



Getting the Most from Your Visit to Fort Davis



Welcome Recruit!

You are about to embark on an expedition into history. Every mission requires preparation. Without preparation, you can run into big problems. My regiment and I invite you to prepare for your trip by becoming familiar with the country you are traveling into.

The sergeant has prepared some orders for you to read about your mission. Read your orders carefully! Learn the essentials and you will be ready for the expedition.

Order #1

Use good reading strategies to get the most from these articles.

Before Reading, consider the following:

- What is my purpose for reading?
- What do I already know?
- What do I think I will learn about this topic?
- Look at the headings and illustrations to get a sense of what the article is about.

While Reading, consider this:

- Does what I am reading make sense?
- How are the important points related to one another?
- What can I do to increase my understanding -- read on, reread or try a different strategy?

After the reading:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| What were the important points? | What do I think about the passage |
| What sections supported these points? | What new information did I learn? |
| What is my opinion? | Can I summarize what I just read? |

Order #2

Read the following articles and answer the questions.

Fort Davis

National Historic Site

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Curriculum Materials Grades 6-8 Student Activity: Park Handout Discussion Questions

The First Fort Davis 1854-1862

Read the information on the First Fort Davis and answer these questions.

1. Fort Davis was initially established in _____. It was named in honor of _____, who was _____.
2. What was the purpose of the fort?

3. What event made travel on the San Antonio-El Paso Road become important?

4. What type of soldiers staffed Fort Davis?

5. Why do you think it was difficult for infantry soldiers to protect the road from Indian raids?

6. Why did the U.S. Army bring camels to the Southwest?

7. What happened to the camel experiment?

8. When did the Federal troops leave Fort Davis? Why?

9. How long did the Confederate troops occupy Fort Davis?

10. In 1867, why do you think the U.S. Army rebuilt the fort in the flat area east of the canyon instead of the original site back in the canyon?



African Americans in the Frontier Army

Read the information on the African Americans and answer these questions.

1. What did the 1866 “Act to Increase and Fix the Military Peace Establishment of the United States” do?

2. Name the Black Regiments established by the Act.

3. Which regiment was stationed at Ft. Davis in 1867? _____
Were the regiment’s officers also black? Explain.

4. Which black regiment played a vital role in the Victorio and Geronimo campaigns?

5. Company I of the 25th Infantry constructed what essential service for the southwestern forts?

6. What was another name for the black regiments? _____

7. Design a bookmark to highlight the accomplishments of the African-American regiments in the Southwest? Turn the page sideways to create your bookmark.



Buffalo Soldiers
at
Fort Davis

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Curriculum Materials Grades 6-8 Student Activity: Park Handout Discussion Questions

Black Recipients of the Medal of Honor from the Frontier Indian Wars

Read the park information about Medal of Honor recipients and answer these questions.

1. What is the Medal of Honor and why is it given?

2. Summarize the reasons these soldiers received the Medal of Honor:

a. Private Emanuel Stance

b. Sergeant George Jordan

c. Sergeant Thomas Shaw

d. Sergeant William McBrayar

e. Sergeant Benjamin Brown and Corporal Isaiah Mays

f. Private Adam Paine

g. Private Factor, Trumpeter Isaac Payne, Sergeant John Ward

3. Which Medal of Honor winner(s) would you like to meet? What questions would you ask them about their heroism? Write your answer on the back of the paper.

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Curriculum Materials Grades 6-8

Student Activity: Park Handout Discussion Questions

Fort Davis Orientation Brochure

Brochures are often used as introduction and to provide information to the public. The Fort Davis brochure provides the visitor with the general information necessary to understand and enjoy the visit.

1. Scan the brochure. What is the largest item on the brochure? _____
Why do you think this occupies the most space on the brochure?

2. Looking at the map and the building key, how many buildings are restored?

3. Looking at the map, explain how can you tell which buildings are restored and which buildings are still ruins?

4. Use the map and the descriptions, which 3 buildings would you especially try to see if you had a limited amount of time? Why?

5. Look at the other side of the brochure. What does the top article tell you about?

6. Summarize in one paragraph, the role Fort Davis played in American history.

7. Where did the name “Buffalo Soldiers” come from and why were they called that?

8. What were some of the leisure time activities of the Fort Davis enlisted men and officers?

9. Which tribes of Native Americans traveled through the Trans-Pecos area of Texas?

10. Which Native American trail crossed the San Antonio to El Paso road? Where were the Indians heading when using this trail?

11. Enter the following items on the Texas map. Use the brochure to help you.

- a. Fort Davis
- b. Great Comanche War Trail
- c. San Antonio-El Paso Road
- d. Mexico
- e. El Paso
- f. San Antonio
- g. Rio Grande River

