

Fort Davis

National Historic Site

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Curriculum Materials Grades 6-8

Teacher Notes Getting to Know Famous People and Events

Topic: The student will find and share information on an assigned topic to broaden his/her knowledge of the local, national, and world happenings during the period of 1854-1891.

Objectives and Standards: Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/teks/>

Grade 6
Social Studies
113.22: 2, 14, 21, 22

Grade 7
Social Studies
111.23: 4, 6, 17, 18, 21, 22

Grade 8
Social Studies
111.24: 7, 8, 9, 17, 22, 24, 25, 30, 31

Materials Needed: Student activity sheet, pen or pencil, paper, encyclopedia—text version or online, Texas Handbook text version or online (www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/), “Cobblestone” issues; *Geronimo and the Apache Indians*, November 1996; *The Gilded Age*, April 2000; *Literary Ladies of the 19th Century*, March 2002; *Jefferson Davis*, January 2001; *Louisa May Alcott*, December 1988; *Susan B. Anthony*, March 1985; *Elizabeth Blackwell*, March 2003; *Andrew Carnegie*, April 1999; *Emily Dickinson*, March 1995; *Frederick Douglass*, February 1989; *Thomas Edison*, February 1980; *Ulysses S. Grant*, October 1995; *Sam Houston*, September 1994; *Robert E. Lee*, September 1993; *Abraham Lincoln*, May 1994; *Elizabeth Stanton*, March 2000; *Mark Twain*, May 1984; *Transcontinental Railroad*, May 1980; *Harriet Tubman*, February 1981; *Underground Railroad*, February 2003; “Calliope” issue—*Victoria: Queen of England*, May 2003.

Lesson Activities: Students will share the interesting and important information that they found while researching their chosen topic. This oral report might be limited to 5 or 8 items the student found most interesting or important. A written report could be turned in for the teacher to check. Students may wish to consider the following questions as they research their topic: 1. Is this person connected to Fort Davis? How? 2. How long did they live in or around Fort Davis? 3. What was their job at Fort Davis? 4. What important role did they play in history so that we remember them?

Answer Key:

Teachers may judge the written paragraphs about famous people based on their students’ individual ability.

Historic readings/background information: Other resources include: Teaching with Primary Sources: American Frontier 1862-1917, Cobblestone Publishing. Websites: www.womenwriters.net/domesticgoddesses/index.html, www.harrietbeecherstowcenter.org, www.libarts.sfasu.edu/history/134_unit5a.html (How the American West was affected by the Gilded Age)

Projects: For those students who would like more information on any of the topics they heard about, they could find a biography of that person or a book on the topic or subject of interest to them in the library.

Wrap-up and Assessment: Students will write down five facts that they learned about the people and events of 1854-1891. The evaluation of oral and written reports will be left to the discretion of the teacher.