



## Time Travel Quest 10

### Constructing a Church:

### The Components of a Spanish Florida Church

#### August Theme: **Architecture and Construction**

#### Historical Background

**W**hen looking at the central plaza at San Luis, two buildings stand out due to their large size. These buildings are the Council House (which we covered in a previous lesson) and the Catholic Church. The Church was one of the most important buildings at San Luis, especially for the village's Franciscan friars. The initial purpose for creating the mission of San Luis was to convert the Apalachee to Catholicism (the main religion in Spain), and then incorporate the Apalachee Province into the Spanish Empire. The church building -- and the Franciscan friars who provided services there -- played a role in this effort. Most of San Luis' religious ceremonies took place in the Church.



▲ *The Franciscan Church at Mission San Luis (oil painting by Edward Jonas)*

Churches were not only important for missions like San Luis, but also for most towns in Spain, Mexico, Cuba, and the rest of the Spanish Empire. While there was some variation among church style and construction in different parts of the Empire, most Catholic churches in the 17th century included an altar, pulpit, and nave. The altar was where most of the ceremonies were held, and the pulpit was where the priest would talk to those attending the church service. The nave of the church is the central part of the building where worshippers stood or kneeled. The word "nave" comes from the Latin word for ship, as

the ship was an early Christian symbol. Even though many churches were constructed in different styles and different locations over hundreds of years, there were some parts of a church that remained the same!

Through careful excavations, archaeologists at Santa Elena (a colonial Spanish settlement located on modern day Parris Island, South Carolina) have uncovered details of the forts there, as well as the Spanish town on the island. Recent remote-sensing surveys (using machines to "look" underground without digging) have revealed the locations of two missing forts, a church, and several houses. While there has yet to be an excavation of the church area, these remote-sensing surveys have provided the groundwork for future archaeological fieldwork on the island – especially the study of church practices in Spanish missions in the Southeastern United States. There was also a



▲ Shrine of Our Lady of La Leche, St. Augustine, FL

church in St. Augustine that was just as large as the church at San Luis. The size of the church often represented how large the population in the area was. The more people in the community, the more room was needed for them to attend mass on Sundays.

While churches were important locations for religious ceremonies in the Spanish world, there were other types of religious buildings as well. The most common were shrines and chapels. One example of a famous shrine and chapel is the Shrine of Our Lady of La Leche at Nombre de Dios. Nombre de Dios was a Spanish mission founded in 1587 near St. Augustine. The mission was initially set up to convert the local Timucuan tribe, but quickly became a popular pilgrimage site. Most pilgrims came to see a statue that depicted the Virgin Mary

which was brought from Spain in the late 16th century. The statue was a replica of a statue from a cathedral in Spain. The shrine was placed in a small chapel that could only hold a couple dozen people. It was much smaller than the church at San Luis which could hold thousands.

## Time Portal: Villagers through Video

We are going to use virtual time travel to talk with one of the villagers of Mission San Luis! Today, the Franciscan friar at Mission San Luis will welcome you into the church at Mission San Luis.

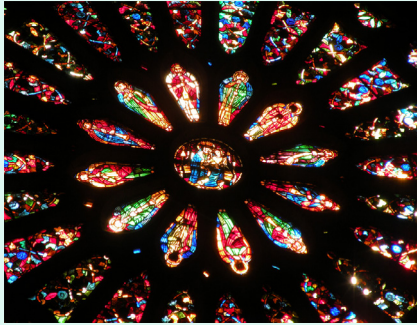
**Quest 10 Video Link:** <https://youtu.be/da03K74BouM>

## Quest Questions

Questions can help you focus your journey into the past!  
Here are some questions to think about that will help guide you in your exploration:

- What important type of building did the Spanish bring to Florida in the 16th and 17th centuries?
- Where would you find churches in 17th century Florida?
- Where was the Church located at Mission San Luis? Why was this location important?
- What are three important parts of a 17th century church? Who gave services at the church?
- What was the church at Mission San Luis made of?
- Are there any similarities and differences between churches in 17th century Spain, Florida, and other places in the Spanish empire? Can you name one or two similarities and differences?

## Quest Craft: Super Stained Glass



▲ Stained-glass windows in the Cathedral of Santa María, León, Spain  
[notesplusultra.com/2013/09/03/leon-cathedral/](https://notesplusultra.com/2013/09/03/leon-cathedral/)

**T**oday, we take for granted that most buildings we go into will have light. They either have electric lights or many large windows. Well, in the Middle Ages through the early 1600s, having lots of light in buildings was not as common! There was no electricity 400 years ago, and windows were very small because it was difficult and expensive to make enough glass to cover large ones.

