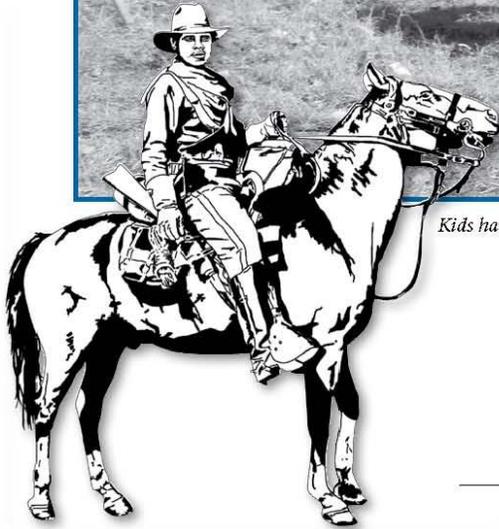
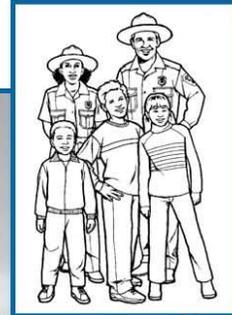


FORT DAVIS

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE



Kids have played the rolling hoops game at Fort Davis for more than a century.

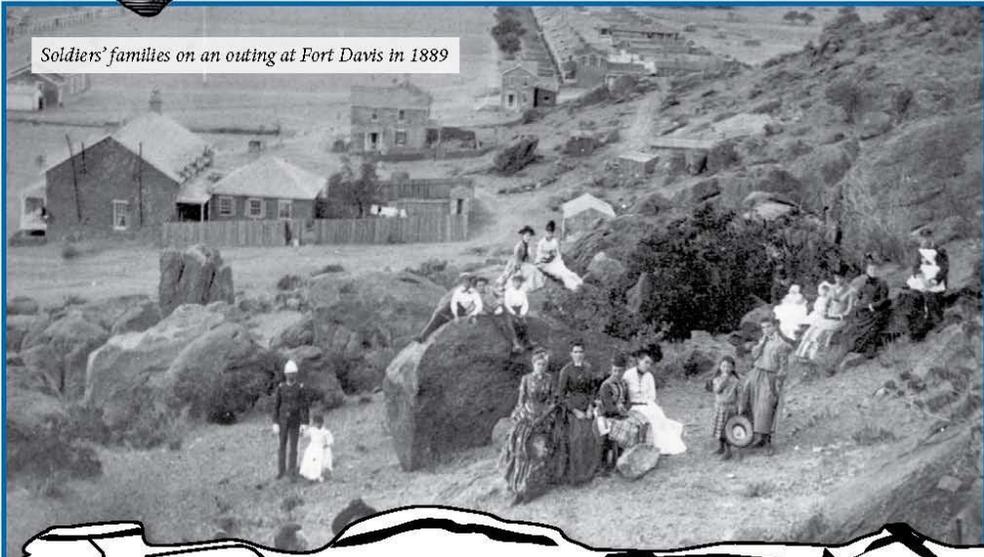


This book belongs to:



You'll find national parks all across the United States, from the icy coast of Alaska to the swampy tip of Florida. Many parks offer visitors the chance to become a Junior Ranger. With the program, you will discover each park's wild beauty and colorful human history. You'll even receive a special badge. The more parks you visit, the more Junior Ranger badges you can collect. So get out your walking shoes and your water bottle...It's time to explore a national park!

Soldiers' families on an outing at Fort Davis in 1889



EXPLORE! LEARN! PROTECT!

While visiting Fort Davis

- **Be Trail Smart!** Stay on designated trails and walkways. The building ruins are fragile. Do not walk or climb upon them.
- **Artifact Facts:** Do not collect or disturb any objects you may find. This includes natural objects, such as rocks, animals or plants, and human-made objects, such as old glass, beads, buttons, or bullets. All of these things are protected by law. This law ensures that future visitors may enjoy them, too. These future visitors might even be your children some day!
- **Weather:** Most days at the fort are pleasant. However, should a storm approach, especially one with lightening, return to the visitor center.
- **Wild Animals:** Keep a respectful distance from any wild animals you may encounter, such as lizards, coyotes, or snakes. Be alert for rattlesnakes. If you happen to see a rattlesnake, please report it to a park ranger.
- **Do...have fun!** Use your imagination as you explore and learn. Protect and appreciate what you see and encounter. After all, this park is maintained for YOU.

