

# Teacher's Guide for Distance Learning Program, Fort Scott: Frontier Fort

In our local communities today, there are many people that play a role in the everyday operations. In many ways they are the same responsibilities the soldiers at Fort Scott shared when the fort was built in the 1840's.

When Fort Scott was built in the 1840's America was a young nation that barely stretched across the Mississippi River. Native Americans were being forced to relocate west of the Mississippi River, which brought them into conflict with more aggressive natives already living on the Plains. Most of the west was either controlled by Mexico or set up to be a home for Natives where they could be gradually assimilated into American life. At the same time two overland trails were crossing right through Native land stretch all the way to Santa Fe and the Oregon Country.

Fort Scott was known to be the "cracked post of the frontier." By the time the fort was closed for the first time in the 1850's, America had stretched all the way to the Pacific Ocean and showed off their power by winning the Mexican War and gaining millions of acres of new land. Soldiers stationed at the fort played a part in fulfilling America's manifest destiny.

In this lesson, your class will learn the reasons Fort Scott was built, discover why it was built where it was and will compare and contrast the different people(s) at the fort and the roles they played to make the fort a success. Lastly, students will compare their lives today with the way of life for the soldiers in Fort Scott.

## Pre-Program lesson:

Completer the following lesson prior to the distance learning program

## Grade Level:

6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>

## Time Requirements:

two-three class periods

## Materials:

- Position descriptions handout
- Quotes from the Fort handout
- Map of Frontier in 1840's
- Map of Fort Scott's buildings today
- Sketch of Fort Scott in 1848
- Short History of background of the fort

- Military Road advertisement questions
- Fill in Map of Indian Frontier/Military Road

### Primary Sources

- Sketch of 1848
- Military Road advertisement
- Pictures of the fort
- Quotes from officers and wives who were stationed at the fort
- Maps of Indian frontier

### Standards:

#### **Kansas State Standards:**

SS3 1.10 H, SS3 1.8, SS6 1.6, SS6 3.6, SS7 1.2, SS7 1.4, SS7 1.7

Missouri Social Studies Standards: SS3 1.6, 1.8, 1.9, 1.10, SS5 1.4, 1.5, 1.6

#### **Common Core Standards:**

6-8.RH.1, 6-8.RH.2, 6-8.RH.8, 6-8.RH.9, 7.RI.9, 8.RI.9, 8.SL.4, 8.SL.5

### Skills

1. Drawing conclusions
2. Using primary sources

### Objectives:

1. After completing the program, the student will be able to:
2. List the reasons Fort Scott was established in 1843
3. Identify and describe Fort Scott's location on the American frontier
4. Identify and describe the various groups of people stationed at the fort and their roles at the fort
5. Compare life in their communities with life at Fort Scott in the 1840's
6. Compare how the fort looked in 1848 and how it does today.
7. Describe life at the fort

### Procedure

This lesson will be presented as part of a distance-learning program via videoconference. Student worksheets and teacher guide will be provided to the teacher in advance of the scheduled videoconference.

## Pre-Visit Activity

1. In small groups have the students brainstorm the following questions:
  - a. What is a fort used for?
  - b. Where would be a good place to build a fort?
  - c. What are some people you might meet at a fort in the 1840's?
  - d. What are some supplies you would need to have at a fort in the 1840's?
  - e. What are some hardships or obstacles the people at the fort would have faced?
  - f. What were the ways people in the 1840's would have:
    - i. Transported goods/travel
    - ii. Communicated
    - iii. Heated their homes
    - iv. Cooked their food
    - v. Obtained drinking water
    - vi. Washed their clothes
    - vii. Washed their bodies
    - viii. Attained reading light
    - ix. Cooled their homes in the summer
    - x. Powered their machines

\*Compare these answers to your lives today  
-Have groups share their answers
2. Handout Ad for constructing military road and have students answer questions
3. Have students fill in blank map of Military Road/Indian Frontier
4. Handout a short history of Fort Scott and have the students answer the questions.
5. Compare maps of 1848 and today. Have students determined how the fort has changed since the 1848 sketch.
6. Have students answer questions on quotes about life at Fort Scott

\*Some of these materials can be used for post visit activities
7. Have student prepare a few questions about the fort to ask the ranger after their presentation

## Distance Learning Program Materials

Brainstorming questions. Have students check and record answers to brainstorming questions as ranger presents the lesson.

1. Handout the Individual handouts and have students in groups write down the main jobs/duties, pay fun facts, etc. of their individuals
  - Ask students to share their information with the rest of the class.
  - You may want to create a chart where the students can write down the information.
2. Then have the students write down people in their communities who currently do some of the same duties as the people at Fort Scott. Remember some of the positions at the fort will be accomplished by more than one position today.

## Extension

The class could research Fort Scott's role in the following events:

Mexican-American War

Bleeding Kansas

US Civil War

Have students write an imaginary letter from the fort describing what life was like.