

Fort Davis

National Historic Site

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Curriculum Materials Grades 6-8

Teacher Notes: A Teenager's Letters from Fort Davis

Topic: Students will read two letters from the 19th century and compare to the activities of today's young people.

Objectives and Standards: Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS)

<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/teks/>

Grade 6

Social Studies

113.22: 15

Language Arts

110.22: 8, 15, 16

Grade 7

Social Studies

111.23: 19,21

Language Arts

110.23: 8, 15, 16

Grade 8

Social Studies

111.24: 30

Language Arts

110.24: 8, 15, 16

Materials Needed: Student activity handout, pen or pencil, paper, envelope, address of a friend friend or family member.

Lesson Activities:

Historic readings/background information: An excellent book is *Young Troopers: Stories of Army Children on the Frontier* by Paige Ramsey-Palmer, Southwest Parks and Monuments Asso. \$9.95 Order by calling Fort Davis NHS at 432-426-3224 ext. 28 (ask for teacher discount).

Activities and Projects: A suggested story from this book might be "Little Lady," about Edith, the sister of George Grierson (author of the letters on the student activity sheet); she died of typhoid fever at age thirteen in 1878.

After the students read a story from the book, give them the activity handout. Have Them make observations and draw conclusions about frontier life at a fort after they read young George Grierson's letters.

Answer Key:

1. Accept any answer that exhibits an understanding of the subject matter.
2. Accept work based on individual student's ability.
3. Texas, twenty-two, antelopes, This, can't, write, today, getting, lonesome, don't, Lt. or Lieutenant, gone.

Answer this question after a trip to the fort. Accept any answer that exhibits an understanding of the subject matter.

Wrap-up and Assessment: Have students write a letter, address an envelope, and then mail the letter. Students may bring a stamp, or the letters could be mailed with school mail.