

7. Bleeding Kansas

The disagreements over slavery turned violent. Fort Scott became a dangerous place to live. One time, some angry men came to town with guns. They broke someone out of jail. They even killed someone who used to be a deputy marshal. Help keep Fort Scott safe.

Here are three pictures that show some scary things that took place around Fort Scott in 1858.

They are pictures of the A. Marais des Cygnes Massacre B. Montgomery Raid C. Peace Convention

Match the picture with the event by writing the name of the event below the picture. Look at the wayside or outdoor exhibits to find the answers.



Take out your copy of the Fort Scott Democrat from your haversack. Locate the article titled "Horrible Murder, Mob Law Triumphant."

Imagine you are an illustrator for the Democrat. Draw a picture that tells the story of the raid. Include some of the details that are reported in the newspaper.



Red Letter

8. The Wilson-Goodlander Home

This building was Mr. Wilson's house. He was a town leader and a storekeeper. He was threatened many times while living here. After the marshal was killed, my dad became leader of the militia to help protect Mr. Wilson and the rest of the town. Today you can look inside the house to find out how the fort was built.

Retrieve these items from your haversack: a square nail and a piece of wallpaper. As you walk through the Wilson Home, find examples of these in the building. Write down where you find them.

On the upper floor of this building, look for the exhibit seen in the photograph to your left. The materials in this exhibit are wood, plaster, and brick. The sign next to the exhibit says that one of these materials was used for insulation.

After reading the sign, answer the following questions.

Which of these materials was used for insulation?

What is this type of insulation called? Hint: Starts with an N

Bonus Question: What is used for insulation in homes today?



Red Letters

One of the most important decisions that the National Park Service made was to leave the Wilson/Goodlander Home in its original condition. Find the blank copy of an archeology report from your haversack. **O**n this form, express your ideas why this building should be restored or left in original condition. Be sure to support your opinions.

9. Kansas Statehood

After seven years of fighting, Kansas finally became a state. It entered the Union as a free state (without slavery) on January 29, 1861. The people in Fort Scott were happy that the fighting was over. But peace didn't last long. The Civil War began that same year.

From your haversack, find the Kansas state flag. Notice what is on the flag—the word Kansas, the state flower and the state seal. The seal has 34 stars because Kansas was the 34th state. It also has other important symbols. The riverboat means trade and commerce. The person plowing symbolizes farming. What do you think the buffalo and covered wagons mean?

Imagine you are trying to design a flag for a new state. Below, draw your own version of a state flag.



The Kansas state motto is “Ad Astra per Aspera” or “To the Stars through Difficulties.” How does this motto relate to the history of Kansas?



Red Letter

10. Tallgrass Prairie

Before we go to the next building, walk with me back to the prairie. Officers in the 1840s hunted in the prairie and their wives liked to pick the flowers. As you walk along the trail through the prairie today, please don't pick the flowers or hurt the animals. Everything here is protected.

As you walk,
listen to all the sounds.

Are these sounds you
would have heard in the 1800s
or is it a modern sound?

Below, circle the sounds that
you might have heard in the 1800s and
cross out the modern sounds.

Wind blowing

Cars

Train

Leaves

Insects

Animals

Power Tools

As Fort Scott grew, the landscape changed. From prairie to military fort to thriving city, Fort Scott has seen many changes. As you look at the prairie around you, imagine how the landscape looked before the fort was built and draw the scene you imagine in the first space below.

In the second space, draw that same scene as you see it today with all the modern buildings.

Before

After

Early explorers called the prairie “the Great American Desert”. A Fort Scott officer described it as “magnificent”. During Bleeding Kansas, prairie land was one thing people fought over. What do you think after walking through the prairie. Is the prairie beautiful or is it worthless? If you owned land here would you fight to keep it?



Red Letters