

Old U. S. Jail, Fort Smith, Ark.



Fort Smith National Historic Site Junior Ranger Activity Booklet



This book belongs to: _____



Welcome to Fort Smith!

In 1817, the government ordered a special unit of the United States Army, known as the Rifle Regiment, to come to this area. Their assignment was to stop the fighting between two groups of Indians, the Osage and the Cherokee. They set up a military post and named it Fort Smith. Later the Army's job changed and the fort became a place for other troops to get supplies. For over 50 years soldiers, and their families, lived at the fort. After the army left, the federal court moved to Fort Smith and used one of the military buildings as the courthouse. The federal court was responsible for keeping law and order in Indian Territory (present day Oklahoma). Deputy marshals helped protect the local citizens from gangs of outlaws. The outlaws were then brought to the Fort Smith jail and appeared before Judge Parker in the courtroom.

As you tour Fort Smith National Historic Site you will learn more about life at the fort, Indian Territory, the federal court, deputy marshals, and outlaws.

What is a Junior Ranger?

A Junior Ranger learns about the history and nature at National Parks and helps Park Rangers take care of and protect the parks. The National Park Service also helps people to enjoy the places they protect. We hope that you will enjoy learning about Fort Smith and will help us protect the park so others can enjoy it in the future.

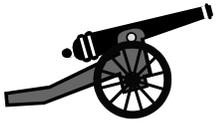
How to become a Fort Smith National Historic Site Junior Ranger

Complete four activities for your age group in this booklet. Each activity has symbols in the left hand corner to help you find the ones for your age group. You can have an adult or friend help you with the activities.



Each activity sheet tells you where you need to do the activity. Some are in the Visitor Center and others are outside. A park brochure and exhibit guide will help you find the activity location. You can ask for those at the front desk.

After you finish your four activities, show your booklet to a Park Ranger at the front desk. He or she will help you check your answers and then present you with an official Fort Smith National Historic Site Junior Ranger badge.



Different Uses at Different Times



For ages 7-9 and 10-12



Activity Location:
Ramp Room
"The Evolution of a Building"

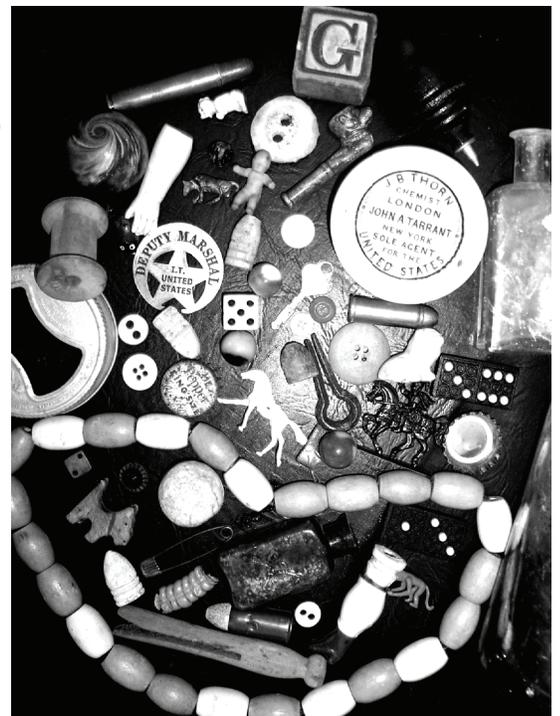
What was this building used for from 1872-1887?

Look at the 1891-1920 photograph. What has been added or changed to the building?

Who used the building from 1920-1961?

When did the building become part of the National Park System? Who came to Fort Smith that year?

The items in the case (shown on the left) were found when the park restored the building. Some of these items are also shown in the photo to the right. Which ones can you find in this photo that are also in the case? How do you think the items were used and who might have used them? Do we use similar objects today?



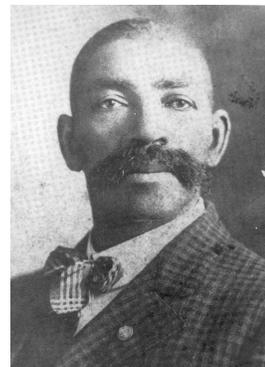


Scavenger Hunt

Up to age 6

Activity Location:
First and Second Floor
Exhibits

As you enter each room, try to find as many of these objects and pictures as you can. Circle the ones that you see.