Discovering Fort Davis - Guardian of the West Texas Frontier



Today...

Today you can explore Fort Davis and get a first hand glimpse at what it must have been like

as an active fort more than 100 years ago. As you explore, you can use your imagination to see what it must have been like to live and work here as a cavalry soldier, a pioneer passing through the territory, or even as a child.

As you do this, you can also become a Junior Ranger! Work alone, with a brother, sister, friend, or parent. When you are finished, bring your Junior Ranger workbook to a park ranger to receive your badge or certificate



This is how children of the soldiers stationed at Fort Davis dressed in the late 1800s.

Why was Fort Davis built?

In 1848, gold was discovered in California. People in the east started traveling across the country by wagon train and horseback with dreams and hopes of obtaining free land, gold, and silver out west. The San Antonio - El Paso Road in West Texas was often a trail they used to get to California. This trail passed through territory used by Apache and Comanche Indians and sometimes there were clashes between the traveling pioneers and Native Americans. Bandits roamed freely at this time, too. Fort Davis was built by the Army in 1854 to protect pioneer travelers and the mail.

If You Lived then...

If your family traveled in the 1800's, you probably would have traveled across the prairies and plains by a wagon pulled by horses, mules, or oxen. You might have walked along your family's wagon each day, for weeks and even months, as there may not have been room for you to sit in the wagon full of your family's belongings. You may have walked 15 or more miles per day.

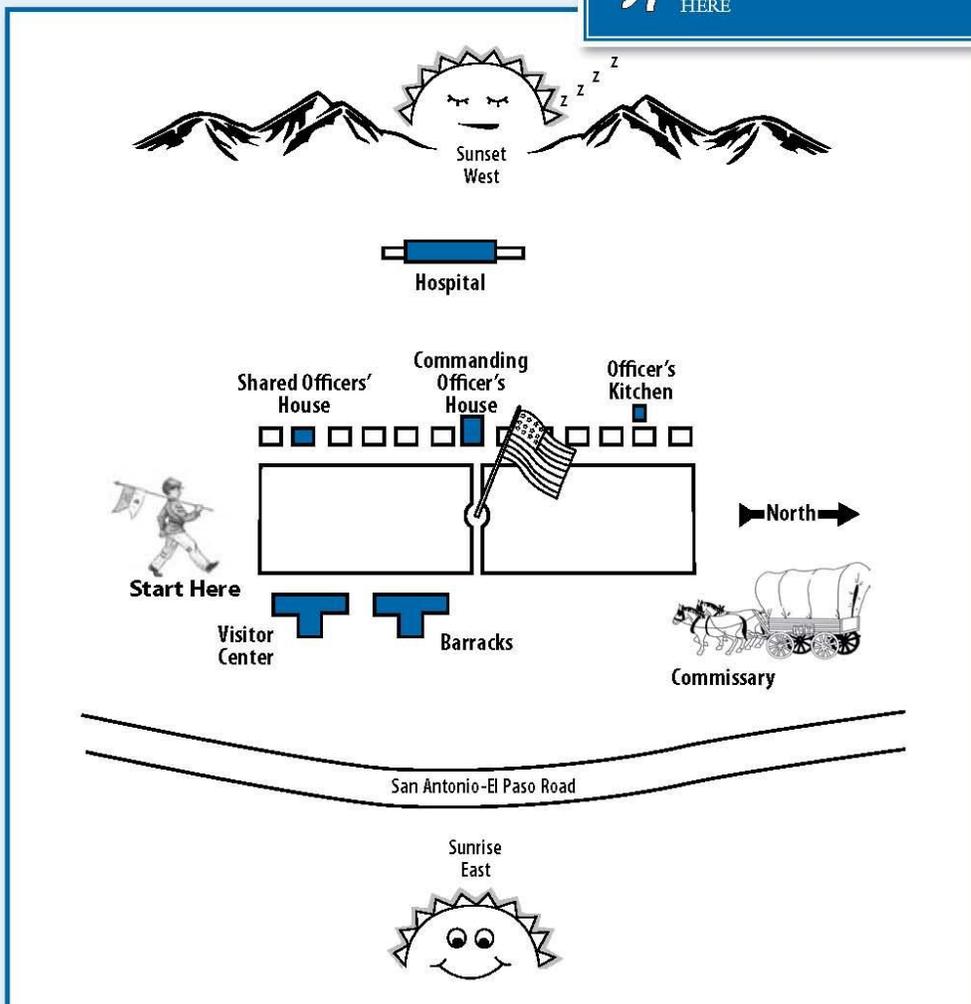
How did you travel to Fort Davis today? _____

