

LEARNING TOGETHER #2

National City History



A. Think about what National City looks like today.

1. What is your favorite part of the city, or favorite place to go in National City?
2. Are there areas of National City that you haven't been to, but are curious about? Or places you would like to visit?
3. Have you been to the National City Waterfront area?

B. National City's location on the shores of San Diego Bay has influenced its growth and development throughout its history. From the Kumeyaay Indians, through the Spanish settlers and Mexican land grants, and still today, the bay has been the gateway to resources such as food and methods of travel.

Currently the waterfront area in National City has mostly evolved into a working waterfront that does not allow public access. Freight depots, ship repair and some Naval Station San Diego resources keep the waterfront area busy and provide jobs. However, the city has redesigned a part of the waterfront area around Pier 32 to provide a marina for docking pleasure boats, a boat launch, a park and a restaurant.

1. Do you know anyone who works on the waterfront in National City, or who works at Naval Station San Diego?

C. Compare the two pictures below, and use your own experiences in National City, to compare and contrast the waterfront area from the past with how it is today.

1. How are they the same?
2. How are they different?



The waterfront was the key to National City's prosperity before the railroad. In this Turner postcard, ships unload at the 17th Street wharf in the 1880s. The ship on the right may be the Eurydice, sister to the Star of India. ©SDHS #7692.

From "National City in Pictures" by Steven Schoenherr



Pier 32 Marina and Waterfront Grill in National City. (From visitnationalcity.com)