Fort Smith's First Jail



Up to age 6 and 7-9

Activity Location:
Hell on the Border Jail



Make a list of things you see or notice in the jail.
What might they be used for?

Sometimes as many as 50 men shared this one jail cell where they slept and ate. They were not allowed to go outside and could not open windows or doors.

What do you think it might have smelled like in here?

What do you think it might have been like to be a prisoner in this jail?

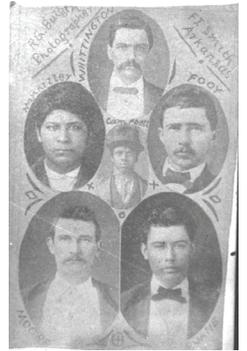


"Hell on the Border"



Ages 7-9 and 10-12

Activity Location:
Ramp Room



How many prisoners did each cell hold?

What were the fireplaces used for?

What was the "box" room used for?

Where were female prisoners kept?

Who was responsible for pushing the federal government into building a new and better jail?

How did this person describe the jail?



U.S. Deputy Marshals

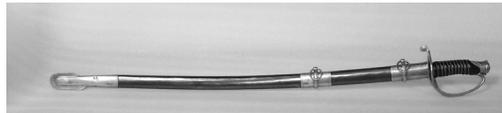
Activity Location:
Second Floor
Jail Exhibits



Up to age 6 and 7-9

Look at the exhibits on the U.S. Deputy Marshals and if you have time watch the film "It Took Brave Men."

Before going into Indian Territory to make arrests, a deputy marshal made sure he had the necessary tools for his job. Which of these would he NOT use or take? X through those five items.





Second Jail Scavenger Hunt



Activity Location:
Second Floor
Jail Exhibits

For ages 7-9 and 10-12



This man was charged with murder, found not guilty and later became a Deputy U.S. Marshal. Who was he?

Who did this bracelet belong to?



What crime was she found guilty of?



What are these?

Who was this woman?

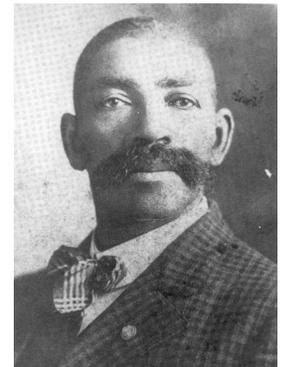


How did she spend part of her time in jail?



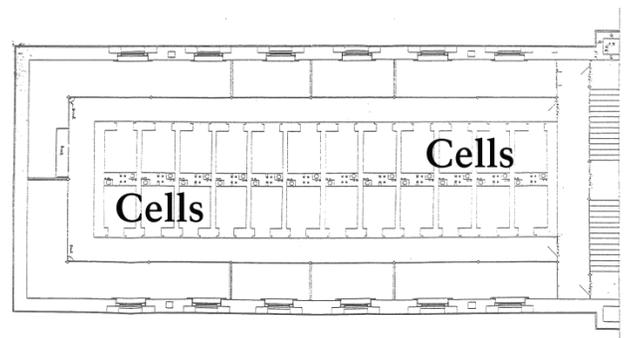
What were these used for?

Who was this man and what job did he have with the court in Fort Smith?



How did Deputy U.S. Marshals in Fort Smith get their badges?

What was the area that surrounded the cells called and how did prisoners use this space?





What They Left Behind



Ages up to age 6 and 7-9

Activity Location:
Agents of Empire room
"Domestic Life at Fort Smith"



These objects and pieces of objects you see in the case and drawers were found at the park. They were used by the soldiers and their wives and children who were living at the fort.

What can you find in this display?

Circle the objects (or parts of objects) you see.

Book

Key

Bottles

Marbles

Buttons

Pen

Candy wrapper

Plates

Coins

Thimble

Doll

Tin can

Eyeglasses

Watch

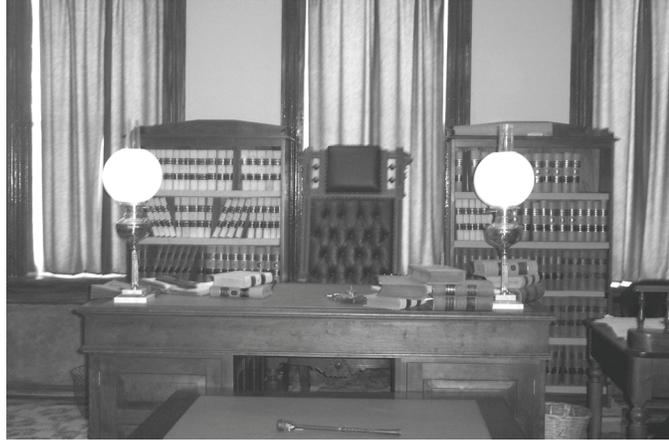
What else do you see?