But many *cathedrals* (principle church of a diocese) and some churches in Europe were able to have large windows with lots of glass. This includes many cathedrals in Spain! Large windows let in lots of light, which added to the feeling that this was an important building. Some of the glass in cathedral windows was even more special: it was tinted different colors! This meant that when sunlight came through the windows, there were many beautiful colors of light. This glass was often arranged to make colorful images, such as lessons from the Bible. While there is no evidence that stained glass was used in Florida churches before the 1700s, there were many examples in Spain. Imagine what a special experience it would have been to walk into a building with lots of beautiful multi-colored light shining through the windows!

Now you can make your own "stained-glass window" inspired by those in the cathedrals in Spain!

*If you would like to get complimentary supplies for this craft they will be available for pickup in front of the Mission San Luis visitor center carved doors from 11 am to 2 pm on Wednesday, 8/19/2020.*

### Supplies:

- Tissue papers in a variety of colors
- Construction paper (any color - pink is used here but black makes it look more like a true stained-glass window)
- Clear contact paper (one piece 9" x 6")\*
- Scissors
- Hole punch and string (optional - to make hanger)

\* Want to use wax paper instead of contact paper? Please see the YouTube craft example here:

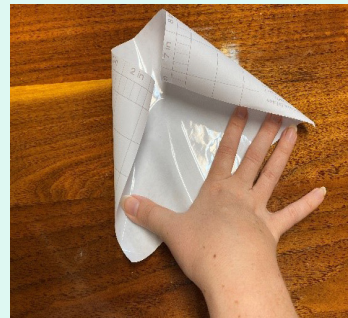
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kHax38AtEuI>

### Instructions:



#### Step 1)

**Cut different colors of tissue paper** into approximately 1/2 to 1-inch random shapes. A little goes a long way!



#### Step 2)

**Cut a 9" by 6" piece of clear contact paper** with the white backing paper still attached.

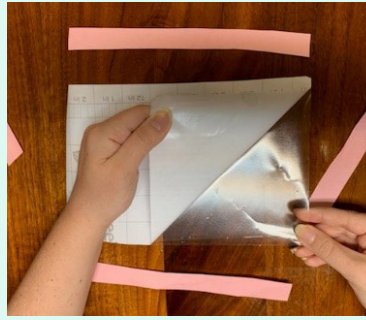


## Stained-Glass Craft continued



### Step 3)

**Cut four strips of construction paper.** Two strips should be 9 inches long, and two strips should be 6 inches long. (You can use the contact paper rectangle as a guide for length.) All four strips should be about 1 inch wide.



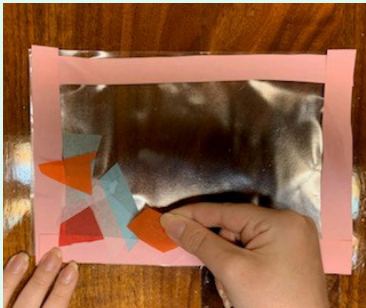
### Step 4)

**CAREFULLY peel back the white paper**, so that only the sticky, clear contact paper remains lying flat on a table. Make sure that the contact paper is lying **sticky side up**, so that it does not stick to anything. If it sticks to your fingers, it is easy to carefully remove it and keep it lying flat.



### Step 5)

**Place the 9-inch strips of construction paper on the long sides of the sticky contact paper.** **Place the 6-inch strips on the short sides** of the sticky paper. Make sure to press the strips down so that they stay firmly.



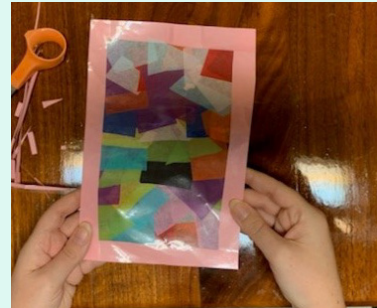
### Step 6)

**Place the shapes of tissue paper inside the rectangle border on the sticky side of the contact paper.** Use whatever colors you want! Keep the tissue inside the edge of the rectangular frame.



### Step 7)

**Cover all the sticky parts of the contact paper** (within the frame) **with tissue shapes**. See what patterns or designs you can make!



### Step 8)

Once you are finished putting tissue on your contact paper, **flip it over**. **Trim the edges** to make them straight, if needed.



### Step 9)

You can now either **tape your stained glass in a window** or use a hole punch at the top and hang it with string.



Enjoy the light shining through the colors!

