Exit Ticket

1. What are the benefits and drawbacks of constructing a fort out of adobe in the borderlands?

**Benefits:**

Adobe is durable and withstands assault by various weapons and fire much better than wood. Adobe does not rely on a large amount of wood which is not readily available.

Adobe uses the natural resources of the southern Great Plains – grasses, clay, and sand. Supplies are easily obtained. Adobe is cheaper to build with. It is cool in the summer and warm in the winter. It is identified as a Mexican style.

**Drawbacks:**

Adobe relies on skilled laborers who do not live nearby. The bricks take a long time to make and rely on the weather. Adobe needs regular maintenance.

1. How might the choice of constructing a military-looking fort have been harmful to the business in the long term?

Because the trading post looked like a military fort, its presence was potentially intimidating. It communicated a defensive and combative position rather than a welcoming one. When the U.S./Mexican war broke out, it was easily interpreted as an Army installation rather than a place of commerce making the trading relationship with Mexico an especially strained one.