A Walking ADVENTURE

As you explore Fort Davis, circle the places on the map below where you stopped. Draw a line to show the path you walked. Draw a line from the hat, statue, and animal in the blue box on the right to the spot on the map where you saw them. Place an "X" there. Draw in on the map other things of interest you saw.

SYMBOLS

<p>— THIS IS WHERE I WALKED</p> <p> I SAW AN ANIMAL HERE</p> <p> I SAW A STATUE OF A FORT DAVIS SOLDIER HERE</p>	<p> I MET A RANGER HERE</p> <p>You can even create your own symbols for things you saw, heard or discovered at Fort Davis. Did you see a military flag? Draw it on your map. Did you see a cannon? Draw it on the map.</p>
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Fort Davis Scavenger Hunt

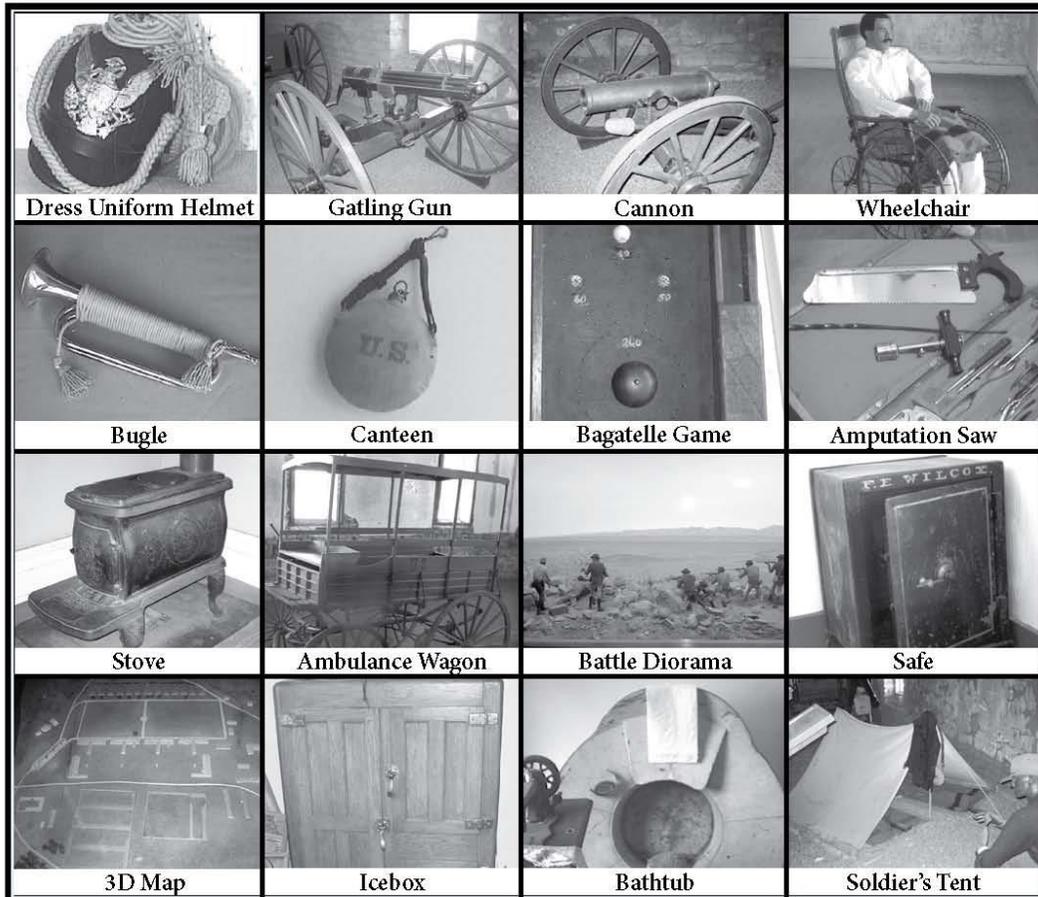
BINGO

Fort Davis was a community complete with a hospital, a trading post, living quarters for officers and enlisted men and their families, a chapel, a commissary (a store with food and goods), a bakery and corral, among other buildings and spaces.