Up to age 6 and 7–9

Activity Location:
Courtroom

Courtroom



Who would have sat in the big chair at the desk?

Who else might have been seated in this courtroom?

How many pictures of Judge Parker can you find in this room?

Count the number of stars on the flag in the courtroom.

Each star represents a: (circle the right answer)

State

President

Federal Judge

How many stars are on the U.S. flag today?
(circle the right answer)

38

50

52

The Federal Court



Ages 10—12

Activity Location:
Courtroom



Who was the judge that worked in Fort Smith for 21 years?

He was the federal judge for what district?

What positions did he hold before becoming a federal judge?

Can you find something in this room that he used before coming to Fort Smith? (hint: it's big)

What positions did women hold in the federal court?



What's Missing?

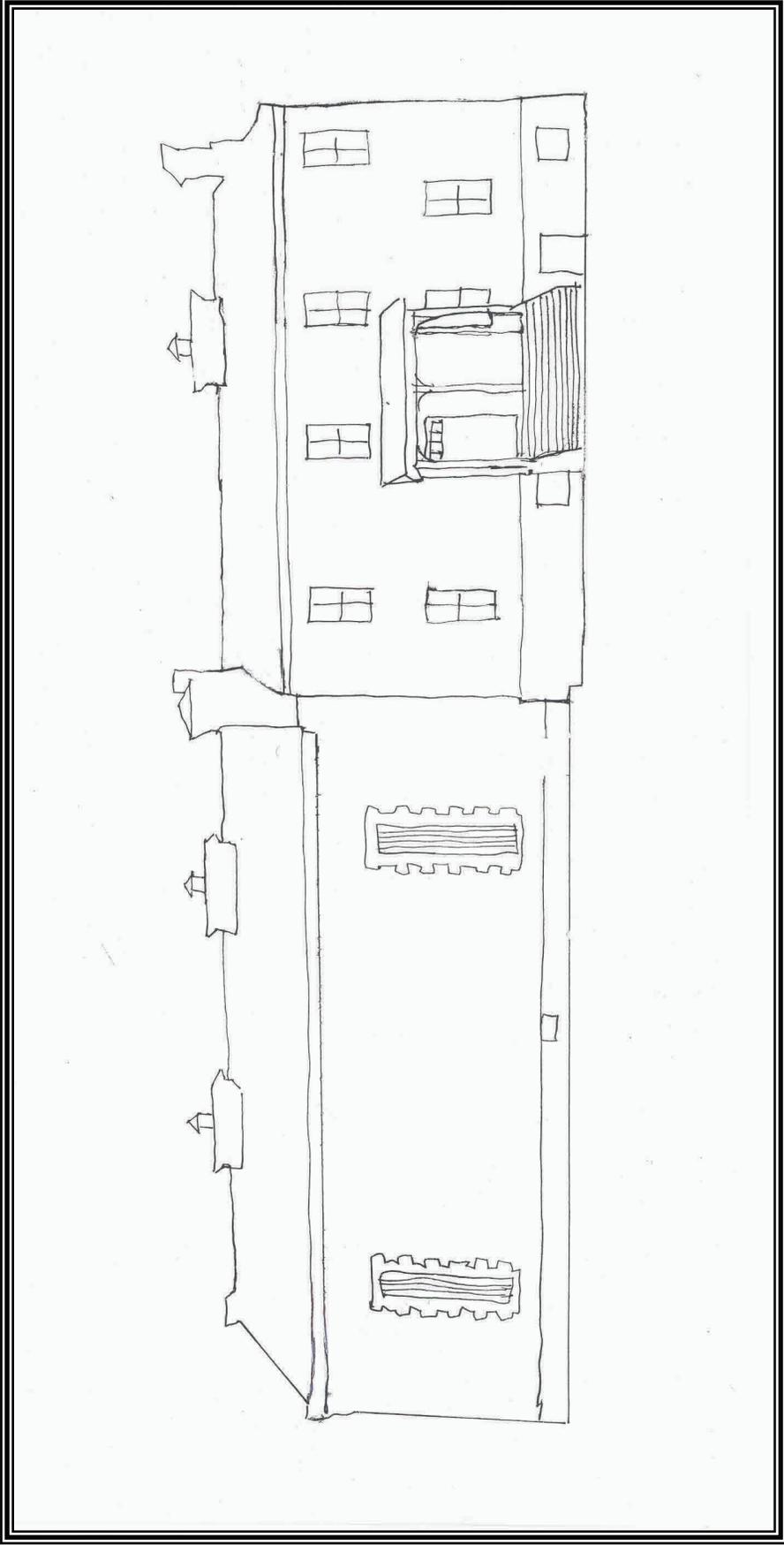
Activity Location:
Outside Visitor Center
East Side

