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FORT SELDEN

HISTORIC SITE



Welcome to Fort Selden Historic Site! Become a Junior Ranger by learning about the site and completing this booklet.

A Junior Ranger is someone who promises to help protect and preserve historic sites and their natural environments.



This book belongs to:



Be Trail Smart!

Please stay on designated trails. For your safety, do not walk inside the ruins or climb, stand, sit, or lean on the adobe walls.

Help preserve the site by not removing any objects you might find outside. This includes natural objects like rocks or plants and human made objects.

Keep your distance from wild animals. Be alert for rattlesnakes. Report any animals you see to the site staff.

Answers to the activities in this booklet can be found in the visitor center exhibits or outside on the walking tour. Have fun! Use your imagination as you explore and learn. If you need help—just ask a staff member!

“My name is Ranger Rita. I will be your guide as we learn about this site and its long history. People have lived, camped, or traveled on this site for 1,400 years! Can you imagine that!”



A Sense of Place



“Fort Selden Historic Site is a very special place. What do you think it must have been like to live here in the past? People in the past would have had different experiences from us. But some things might have been the same. As you walk around the site, use your senses to see, smell, hear, and feel.”

Find each of the following and tell what it is and where you found it.

1. Something fuzzy: _____
2. Something rough: _____
3. The feel of wind: _____
4. A good place for an animal to live: _____
5. Something that smells: _____
6. Something that makes a noise: _____
7. Something an animal eats: _____
8. Something pretty: _____

Family Life on a Frontier Fort

Soldiers weren't the only people who lived at Fort Selden. Officers at Fort Selden brought their families with them. As a result, there were also women and children living at the fort.



"Life for children on a frontier military fort was very different than your life. Read what life was like for children at Fort Selden and then make an 'X' over the picture of items that Fort Selden did not have when it was an active fort."

Living Spaces: There was no electricity. There were no televisions, telephones, or computers. Your source of heat was a fire from the stove. Light for nighttime was created with oil lamps or candles.

Travel: There were no cars or airplanes. People traveled mostly by horse, wagon, stagecoach, or by foot. Most camped along the trails for weeks and months at a time.

Communication: Letters were a common form of communication. These letters traveled by stagecoach or horseback across country, often taking weeks or months to get from one person to the other.

Clothing: Zippers and velcro hadn't been invented, so all clothing had buttons or ties. Many clothes were made and stitched by hand. There were no malls where clothing could be purchased.



Adapted from Fort Davis National Historic Site Junior Ranger Activity Book
Images courtesy of Vector Pocket, FreePik, dgim-studio, upklyak, and rawpixel

Exploring the Past

As early as 400AD Native Americans called the Mogollon lived and prospered here on the same land that would become Fort Selden centuries later. The Mogollon lived in earthen pit houses near trails that connected central Mexico with what is now New Mexico. Archeologists have found pieces of their pottery on this site.

From about 1400AD New Mexico became the primary homelands and hunting ground for various bands of the Apache including the Mescalero and the Chiricahua. They made their home base in mountainous areas including the Sacramentos and Gilas but freely traveled throughout southern New Mexico, southwestern Arizona, and west Texas.

In 1598, Spanish explorer Juan de Oñate created a trade and settlement route for the Spanish known as *El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro*, or the Royal Road to the Interior. During this time, the site was known as *Paraje Robledo*, an important campsite where travelers could rest and refresh themselves with water from the Rio Grande River located nearby. Later it became known as the Chihuahua Trail, an important international trade route. Spanish settlement changed the history of the region.

In 1848, New Mexico became a United States Territory. With an increase of settlers moving here living on the traditional homelands of the Apache, conflicts increased. The U.S government built Fort Selden in 1865 in an effort to bring peace to the region. For 25 years soldiers here protected settlers from Native American raiding and general lawlessness.

"Traveling in the past was hard. Most people traveled on animals or in wagons through the desert without roads. They also walked! How did you get here today?"

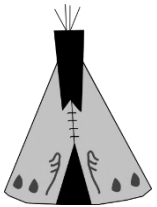
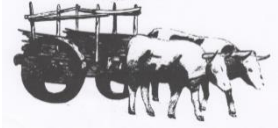


Fort Selden Timeline

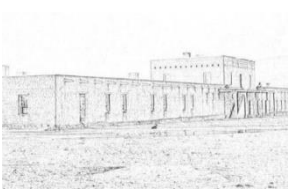


"A lot happened here before, during, and after Fort Selden was in operation. Use the page "Exploring the Past" to identify who lived here from oldest to newest. Draw a line from the pictures to the right number."