Use the map on page 4 to navigate the grounds of Fort Davis while going on a scavenger hunt!

Locate the places and objects in the squares on this page. Once you find the places and objects, mark an "X" on the BINGO-card picture. Once you mark FOUR found objects or places in a row (across, down or diagonally) you win! Fill the entire card and become an expert winner!

Clue: You'll find the items in the furnished barracks, the visitor center, the commissary, the hospital, and the chapel. Remember, stay on the trails and designated walkways at all times, and do not climb on any structures as you explore.



BUFFALO SOLDIERS

- Fort Davis was home to the Army's first African American Soldiers, known as "Buffalo Soldiers".
- The term "Buffalo Soldiers" came from the Plains Indians, who compared the curly hair of African American men to the curly hair of a buffalo's head.
- More than half the soldiers who served at Fort Davis were African Americans.
- Many Buffalo Soldiers were once slaves. Serving in the Army provided them a salary, an education, an opportunity to travel and an opportunity to learn various skills and trades.
- Buffalo Soldiers protected travelers, freight wagons, and the mail.

Find It at the Fort!

Buffalo Soldiers bravely fought Apaches and their war leader, Victorio, at Tinaja de Las Palmas. Find the diorama depicting this battle during your visit to Fort Davis.



A Buffalo Soldier living history event



A corporal's stripe on a Union Army uniform



Every Buffalo Soldier had his own canteen, cap, boots, saddle, and revolver.

SOLVE BY DECODING

Detective Time! Find the answers using the clues. Write the letter of the alphabet that comes before each letter in the coded line to find the answer. Write the complete alphabet on the 26 lines below before you start.



Buffalo Soldiers carried sabers. Write "B" on the saber's blade. Write "HG" on the hand guard. Write "G" on the grip.

Alphabet:

Clues:

1. Home to the Army's first African American Soldiers

G P S U E B W J T

2. Name given to the African American Soldiers by the Plains Indians

C V G G B M P T P M E J F S T

3. When Buffalo Soldiers arrived at Fort Davis in 1867, the region was open to attacks by _____ and _____

B Q B D I F T D P N B O D I F T

4. When Buffalo Soldiers finished serving at Fort Davis in 1885, the area was

Q F B D F G V M

Answers: 1) Fort Davis; 2) Buffalo Soldiers; 3) Apaches and Comanches; 4) Peaceful

SOME THINGS WERE FUN!

Where you stand and walk at Fort Davis, Buffalo Soldiers also once stood and walked, serving our country and the Army. Circle the Buffalo Soldier activities you would have enjoyed doing if you were stationed at Fort Davis.

Horseback riding

Shooting a pistol

Eating around a campfire

Wearing a uniform

Sleeping in a tent

Marching in formation



The San Antonio - El Paso Road

Highway of Hooves

Fact: The San Antonio to El Paso Road was 600 miles long and served as a corridor for pioneers traveling by wagons, horseback and stagecoach from the west to east and east to west in the mid-1800s. This "highway of hooves," a dirt road traveled by many over 100 years ago, passed right through Fort Davis and is still visible today. Can you find it?

While traveling cross country to the fort, young girls sometimes wrote down things about the trip in a journal.

A log walk: Travel in the mid-1800s was often met with extreme weather, both hot and cold. Water was often scarce. River crossings were challenging. Family members, including children, often had to walk alongside their wagon during their journey, for mile after mile, all day long.

June 7, 1868

We have been traveling for a week by wagon train with 14 other wagons. Dust sticks to my skin and the sun makes me hot and sticky. Even my teeth feel dusty!

What is the weather like at Fort Davis today? _____

Many risks: Bandits roamed freely at this time. In addition, Native Americans, in an effort to defend their homeland and way of life, sometimes clashed with the soldiers of Fort Davis and the many pioneers traveling westward. Yet, many families felt these risks were worth taking to begin a new life out west. After all, there was free land to settle on and rumors of finding gold and silver!



New Mexico Territory

TEXAS

El Paso

Upper Road

Lower Road

FORT DAVIS

Mexico

Indian Territory

June 14, 1868

My feet ache from all the walking. The strong oxen pulling our heavy wagon work harder than I, so I shouldn't complain. Our wagon is packed, but we still had to leave so many belongings behind.