Up to age 6 and 7-9

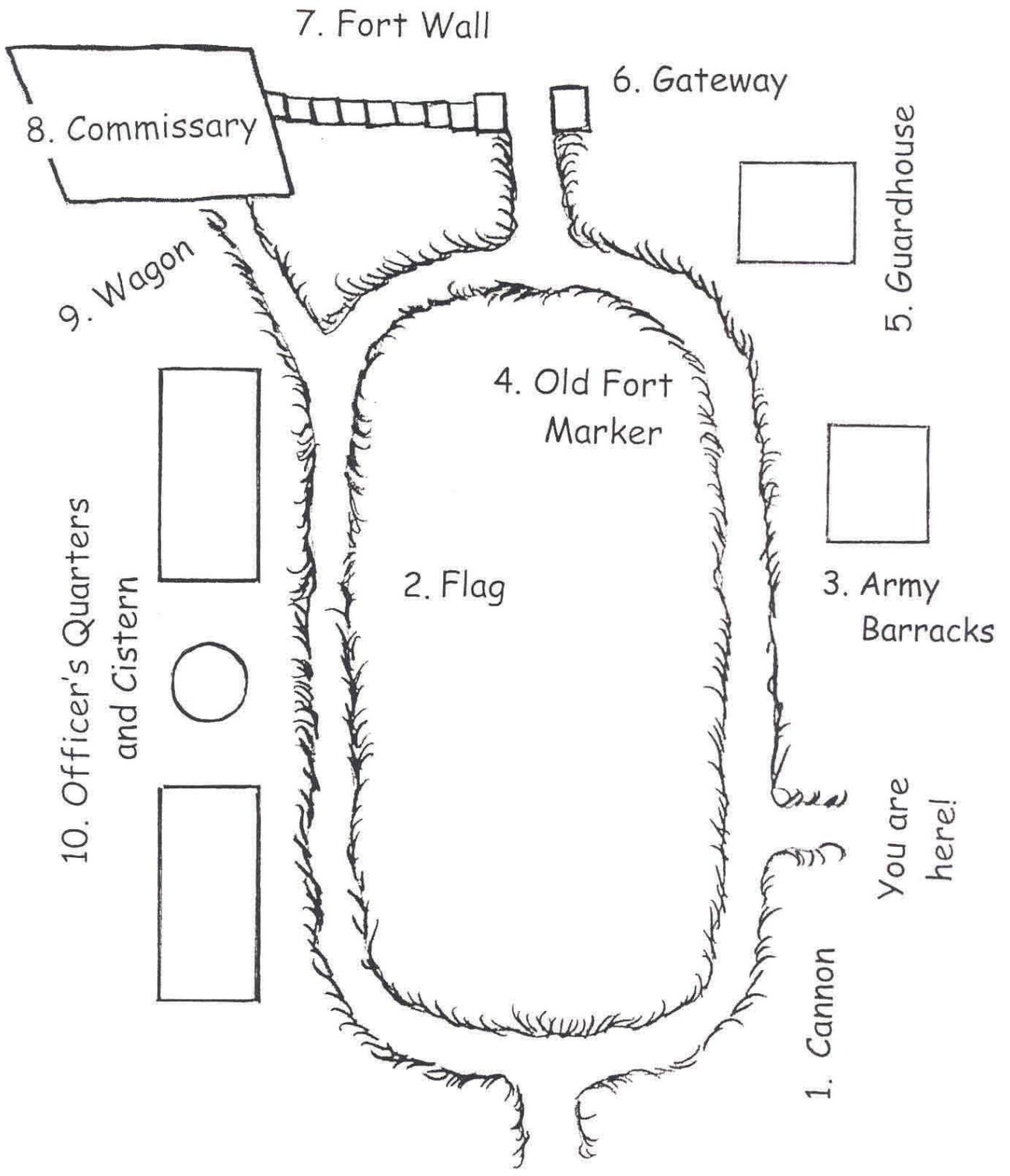


The buildings in front of you were used by different people at different times. On the right is the old army barracks where soldiers used to live. It later was used as a courthouse with jail cells in the basement. The building on the left was built as a jail to replace the old one. (See the bars on the windows?)

