

# Fort Davis

## National Historic Site

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



Curriculum Materials Grades 6-8

Teacher Notes: Women at Frontier Army Forts

**Topic:** The student will understand the role of women and girls in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

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

**Grade 6**

**Social Studies**

113.22: 2, 13, 14, 15

**Grade 7**

**Social Studies**

111.23: 4, 5, 17, 23

**Grade 8**

**Social Studies**

111.24: 6, 17, 20, 32

**Materials Needed:** Student activity sheet

**Lesson Activities:** Teacher will lead students in a discussion of how the role of today's women and girls have changed since the 1800's. Some topics for discussion are:

1. Compare the difference in educational opportunities for women.
2. Compare the differences in available career choices for women.
3. Compare the differences in the rights of women in the 1800s versus those situations today: who they marry and when, voting ownership of property.
4. Students might hypothesize what differences might be in the roles of all people in the next 200 years.

**Historic readings/background information:** *Daily Life in a Victorian House*, Laura Wilson, Puffin Books; *19<sup>th</sup> Century Girls and Women*, Bobbie Kalman, Crabtree Publishing; *Victorian Christmas*, Bobbie Kalman and Barbara Bedell, Crabtree Publishing; *The Victorian Home*, Bobbie Kalman, Crabtree Publishing; *Children's Clothing of the 1800s*, David Schimpky and Bobbie Kalman, Crabtree Publishing; *Old-Time Toys*, Bobbie Kalman and David Schimpky, Crabtree Publishing; *Games from Long Ago*, Bobbie Kalman, Crabtree Publishing.

Websites:

[www.uvm.edu/~hag/godey/index.html](http://www.uvm.edu/~hag/godey/index.html)

[www.history.rochester.edu/godeys](http://www.history.rochester.edu/godeys)

**Activities and Projects:** Using the books suggested for background reading, the teacher could assign students to do special reports and/or drawings for their classmates. This lesson would also be appropriate for March which is Women's History Month. Students could compare and contrast women's lives in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries.

**Answer Key:**

1. Accept any answer that exhibits an understanding of the subject matter.
2. Accept any answer that exhibits an understanding of the subject matter.
3. 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment. Passed by Congress June 5, 1919. Ratified August 26, 1920.
4. Rights of women in the 1800s were extremely limited. Generally, they could not own property or manage their finances. They could not vote. Careers were very limited. There were a few women authors. The majority of women were wives, mothers, cooks, or housekeepers. Women today in the United States have the same rights as men. Not all women in other countries have the same rights as men in their countries. Sometimes women in other countries have fewer rights than United States women of the 1800s. Religious or cultural reasons are sometimes the basis for women elsewhere not having the rights of American women.

**Wrap-up and Assessment:**

Students will be able to list at least five changes that have altered the role of women and girls since the 19<sup>th</sup> century.