Did you pack a personal item to travel with today? What is it? _____

If you were a pioneer child, what one item do you think you would pack for traveling? _____

June 21, 1868

A small band of Indians were sighted off in the distance today.

Have you seen something on your visit to Fort Davis that you've never seen before? Write about it!

Never attacked: In all the years Fort Davis operated as an active military post, from 1854 until 1891, not once was the fort attacked by Indians.

The same rocks: Look at the rock formations on the hills behind the fort. Those same hills and rocks were seen by children just like you, more than 100 years .

If you have a camera, pose for a picture with those rocks in the background.

San Antonio

June 23, 1868

A big thunderstorm boomed over the prairie, bringing rain. We had to wait an extra night near a large river for the water level to go down before crossing. We had to eat smaller rations of our daily bread, bacon and coffee.

Bread was a staple food for pioneers and the enlisted men at Fort Davis. Check here if you saw the remains of the bakery on the fort grounds _____



May 7, 1868

We arrived at Fort Davis today! A troop of Buffalo Soldiers met us on the trail and escorted us.



RISE and SHINE

CALL OF THE BUGLE

Listen for bugle calls while you're visiting the fort. Check off the calls you hear.

Time	Name of Call	What It Means	√
8:15 a.m.	Assembly of Trumpeters	The first signal for soldiers to awake	
8:20 a.m.	Reveille	The flag was raised, men arose	
8:30 a.m.	Assembly	Men gathered for roll call	
8:45 a.m.	Water Call	Troopers watered their horses	
9:00 a.m.	Mess Call	Breakfast was served	
9:30 a.m.	Fatigue Call	Report to work	
9:40 a.m.	Sick Call	Sick report to hospital	
10:00 a.m.	Assembly of Trumpeters	Changing of the guard	
10:05 a.m.	Assembly of Guard Details	Guards assemble	
10:10 a.m.	Adjutant's Call	Guard details march	
10:30 a.m.	Drill Call	Assemble to drill	
10:35 a.m.	Assembly	Soldiers practiced battle formations and marching. New recruits learned more basic skills.	
11:00 a.m.	Recall	End work detail	
11:30 a.m.	Recall	Cease drilling	
11:45 a.m.	First Sergeants' Call	Sergeants report	
12:00 p.m.	Mess Call	Dinner is served	
1:00 p.m.	Fatigue Call	Afternoon work ends	
1:30 p.m.	School Call	School resumes	
1:50 p.m.	Boots and Saddles	Prepare to ride horses	
1:55 p.m.	Drill Call	Drill on horseback	
2:00 p.m.	Assembly	Horsemanship taught	
3:00 p.m.	Recall	Drill ends	
3:10 p.m.	Stable Call	Horses cared for	
3:15 p.m.	Recall	Afternoon work parties ceased at the sound of this call.	
3:30 p.m.	Water Call	Horses watered	
3:55 p.m.	Assembly of Trumpeters	Preparatory call for Retreat Parade, sounded 20 min. before sunset.	
4:00 p.m.	Assembly	Retreat parade ceremony	
4:25 p.m.	Assembly of Trumpeters	Preparation for tattoo	
4:30 p.m.	Tattoo	Prepare for bed	
4:35 p.m.	Assembly	Last roll call	
4:45 p.m.	Extinguish Lights	After taps, lights out	



Modern-day kids pretend they live on the frontier and ride places in a covered wagon.

Comparing THEN & NOW

How different was life at Fort Davis than life today? Mark an 'X' over the picture of items Fort Davis did not have when it was an active fort. Circle the items Fort Davis did have when it was an active fort.

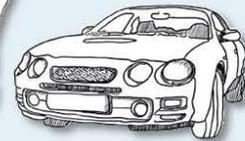
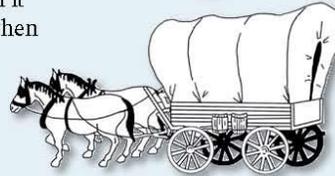
Consider this. When Fort Davis was an active fort...

LIVING SPACES: There was no electricity. There were no televisions, no telephones, no computers. Your source of heat was fire from a stove. Light for nighttime was created with oil lamps or candles.