The Spanish travel El Camino Real



The Apache make this area their domain



Fort Selden is in operation



New Mexico Historic Sites oversees the preservation of Fort Selden



Mogollon pit house

1

2

3

4

5

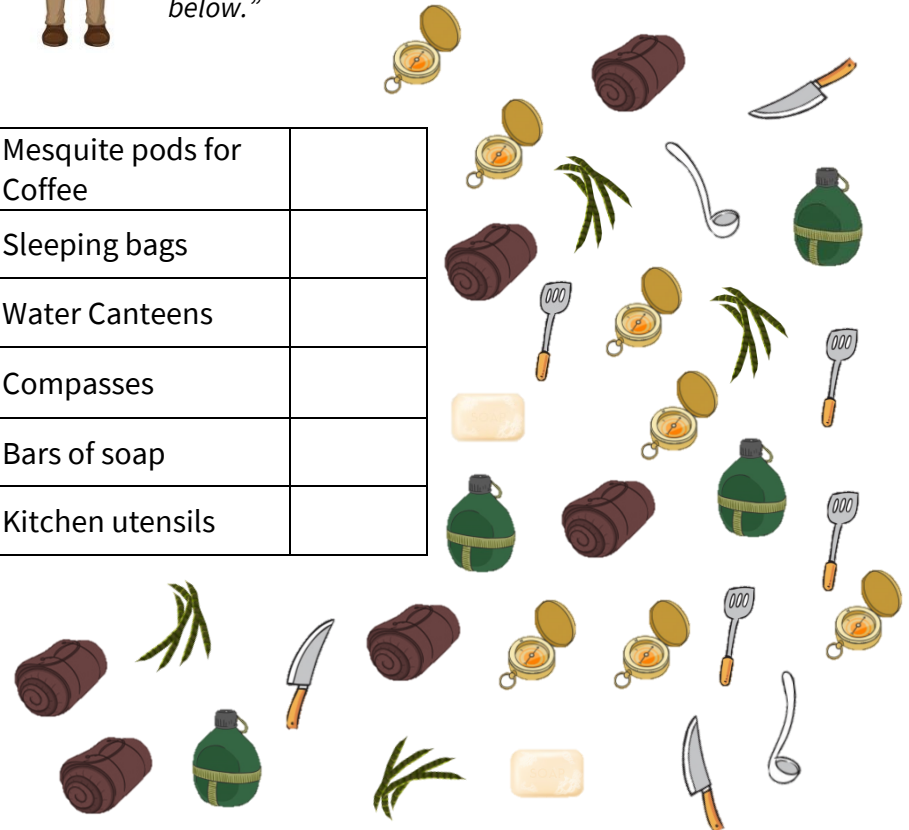
Buffalo Soldiers

Buffalo Soldiers were African-American only military units who served in the American West during the late 1800s. A total of 400 Buffalo Soldiers served at Fort Selden. The statue near the ruins commemorates the men who served as Buffalo Soldiers. One of the Buffalo Soldiers who served at Fort Selden was Sergeant Richard Anderson. He served as the Post Quartermaster Sergeant. Some of his responsibilities were managing the post's records, the distribution of money, and keeping track of all the equipment at the post.



"Sergent Anderson was responsible for keeping track of all the supplies at the fort. This meant keeping a count of every item on hand. Let's practice record keeping like the post quartermaster. Record the number of each item listed below."

Mesquite pods for Coffee	
Sleeping bags	
Water Canteens	
Compasses	
Bars of soap	
Kitchen utensils	



What Do Soldiers Need?



“The soldiers at Fort Selden spent a lot of their time away from the fort. They would respond to calls for help and protect travelers by escorting them between El Paso and Albuquerque. They also went on patrols all over Southern New Mexico. Sometimes soldiers on these deployments would be away from the fort for a month at a time! Circle the items below that a soldier might take on a patrol.”



If you were going on a month-long trip, what would you bring?

Survival in a Desert

Fort Selden Historic Site is located in the Chihuahuan Desert. This is the largest desert in North America. Lots of different plants and animals live around the Historic Site.

Native Americans, Spanish colonists, and Anglo-American traders traveling *El Camino Real* experienced the desert environment in all its harshness and beauty. One of the most important resources the desert provided was its plants and knowing how to use them.