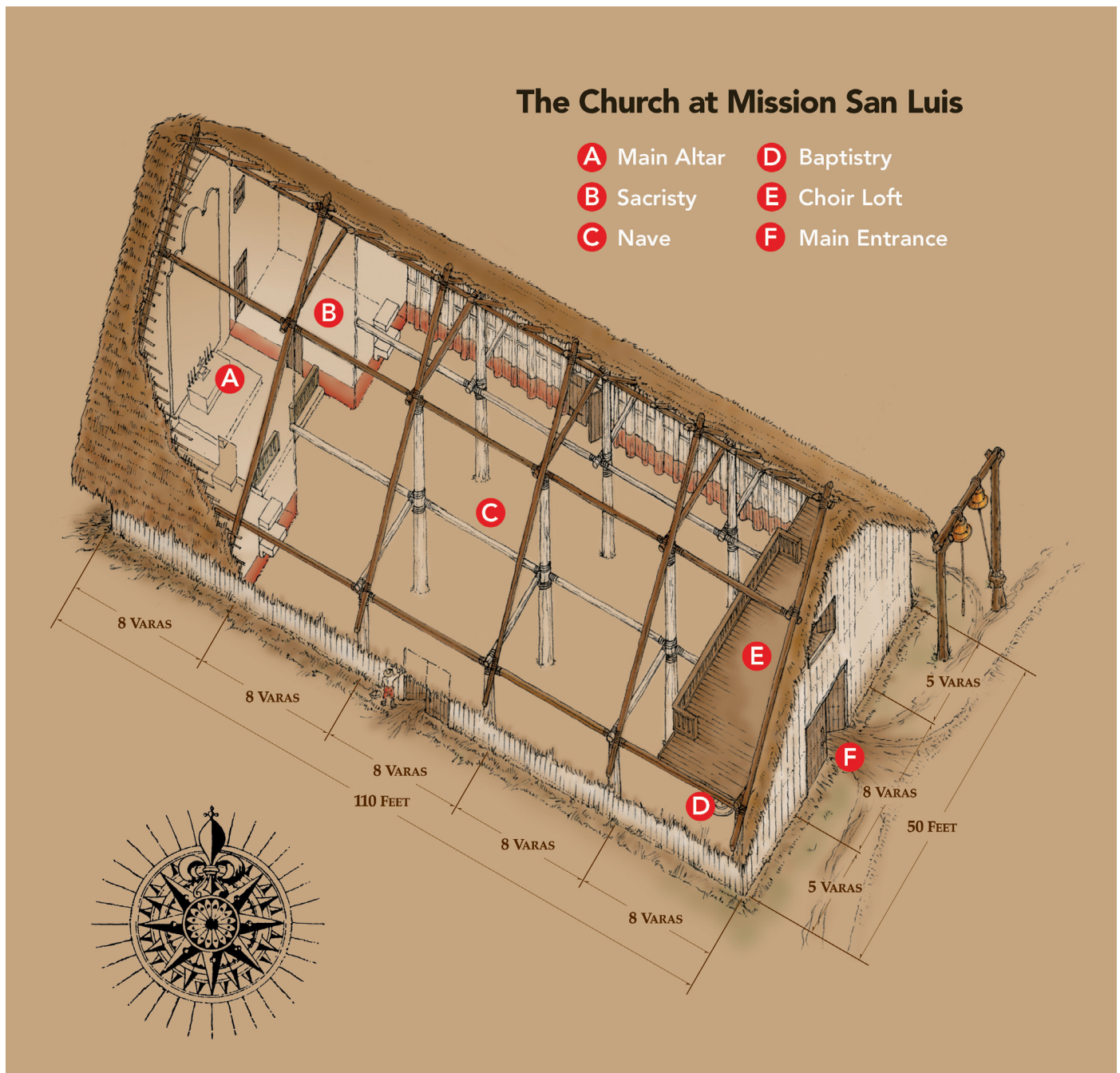
## Matching Game!

**E**very part of a church has a purpose! And every part of a church has a name. This includes the church building that was at Mission San Luis over 300 years ago. **Can you name all the locations within the Mission San Luis Church?**

Below is a picture of the Mission San Luis Church that allows you to have an inside view. Do you see that each part of the Church is labeled with its name?

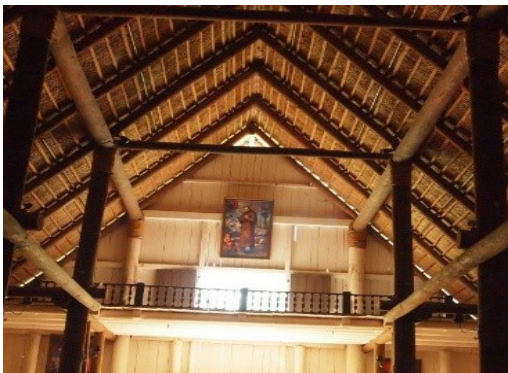
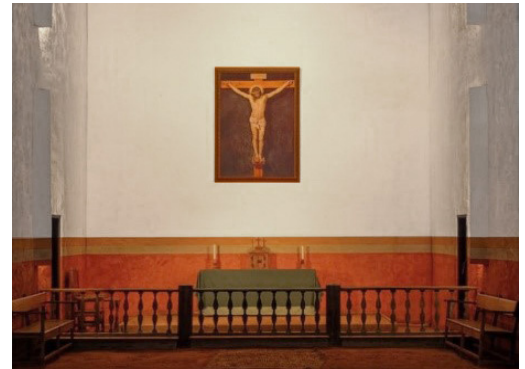
**On the next page, look at the the pictures taken of the locations inside the Church. Next to each picture, you will find a short line. On each of the lines, write in the correct letter (from the diagram below) that corresponds with each location shown in the photos.** If you need some help, you can check out a 360-degree view of the Church on our virtual tour: <https://www.missionsanluis.org/virtualtour/>

Once you have filled in all the blanks, check your answers with the answer key provided. Have fun!





