



Fort Pulaski Scavenger Hunt Teacher Guide

Directions: Take students over the first drawbridge to explore the demilune and the fort to complete the scavenger hunt. Some items can only be found once; others can be found in multiple locations. The map on the last page shows some locations for these objects. Not all locations are marked. As students discover each object, you can share the additional information provided below to help them learn more about it. They are numbered to match their map location.

Object of Activity: To strengthen students' ability to closely observe details within an unfamiliar environment.

Bonus Activity: Have students use tally marks to show how many times they see the objects. The number of objects that appear throughout the fort is listed in parenthesis below.

- 1. Casemate Gin (1)**– Cannons are too heavy to lift without help. Casemate Gins were simple machines that used levers and pulleys to lift cannons into place inside the fort.
- 2. Sallyport (1)**– A sallyport was the main entrance into a fort. Its heavy wooden doors could be closed and locked to stop enemy soldiers from entering the fort. From inside this entrance, soldiers could raise the drawbridge by pulling down on two iron levers along the wall.
- 3. Barrel (Approx. 20)**– Barrels were used for storage of many items, from food to gunpowder. They served as all-purpose storage containers like the plastic containers we have today. Sometimes, they were also used as tables.
- 4. Mortar (1)**– Mortars are small cannons that were used to shoot exploding cannonballs over the walls of a fort.
- 5. Wicket Door (1)**– Fort Pulaski's front door can only be locked from the inside. The little door allows for access to and from the fort without opening the large door. Park Rangers today still use the wicket twice a day to open and close the fort each day.
- 6. Fig Tree (1)**– This giant bush is actually a fig tree. It was planted over 130 years ago to provide fruit for the lighthouse keepers who lived here after the Civil War. It still produces figs every summer!
- 7. Howitzer cannon (3)**– These are small cannons that were designed for battlefield use. They were small enough for a team of 6 horses to easily move, which is why this cannon is on wagon wheels.

8. Powder Magazine (2)– Gunpowder used for firing cannons was stored in rooms like this one. Barrels of gunpowder were stacked or stored on racks to keep them off the floor. Powder magazines only had one door and no windows to help keep fire away from the powder. During the Battle of Fort Pulaski, the gunpowder in the other magazine almost exploded. To avoid the destruction of the fort, the Confederate defenders surrendered.

9. Paw Print (1)– This paw print was left by a dog that was at the plantation where the bricks were made. Paw prints were not the only prints left behind. The enslaved people that made all 13 million of Fort Pulaski's bricks also left fingerprints in the wet clay. You can see those in Casemate 16.

10. Flank Howitzer (2)– These cannons were pointed towards the sallyport to help protect the fort's entrance from enemy soldiers.

11. Casemate 24 (1)– Casemates are small, arched rooms with windows from which cannons can be fired. These rooms can also be used for storage and places for soldiers to sleep. Most casemates would have had doors like this one. **Bonus:** Fort Pulaski has 51 casemates.

12. Prison Bars (2)– At the end of the Civil War, Fort Pulaski held over 500 Confederate prisoners in harsh conditions, with little food, crowded beds, and very little to keep them warm in winter.

13. Pecan Tree (1)– Once there was a house on top of the fort! After repeatedly losing their homes to hurricanes, the lighthouse keepers for the Cockspur Island Lighthouse moved into the fort to keep their new house safe from flooding. They planted a garden in the parade ground (grassy area in the center of the fort). This pecan tree is a remainder of that garden.

14. Structure of Casemates (1)– With the floorboards gone, you can now see the fort's hidden engineering: a support system strong enough to bear the weight of 13 million bricks. Beneath the visible arches are reverse arches—curved supports that help spread out the massive weight above.

15. Spiral Staircase (3)– These staircases lead to the top level of the fort, called the “terreplein.”

16. Stove (Approx. 2)– Soldiers used stoves like this one to heat casemate rooms to make them more comfortable in the winter. The stoves were fueled either by wood or coal. The chimney would let the smoke out of the top of the fort.

17. Tom the Cat (1)– When Sarah, the U.S. commander's wife, came to visit the fort, she brought her ginger cat, Tom. Food was limited for Confederate prisoners, who had been catching small animals to survive. After Sarah asked them not to harm her cat, they spared Tom.

18. Demilune (1)– French for “half-moon,” the demilune provided extra defense for the fort's entrance. The mounds were built after the Civil War to store ammunition. You can explore the tunnels with chaperones or teachers.

19. Blindage (1)– These green wooden timbers are an example of blindage. Before the Battle of Fort Pulaski, all the casemates were covered in blindage to protect the soldiers and cannons inside from cannonballs that flew over the walls and bounced across the grassy parade field.

20. Interior Sallyport Door (2)– Both sets of sallyport doors you see here are original to the Fort. They were installed in the 1840s. If you look closely at either door, you can see people’s names carved into the wood. While carving and writing your name on doors and walls used to be okay to do, it is not okay to carve or write your name on anything you do not own today.