“For hundreds of years many plants were used by people for food or medicine. Match the plant photos with their common uses and pronunciations. Look around the site. All of these plants can be found here!”

Agave



(YUH-cah) Used for food and medicine. Fibers in the plant can be used for weaving and roots can be used for soap.

Creosote



(ah-GAV-Eh) Used for food and medicine. Long stalks can be used as walking sticks.

Prickly Pear



(PRIK-lee pare) Cactus whose raw fruits and cooked pads can be eaten. Spines can be used as needles.

Mesquite



(me-SKEET) A small tree with sharp thorns and flowers that bloom into bean pods. Can be used in food and medicines.

Yucca



(KREE-uh-soht) A small shrub with the smell of rain when rubbed between palms.

Mogollon Pottery

“Everyday you use bowls and plates to hold the food you eat and store. These are probably made out of plastic, paper, or glass. The Mogollon made their containers from clay. The most famous of their pottery are the black-on-white pottery of the Mimbres. Other pots are painted with a reddish-brown color. They decorated them with geometric shapes and would tell stories through the images on the pottery. Sometimes pottery pieces can still be found here at Fort Selden. If you find some, be sure to leave it where you found it. Don’t pick it up!”



Design and draw your own pottery below.

Fort Bingo

“Locate the places and objects in the squares on this page. Once you find the places and objects, mark an “X” on the BINGO-card picture. Cross them off only when you see them. Once you mark four found objects or places in a row (can be across, down, or diagonal) you win! Or fill the entire card just for fun!”



Scavenger Hunt

“Use the Fort Selden Walking Tour to fill in the missing blanks below. If you don’t have a Walking Tour, be sure to ask a staff member for one. Once you’ve completed all the missing pieces, use the letters with a number below to answer the question at the bottom of the page.”



1. The _____₂ _____₈ lived in earth and wood pit houses.
2. The Post Sutler’s, or Post Trader’s, Store was also known as The Fort Selden _____₁ _____₃ _____.
3. Buffalo Soldiers played key roles in dangerous deployments to particularly active combat zones like the San _____₉ _____₇ _____₅ _____₄ _____ and ranches near it.
4. Adobe is a construction material made of clay dirt, sand, and organic materials such as _____₁₀ _____₆ _____ and water.

Fort Selden Historic Site is located in the modern day community of Radium Springs. Radium Springs got its name as a result of these natural features.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Apache Games

According to the Mescalero Apache Tribe, games have long been an important part of Apache culture. Apache people were kind to their children. They taught them good manners, kindness, fortitude, and obedience.



“The games below are traditional games Apache children play. They help develop coordination, balance, and strength. Find a stick and/or a rock wherever you are. Grab a friend and have fun!”

Toe Toss Stick:

To play this game, you’ll need a stick. To set up play, make a mark on the ground. Then stand behind that mark and balance the stick on your toe. The goal is to toss the stick as high as you can and have it land on that mark.

Foot Toss Ball:

To play this game, you’ll need a stone or a rock. To set up play, balance the stone on your toes. You can either play to see who can toss the stone or rock the farthest, or who can toss the stone or rock the highest.

Kids can use lighter stones or rocks while adults can use heavier stones or rocks. Play against one another!

Be sure to have fun playing together!!

¡Habra Español!

“As travelers came up El Camino Real from Mexico they brought with them a new written and spoken language called Spanish. Search for the Spanish words related to El Camino Real listed below and circle the ones that you find. Words can be found forward, backward, and diagonal.”



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

CARETTA (wagon)
 JORNADA (journey)
 MUERTO (death)
 PARAJE (campsite)
 PUEBLO (town)
 RIO GRANDE (big river)

TIERRA (land)
 CAMINO (road)
 HORNO (oven)
 ROBLEDO
 MAIZE (corn)
 ADENTRO (indoors)

Camino Real Parajes



“People traveling El Camino Real could only travel about 10 miles per day. This is because both people and animals walked the trail. This meant that all along the trail there had to be places where people could stop and rest. These stops were sometimes villages, pueblos, missions, and parajes (campsites). This map shows just some of the stopping places along El Camino Real. Look at the map below. Find the campsites that are listed to the left of the map and circle them.”

Robledo
 Paraje Fra Cristobal
 Peralta
 Bosquecito
 Pajarito
 Engle
 Ohkay Owengheh
 Fort McRae
 San Marcial

