
LIFE ON THE FRONTIER



Activity Packet

Teacher's Note

This Activity Packet has been designed to prepare the student for the field trip to Fort Scott. The activities will give the student an introduction to the site's history and the types of people who lived at the fort. If you find that the reading on the introductory activity is too difficult, you may wish to read it to them. Included in the packet is a cut-out dragoon hat that the students could put together and wear to the site on the day of their program. Feel free to use these activities however you like.

Included is a history hunt which you can use on site if you would like.

Answer Key

for activities

Introductory Activity

Civil War-Cannon-Union Army
National Park Service-Arrowhead-Preserve and Protect
Bleeding Kansas-Kansas Map-Free State vs. Slave State
Permanent Indian Frontier-Indian-A Promise to the Indians
Railroads-Locomotive-Farmers attacked workers.

Dragoons vs. Infantry

Answers could include

One rides on horse, one walks
Different weapons
Different uniforms

People of the Fort

Officer and Wife-List 2
Sutler-List 4
Laundresses-List 1
Surgeon-List 3

Introduction to Fort Scott

Activity Sheet (Previsit)

Instructions-Read the following story and then do the activity on the back of the page.

Fort Scott was built over 150 years ago. That was long before your parents and grandparents were born and 19 years before the Civil War started. The army started building the fort in 1842.

Fort Scott was one of many forts along the **Permanent Indian Frontier**. The fort was built to keep Indians and settlers off each other's land, and to stop the Indians from fighting among themselves. The **Indians were promised** that no white people would be allowed to live on their land.

There were two kinds of soldiers at the fort: infantry and dragoons. The infantry were the foot soldiers. They formed the main part of the frontier army. They stayed at the fort and did most of the work while the dragoons were out on patrol. The dragoons were trained to fight on horseback and on foot. They kept peace with the Indians. They also guarded the Oregon and Santa Fe Trails, and both dragoons and infantry fought in the Mexican-American War.

By 1853, the army did not need a fort here any more. The army left Fort Scott and sold the buildings. The fort became the town of Fort Scott. Many people with homes in the town of Fort Scott wanted Kansas to be a **slave state**. Most of the people living on farms outside the fort did not want slavery in Kansas at all. They wanted Kansas to be a **free state**. Because people in Fort Scott and the rest of Kansas disagreed about slavery, they started fighting about it. The fighting lasted about six years. Because of this fighting, Kansas was given the nickname **Bleeding Kansas**.

By 1861, the fighting had stopped, and Kansas became a free state without slavery. The **Civil War** began that year. The **Union Army** returned to Fort Scott in 1861 and set up a supply base and training ground. Soldiers came through Fort Scott to obtain supplies such as food, clothing, horses, and equipment before going to battle. Several men were trained or taught how to be soldiers. There was also a hospital and a military prison in the town of Fort Scott.

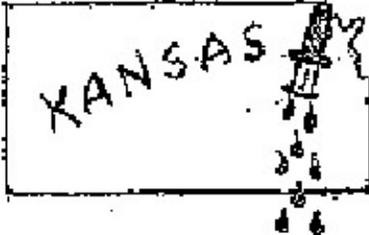
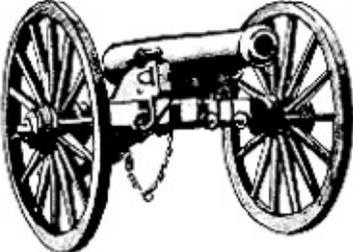
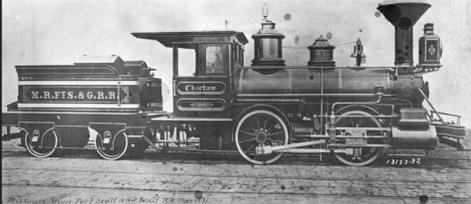
The army left in 1865, but came back again in 1869 to protect workers who were building a **railroad**. **Farmers were attacking the workers** because they did not want the railroad being built on their land.

Today the **National Park Service protects and preserves** the buildings of the fort. On the outside, the buildings look like they did in the 1840s. Several of the buildings look historic on the inside as well. The fort's story lasts for 31 years from 1842 to 1873. This includes the history of the opening of the West, "Bleeding Kansas," and the Civil War.

Study the words and phrases that are in bold. Then do the activity on the back of the page.

History of Fort Scott

Using five different colors, draw a line from the word or phrase in column 1 to the picture that it matches in column 2 and the matching word or phrase in column 3.

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Civil War		A Promise to the Indians
National Park Service		Farmers Attacked Workers
Bleeding Kansas		Union Army
Permanent Indian Frontier		Preserve and Protect the Resources
Railroads		Free State vs. Slave State

People of the Fort

Activity Sheet (Previsit)

The people who lived at the fort formed a community.