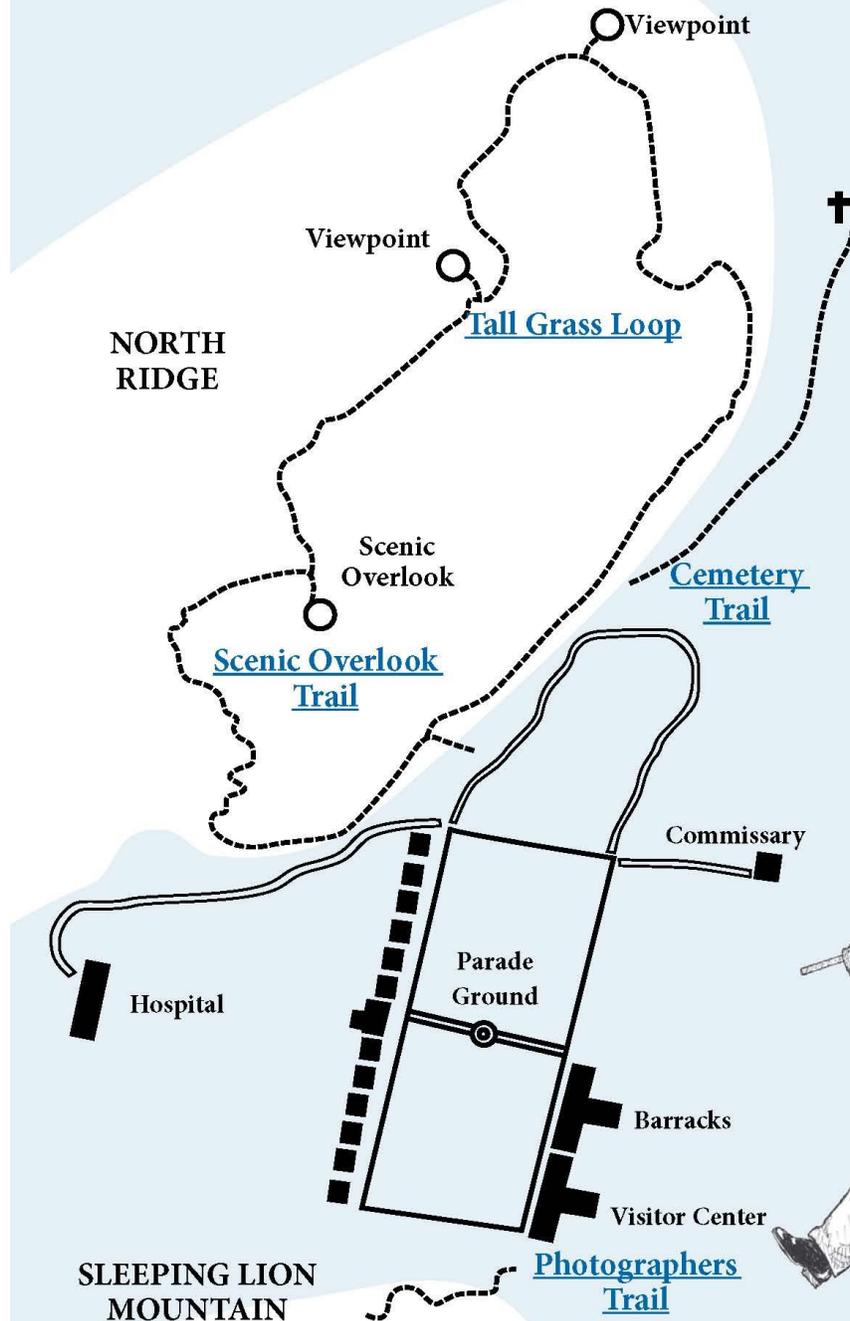
TRAVEL: There were no cars or airplanes. People traveled mostly by horse, covered wagon or stagecoach, or by foot. There were no motels or hotels for people traveling across country for weeks and months, day after day.

COMMUNICATION: Letters were a common form of communication. These letters traveled by stagecoach or horseback across country, often taking weeks or months to get from one person to another.

CLOTHING and BEDDING: Zippers and velcro hadn't been invented, so all clothing had buttons or ties. Many clothes were made and stitched by hand. Bedding was hand-made, too. There were no malls where clothing could be purchased.



TRAIL SCOUTS



There are four hiking trails at Fort Davis: the Photographer's Trail, the Scenic Overlook Trail, the Cemetery Trail, and the Tall Grass Loop Trail.

