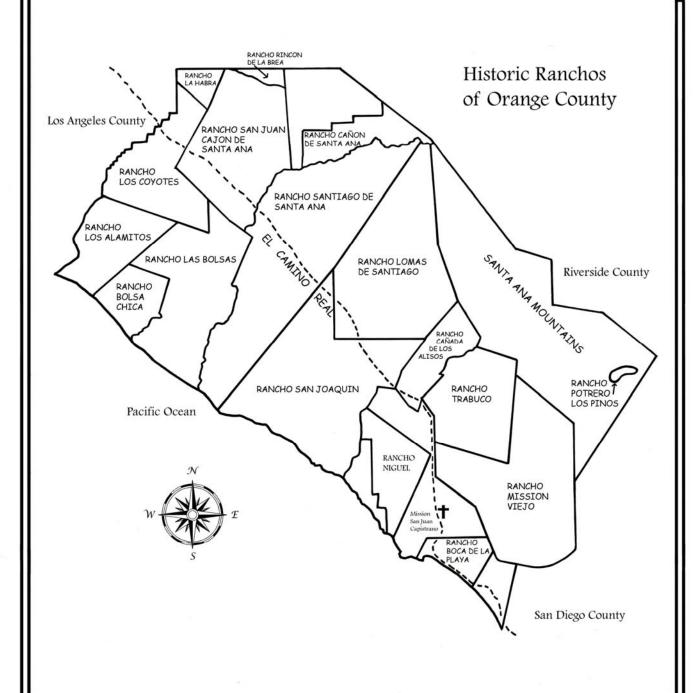
Then came the floods of 1861-62, followed by three years of <u>drought</u> that wiped out entire herds and left many <u>rancheros</u> (rancho owners) penniless. Ranchos were sold for debts, or lost to bankruptcy. Some were subdivided, and sold off in small tracts for farms and homes. This opened up opportunities for new settlers and new communities,

especially in northern Orange County, while in southern Orange County, several of the old ranchos survived on into the 20th Century under new American owners with names like Irvine, Moulton and O'Neill. Even today, cattle still graze on parts of the old ranchos.	
B B B	
Your Notes Here  Use this space to make notes about the lesson, additional resources used, teaching reminders for next time, etc.	
	' <b>II</b>



### Map of Historic Ranchos (Lesson 2)

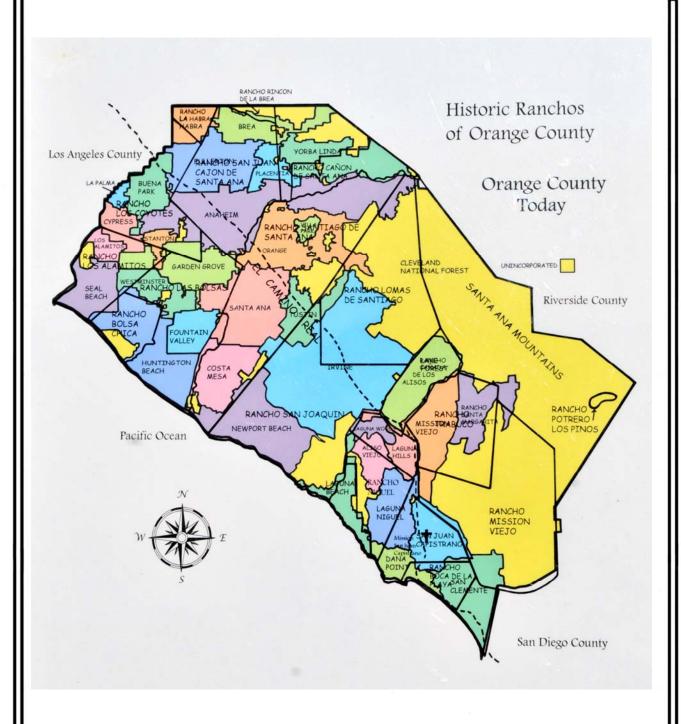




# Map of Modern Cities (Lesson 2) YORBA LINDA FULLERTON Orange County Today ANAHEIM CLEVELAND NATIONAL FOREST UNINCORPORATED COSTA MESA MISSION VIEJO NEWPORT BEACH LAGUNA NIGUEL SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO SAN CLEMENTE

### Overlay of Ranchos & Cities (Lesson 2)





# My Orange County History Book

### Lesson 2: From Ranchos to Farming





Ranchero Jose Juan Olvares ropes a steer on the rancho—in the 1800s

<u>Directions:</u> Using the vocabulary words from this lesson, fill in the sentences below. Use each word only once.

### ranchos • agriculture • drought • rancheros

1.	Spanish soldiers and other government officers owned large pieces of land,		
	known as, on which cattle and sheep were	, on which cattle and sheep were raised.	
2.	After years of flooding and then,	the ranchos	
	could not survive and were replaced by farms.		
3.	As more farms were established, people focused on	_	
	(growing crops), instead of raising cattle.		
4.	were the owners of the ranchos.		