

Fort Davis

National Historic Site

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Curriculum Materials Grades 6-8

Teacher Notes: Traveling the San Antonio-El Paso Road

Topic: Students will understand some responsibilities that soldiers had as part of their military job.

Objectives and Standards: Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS)

<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/teks/>

Grade 6

Social Studies

113.22: 4, 5

Grade 7

Social Studies

111.23: 6, 8, 21

Grade 8

Social Studies

111.24: 6, 11

Materials Needed: Student activity sheet, map of the San Antonio to El Paso

Road, pen or pencil, Texas map, Texas Almanac. Optional resources—Internet access; also *Daily Life in a Covered Wagon* by Paul Erickson, Puffin Books; “California Trail” Cobblestone Magazine—Nov. 2002. A covered wagon kit, cost \$5.00, is available from Fort Davis National Historic Site 432-426-3224 ext. 28.

Lesson Activities:

Historic readings/background information: The following websites will offer additional information: www.over-land.com/ and www.texasbeyondhistory.net

Activities: Students will read Student activity sheet and analyze travel along the Lower Road by answering the questions. This can be done individually, in pairs, as a whole class activity, or as a learning center.

Answer Key:

Activity I

- 1 & 2. Accept any answer that exhibits an understanding of the subject matter.
3. How is Texas different from your home? What do you do I your time off? What is your daily schedule? Have you fought any Indians? What is your uniform like? Accept any answer that exhibits an understanding of the subject matter.
4. coyotes, cactus, mesquite trees, lizards, desert, buzzards, rattlesnakes, hawks, mountain lions
5. to provide troops for escort; to provide a safe place to rest.

Activity II

1. Fort Bliss at El Paso
2. Brackettville
3. Ozona, Sheffield, and Iraan
4. Fort Stockton and Fort Davis
5. I-10 interstate highway; a traveler must have water for himself and horse to survive.

Wrap-up and Assessment: Students will successfully complete the Student Activity sheet.