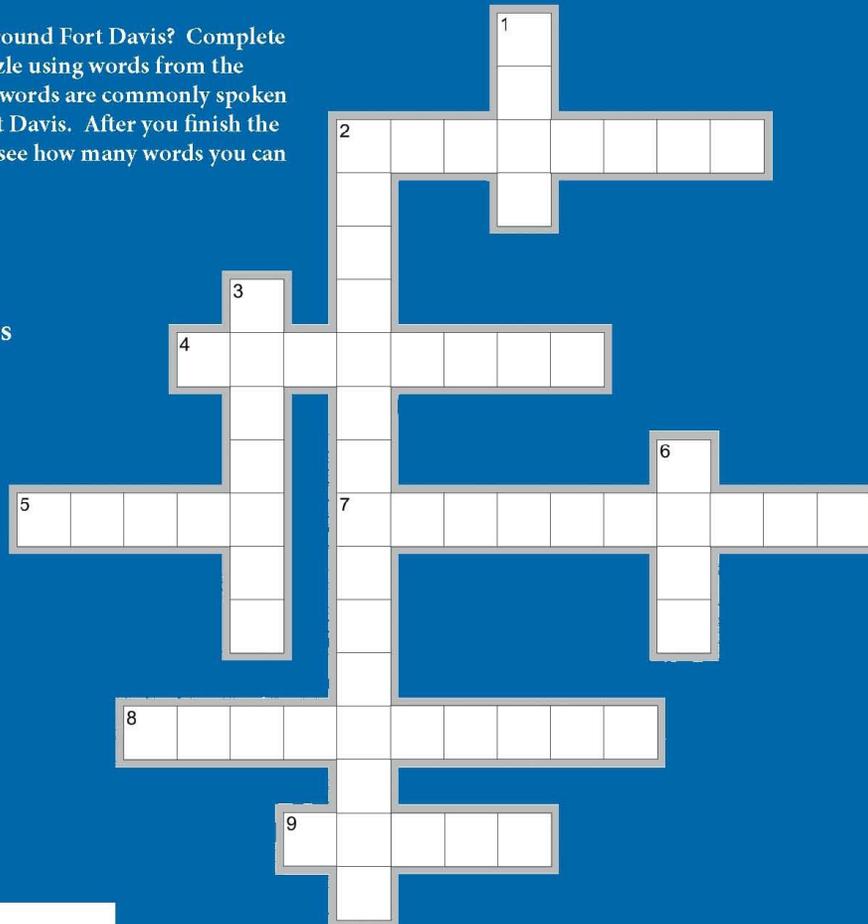
Hike one of them with your parents. As you hike, imagine that you are a soldier out scouting on patrol, looking for anything unusual and listening for sounds in order to keep the fort safe. Or imagine that you are an Indian, looking down at the fort, watching for sights and sounds to keep your family safe.



A MYSTERY of WORDS

What's the word around Fort Davis? Complete the crossword puzzle using words from the word bank. These words are commonly spoken in and around Fort Davis. After you finish the crossword puzzle, see how many words you can use in a sentence!

Barracks
Bread
Buffalo Soldiers
Bugle
Canteen
Commissary
Fort
Gold
Magazine
Stagecoach



ACROSS

- 2: Enlisted men slept and lived here
- 4: Gun powder for the fort was stored here
- 5: Horn used to regulate daily fort activities
- 7: A form of transportation pulled by horses or mules
- 8: Food for the fort was supplied here
- 9: A staple food baked at the fort

DOWN

- 1: A place established by the military
- 2: Name given to African Americans enlisted men by Native Americans
- 3: Used to hold water for enlisted men and soldiers
- 6: Discovery of this in California opened up needed trails from East to West



ANSWERS



Children at Fort Davis in 1888

After living in an eastern city with schools, houses, stores and cobblestone streets, children living at Fort Davis must have felt they were on an adventure of the wildest and greatest kind. Can you imagine traveling by wagon across unknown lands to reach your new home in the West?

There was no school at Fort Davis for children until the late 1870s. Children may have been taught how to read by their parents, but most children at the fort did chores and played during the day. Chores might have included making butter, milking the cow, or taking care of younger siblings.

Compare some of the games children at Fort Davis played to the games you play today.

