

People of Upper Newport Bay Classroom Activity



Timelines and illustrations can help students organize the sequence of events in local history.

SYNOPSIS

Using the Upper Newport Bay Time Line on the next page, construct an actual visual representation of the significant events which influenced the area.

OBJECTIVES

Students will construct a visual and written representation of the history of Upper Newport Bay for their classroom in order to understand the progressive human impact on the Bay.

MATERIALS

• butcher paper • markers • tape • Time Line (on following page)

PROCEDURE

- 1. Place the butcher paper on a chalkboard or other flat surface. You may wish to demonstrate the activity by placing the caption and date first.
- 2. Have students add to the timeline the significant events and dates listed in this section.
- 3. Have the students illustrate each caption to accompany each new segment of information. Students may wish to finish the timeline with the date of their field trip to the bay.



UPPER NEWPORT BAY TIME LINE



More than 2000 years ago local Native Americans inhabited the area now known as Upper Newport Bay.

- **1842** The parcel of land around the bay was awarded to Don Jose Andres Sepulveda. His land was known as Rancho San Joaquin.
- **1864** Rancho San Joaquin was sold to James Irvine and partners for 37 cents an acre. The land was used to graze sheep.
- **1870** Upper Newport Bay becomes a seaport when the Vaquero, a small paddlewheel steamboat, successfully navigates the bay to deliver a load of lumber.
- **1888** McFadden's new ocean wharf increased shipping traffic twentyfold. The turn of the century saw development of beach cities like Newport and Balboa. Upper Newport Bay was an open area used by hunters and other recreationists.
- **1919** Upper Newport Bay was officially named a tidelands area.
- **1940's** Irvine Company's Great Western Saltworks installed dikes and evaporation ponds to remove salt from the Upper Bay.
- **1969** The saltworks dikes flooded, dumping 100 times the natural annual amount of sediment into the estuary.
- 1970's Water-skiing in the Upper Bay; Newport Dunes, a recreational facility, was built.
- **1971** Ralph Nader wrote a report criticizing the use of the Bay, with reference to the damage of the valuable tidelands.
- **1973** Hopes to develop the Upper Bay into residential boat harbor fade when a land exchange made between the County of Orange and the Irvine Company is declared unconstitutional.
- **1975** Upper Newport Bay becomes a state ecological reserve under management of the Department of Fish and Game.
- **TBD** Class visits Upper Newport Bay.