Fill in the correct letter from the diagram that corresponds with each location shown in the Church photos below:



### Bonus Questions!

*Look at the Church diagram on page 5.*

- How long is the Church in varas, which is a Spanish unit of measurement (approx. 32-33 inches)? \_\_\_\_\_
- How wide in varas? \_\_\_\_\_
- How long is the Church in feet? \_\_\_\_\_
- How wide in feet? \_\_\_\_\_

## Additional Exploration Resources

**Your time travel adventure doesn't stop here!** If you want to learn more about this subject, here are some suggested resources:

- *Mission San Luis 360 Degree Virtual Tour – Church*  
<https://www.missionsanluis.org/virtualtour/>
- *Mission San Luis de Apalachee: A Teacher's Guide (Illustrated)*  
[https://www.missionsanluis.org/media/1099/01-teachers\\_guide.pdf](https://www.missionsanluis.org/media/1099/01-teachers_guide.pdf)
- *Mission San Luis Archaeology: Baptismal Font (Mission San Luis)*  
<https://www.missionsanluis.org/learn/archaeology/artifact-categories/pieces-of-baptismal-font/>
- *Unearthing a rare stone mission church in St. Augustine (by Stephenie Livingston, Florida Museum of Natural History)*  
<https://www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu/science/unearthing-a-rare-stone-mission-church-in-st-augustine/>
- *Saint Augustine, Florida - Shrine of Our Lady of La Leche (2019) – Video (ACG Travel Videos)*  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EXgM5o1DmgM>
- *Santa María de León Cathedral, Spain – Video (VideoVoyager.TV)*  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e6zmAZN\\_Q7Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e6zmAZN_Q7Y)
- *St. Catherine's Island Georgia (National Park Service)*  
[https://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/american\\_latino\\_heritage/St\\_Catherines\\_Island.html](https://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/american_latino_heritage/St_Catherines_Island.html)
- *The Archaeology of Mission Santa Catalina de Gualé: Our First 15 Years*  
(Chapter by David Hurst Thomas in the book, *The Spanish Missions of La Florida*, University Press of Florida, 1993)
- *Spanish St. Augustine: 1500s to 1700s. Houses of the colonial Spanish period, with a science based theme*  
(Lesson plan, University of Florida Digital Archives)  
<https://ufdc.ufl.edu/UF00067286/00001/1j>
- *Colonial History Bibliography for Young Readers (Museum of Florida History)*  
<https://museumoffloridahistory.com/learn/colonial-history-bibliography-for-young-readers/>

## Virtual Time Traveler Checklist

**Prizes** await your journey's end! For all virtual time travelers who complete four of the weekly summer camp *Time Travel Quests*, your family will receive free admission passes to Mission San Luis Living History Museum for a future visit! Steps to getting your prize are:

- **Complete at least four of the twelve Time Travel Quests** provided between June 15 and August 31, 2020.
- Fill out the *Virtual Time Traveler Checklist* (blank checklists can be found at:  
[http://www.missionsanluis.org/media/1742/virtual-time-traveler-checklist-2020\\_2ue.pdf](http://www.missionsanluis.org/media/1742/virtual-time-traveler-checklist-2020_2ue.pdf)
- Email the checklist to [Rebecca.Woofter@dos.myflorida.com](mailto:Rebecca.Woofter@dos.myflorida.com) or print and mail it to:

Mission San Luis (c/o Rebecca Woofter)  
2100 West Tennessee Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32304

FOR YOUR PRIZE: the **deadline is September 14, 2020** for completing and sending in  
your 2020 *Virtual Time Traveler Checklist*

## Answer Key (for Church Matching Game)

F  
Main  
Entrance



D  
Baptistry



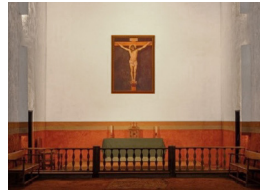
E  
Choir Loft



C  
Nave



A  
Main Altar



B  
Sacristy



## Bonus Questions Answers

- Church length in varas ( $8 \times 5$ ) = **40**
- Church width in varas ( $5 + 8 + 5$ ) = **18**
  - Church length in feet = **110**
  - Church width in feet = **50**