Children of Fort Davis

Visit the Commanding Officer's house to see some of the things the fort's children did. Put an "X" in the list below next to the activities you enjoy just as much as the kids in the 1880s.

Fished _____

Sewed _____

Went hunting _____

Cooked & baked _____

Rode horses _____

Read books _____

Went exploring _____

Played musical instruments _____

Played soldiers and Indians _____

Played chess, checkers, or dominoes _____

Had tea parties _____

Had pets _____

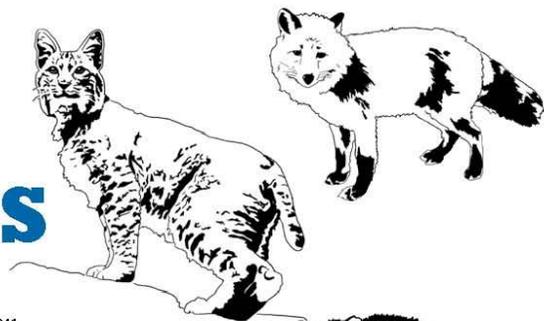
Played with dolls _____

Played tag and had sack races _____

Went scouting around the fort _____

Played with marbles _____

WILD about FORT DAVIS



Fort Davis shares its space with many wild animals. Here you might find ground squirrels, lizards, javelina (hav-uh-LEE-na), snakes, birds such as red-tailed hawks, deer, fox, raccoons, bobcats, mountain lions, and even an occasional black bear!

If you look to the sky you might spy a hawk soaring above. (Don't look directly into the sun!)

You might find evidence of wild animals at Fort Davis as you explore, such as tracks, droppings, burrows and holes in the ground, or nibbled plants.



Unscramble the animal name and draw a line from the name to the picture of the animal.

Clue: I am a small wild cat with a short tail.
tbcaob _____

Clue: I am a bird of prey with a sharp beak and sharp talons.
khaw _____

Clue: When I am young I am spotted and called a fawn.
rdee _____

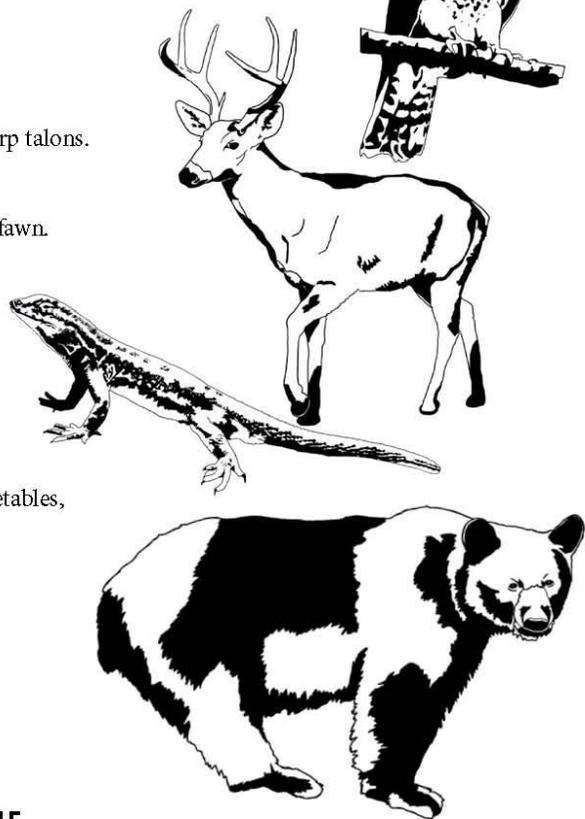
Clue: I have orange fur and a bushy tail.
xfo _____

Clue: I am a reptile with scales and without legs.
knase _____

Clue: I am large land mammal who eats fruits, vegetables, and meat.
kbcla rbea _____

Clue: The markings on my face make it look as if I wear a mask.
crancoo _____

Clue: I am a scaly reptile with legs and a tail.
dalzir _____



WHAT'S AWESOME AT FORT DAVIS

As you explore Fort Davis and learn about history in the United States, think about the things you have seen, heard and learned.

Complete the following statements. You can write your answers or tell them to a parent or family member who reads the statements to you.

The coolest thing I saw at Fort Davis was

The scariest thing I saw at Fort Davis was

The most interesting thing I saw at Fort Davis was

My favorite part about Fort Davis was



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Learn more about Fort Davis by visiting www.NPS.gov/FODA

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