Complete the drawing by adding missing windows, doors and chimneys.



Complete this drawing by adding missing windows, doors, and chimneys.



Parade Around the Parade Grounds



Parade Around the Parade Grounds



Up to age 6 and 7-9

Activity Location:
Outside Visitor Center
West Side — Parade Ground

Follow the map on the left and parade around the military parade ground. Along your march look for buildings and objects that tell the story of the army at Fort Smith. Check them off as you see them.

___ 1. Cannon



___ 6. Marker at site of original fort gateway



___ 2. 37-star flag



___ 7. Outline of original fort walls



___ 3. Army Barracks



___ 8. Commissary (storehouse for supplies)



___ 4. Old Fort Marker erected in 1936 to recognize location of military fort



___ 9. Supply Wagon



___ 5. New pavilion where guardhouse stood



___ 10. Cistern and location of original officers' quarters (apartment building)





Get Your Food Supplies Here!



Up to age 6 and 7-9



Activity Location:
Commissary

The United States Army stored food in this building and used some of it to feed soldiers living at Fort Smith. Some of the food was taken by wagons to soldiers living at forts further west.

What food items do you see?

(You will have to read the words on the containers.)

What type of containers are they stored in?

Do you see anything that you sometimes have in your house?

Where do you go to get these items?

What type of containers do you buy these items in today?

Draw a picture of
one thing you see in here.





What Do You See?



Activity Location:
River Trail

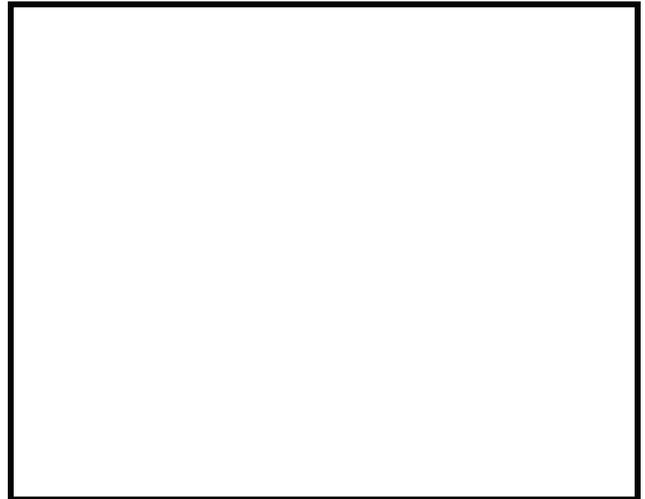
All ages

As you walk along the river trail, take notice of things you see around you. Look for things listed below and draw pictures of them.

Find something that grows out of the ground.



Find and draw something you could travel on.



Draw a man-made object that you see.



What do you see when you look up?





Belle Point - The First Fort Smith



Activity Location:
Belle Point

Ages 7-9 and 10-12



Look at the panels in the gazebo and listen to the audio program. What month and year did the army arrive in Fort Smith? What do you think it would have been like when they arrived?

The army was sent here to help bring peace between two groups of people. Who were they?



Look at the wayside panel located on the north side of the fort remains. (It will have a drawing of the picture shown here on the left.) Look at the drawing on the panel. What weapons did the army bring? Besides their military duties, what other activity do you see happening? (hint: Look for a soldier in the background.) Why would this activity be necessary?



