

# Fort Davis

National Historic Site

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



Curriculum Materials Grades 6-8

Teacher Notes: Fort Davis—Post Schooling

**Topic:** Students will gain a better understanding of schooling at 19th-century Fort Davis, both for soldiers and for children of soldiers or officers.

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

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

**Grade 6**

**Social Studies**

113.22: 16, 17

**Language Arts**

110.22: 8, 14, 20

**Grade 7**

**Social Studies**

111.23: 6, 16

**Language Arts**

110.23: 8, 14, 20

**Grade 8**

**Social Studies**

111.24: 20, 24, 25

**Language Arts**

110.24: 8, 14, 20

**Materials Needed:**

Student activity handout

Reproduction slate and chalk (optional),

Reproduction copy of *McGuffey's Reader* or other old textbook (optional)

**Lesson Activities:**

**Historic readings/background information:** The following books would be excellent resources for students and teacher:

*A One-Room School* by Bobbie Kalman. Crabtree Company.

*Classroom Games* by Bobbie Kalman & Heather Levigne. Crabtree Publishing Company.

*Cobblestone Magazine*, "Old Time Schools in America," November 1981.

"Journey from Ignorant Ridge: Stories and Pictures of Texas Schools in the 1800s," a project of Texas Congress of PTA, Austin.

**Activities:**

1. Students answer questions at the end of the reading.
2. Students will compare their class day to one at Fort Davis in the 19<sup>th</sup> century by explaining similarities and differences. They may work independently or as a group to create a comparison chart.
3. Ask students to consider: What might be a problem for a student from the past coming to our classroom today? What might be a problem for you if you stepped back in time and visited a classroom from the past?
4. Students work math problems taken from an 1876 math book.
5. Teacher directs students in the playing of an old alphabet game entitled "The Minister's Cat." Students can discuss why this game is an effective learning tool as well as being fun.
6. The U.S. National Archives and Records Administration web site contains a photo analysis document that can be used in viewing and interpreting old pictures. Teachers may choose

to have students use this guide found at [http://www.archives.gov/digital\\_classroom/lessons/analysis\\_worksheets/photo.html](http://www.archives.gov/digital_classroom/lessons/analysis_worksheets/photo.html) when viewing the picture of the children at a birthday party at the fort in 1888.

**Answer Key:**

1. Accept any answer that exhibits an understanding of the subject matter.
2. Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Georgia, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland, S. Carolina, New Hampshire, Virginia, New York, N. Carolina, Rhode Island, Vermont, Kentucky, Tennessee, Ohio, Louisiana, Indiana, Mississippi, Illinois, Alabama, Maine, Missouri, Arkansas, Michigan, Florida, Texas, Iowa, Wisconsin, California, Minnesota, Oregon, Kansas, West Virginia, Nevada, Nebraska, Colorado.  
There were 38 stars in the U.S. flag.
3. a.  $\$20 + \$15 + \$62 = \$97$   
b.  $96 \text{ divided by } 8 = 12 \text{ goats}$   
c.  $72 \times 14 = 1008 \text{ ft.}$  A fortnight is 2 weeks.  
d.  $\$12 \times .02 = \$1.68$
4. Accept any answer that exhibits an understanding of the subject matter.
5. Accept any answer that exhibits an understanding of the subject matter.
6. Accept any answer that exhibits an understanding of the subject matter.

**Wrap-up and Assessment:** Teachers can assess the lesson in any way that is appropriate.