- Officers were in command of the fort. They and their wives lived in the fanciest houses and wore expensive clothes.
- The post surgeon was responsible for the medical care of the soldiers.
- The sutler was a storekeeper who ran a store for the benefit of the soldiers.
- Laundresses washed the soldiers' clothes.
- The soldiers themselves built most of the buildings and did other work duties such as chopping the wood, guarding the fort, fixing the military road and working in the gardens.

In the row below are pictures of several people who lived at the fort.

In the bottom row is a list of words that describe the jobs of each of these people.

Draw a line matching the pictures to the lists.



Officer and Wife



Sutler



Laundresses



Surgeon

lye soap
washtubs
scrub boards
shirts
soapy water

society
commanding the post
elegance
spacious houses
servants

scalpel
bone saw
disease
amputation
hospital

storekeeper
furs
trader
food
prices

Dragoons vs. Infantry

Activity Sheet (Previsit)

Both infantry and dragoon soldiers were stationed at Fort Scott in the 1840s.
Can you find three differences between the two soldiers?



Infantry Soldier



Dragoon Soldier

1.

2.

3.

History Hunt

Activity Sheet (On-site-for museum tour)

1. Fort Scott was one of a line of forts established to protect what was known as the “_____.” (3 words)
2. The fort was officially founded in what year? _____
3. The President of the United States featured in the Westward Expansion exhibit. He dreamed of a nation that would stretch from coast to coast. _____ (2 words)
4. Two overland trails the dragoons helped to protect were the _____ Trail and the _____ Trail.
5. In 1843, the dragoons were sent out to apprehend renegades from _____.
6. In 1845, the dragoons marched to South Pass, completing a march of _____ miles in just _____ days.
7. In 1846, soldiers stationed at Fort Scott left to participate in the _____ War.
8. The fort was named after this general who commanded the invasion of Mexico.
_____.
9. After the Mexican War was over, the boundary of the United States expanded all the way to the _____ Ocean.
10. “_____ Kansas” is the term applied to the state of violence and unrest that existed in this region just prior to the Civil War.
11. The issue that people were fighting over was whether _____ should be legal or not.
12. Was the town of Fort Scott a pro-slavery or anti-slavery center during the 1850s? _____
13. This man raided Fort Scott in 1858. _____
14. The _____ Massacre was plotted by pro-slavery advocates and occurred not far north of Fort Scott.
15. What side was Kansas on during the Civil War, Union or Confederacy? _____
16. Hundreds of horses and mules and thousands of soldiers could be found near Fort Scott, because it was an important _____ for troops operating in the area. (Hint: look beneath Civil War map of Fort Scott.)
17. _____ soldiers were recruited and mustered at Fort Scott in 1863.
18. _____ was the largest Civil War battle in Kansas.
19. He was one of the leaders of the “Jayhawkers”. His name is on the poster used to recruit volunteers for the 1st Regiment of the Kansas Volunteer Cavalry . _____.
20. _____ was one of three structures built to defend the town in 1863.

History Hunt

Activity Sheet (On-site-for museum tour) (Answer sheet)

1. Fort Scott was one of a line of forts established to protect what was known as the “Permanent Indian Frontier.” (3 words)
2. The fort was officially founded in what year? 1842
3. The President of the United States featured in the Westward Expansion exhibit. He dreamed of a nation that would stretch from coast to coast. Thomas Jefferson (2 words)
4. Two overland trails the dragoons helped to protect were the Oregon Trail and the Santa Fe Trail.
5. In 1843, the dragoons were sent out to apprehend renegades from Texas.
6. In 1845, the dragoons marched to South Pass, completing a march of 2200 miles in just 99 days.
7. In 1846, soldiers stationed at Fort Scott left to participate in the Mexican War.
8. The fort was named after this general who commanded the invasion of Mexico. Winfield Scott.
9. After the Mexican War was over, the boundary of the United States expanded all the way to the Pacific Ocean.
10. “Bleeding Kansas” is the term applied to the state of violence and unrest that existed in this region just prior to the Civil War.
11. The issue that people were fighting over was whether slavery should be legal or not.
12. Was the town of Fort Scott a pro-slavery or anti-slavery center during the 1850s.? Pro-slavery
13. This man raided Fort Scott in 1858. James Montgomery
14. The Marais des Cygnes Massacre was plotted by pro-slavery advocates and occurred not far north of Fort Scott.
15. What side was Kansas on during the Civil War, Union or Confederacy? Union
16. Hundreds of horses and mules and thousands of soldiers could be found near Fort Scott, because it was an important supply depot for troops operating in the area. (Hint: look beneath Civil War map of Fort Scott.)
17. Black soldiers were recruited and mustered at Fort Scott in 1863.
18. Mine Creek was the largest Civil War battle in Kansas.
19. He was one of the leaders of the “Jayhawkers”. His name is on the poster used to recruit volunteers for the 1st Regiment of the Kansas Volunteer Cavalry . Jennison.
20. Lunette Blair was one of three structures built to defend the town in 1863.