All ages

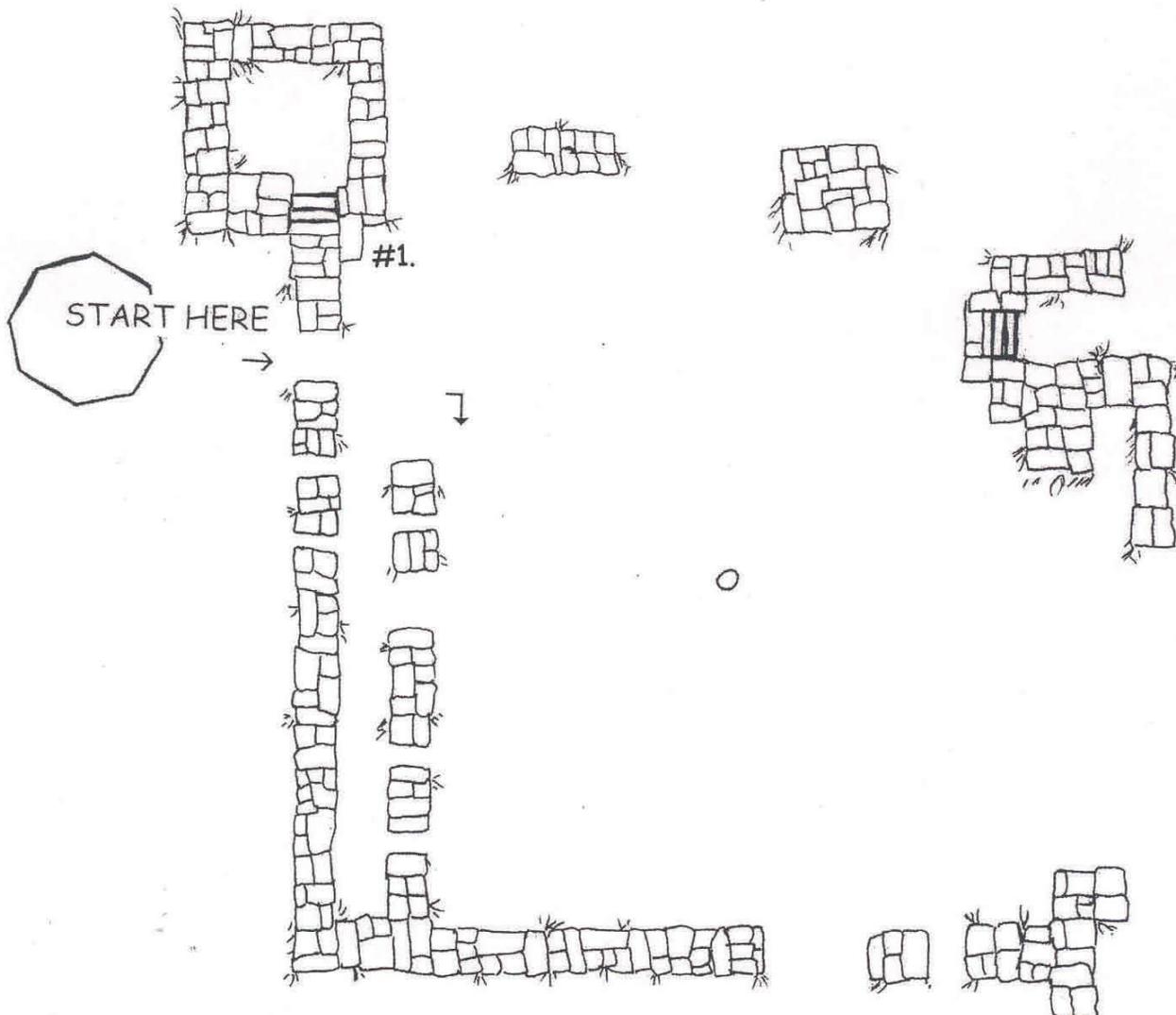
Activity Location:
Belle Point —
Site of First Fort Smith

WALK AROUND THE FOUNDATION

Draw lines to fill in the missing parts of the fort's wall. Information on the wayside panels may help you.

Walk around the fort and find the location of these areas, some are marked on the ground. We have numbered the first one for you on the map. #1.

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Blockhouse | 6. Soldier's Quarters |
| 2. Surgeon's Quarters | 7. Provision House |
| 3. Magazine | 8. Leather Shop |
| 4. Carpenters Shop | 9. Hospital Store |
| 5. Wheelwright Shop | |





Trail of Tears



Activity Location:
Trail of Tears Overlook
(on river walkway)

Ages 7-9 and 10-12

How many Indian tribes were forced to leave their homes in the southeastern United States and come to a new land called Indian Territory? Name them.

This land later became part of what state?

What difficulties and tragedies did the Indians face on their forced journey?

Why do you think this journey has been called the Trail of Tears?