



Create a Living Timeline

Topic:

Students will use the information gathered from reading and discussing the various park handouts and brochures of Fort Davis available in the Fort Davis history section. They will decide on important dates and events in the fort's history. Using these and other reference materials, they will research and develop information on these events that will be fitted onto the timeline. Students will produce appropriate art to illustrate the timeline. This lesson should meet the needs and learning modalities of most students as it provides avenues for art, mathematics, creative drama, and interpersonal skills in working with a group.

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

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

Grade 6

Social Studies

113.22: 1,2,,7, 20, 21,22,23

Language Arts

110.22: 4, 11, 13 15

Grade 7

Social Studies

111.23: 1,5,6,8,9,10,11,19,20,

21,22,23

Language Arts

110.23: 4, 11, 13 15

Grade 8

Social Studies

111.24: 1, 6,10,1330,31,32

Language Arts

110.24: 4, 11, 13 15

Materials Needed:

Fort Davis brochures and literature (articles printed from park website www.nps.gov/foda especially at link "History & Culture")

Timeline Templates for class or each group (printable templates for 1850-1900 and a blank template to use for additional dates beyond the time of the fort)

Reference materials

Drawing materials, large sheets of paper, art supplies

Costumes (optional)

Lesson Activities:

Student Activities: Students can work as a class or in small groups. Templates provided can be used or students can use long strips of paper to create their own timeline.

1. Students will gather a list of significant or interesting events from their research and from the various park handouts available.
2. Students will choose several of these events to become part of their timeline. Using the templates provided (or a long strip of butcher paper) students will create a timeline to be displayed around the room or on the bulletin board. A list of Fort Davis and Texas history events are included for the teacher's reference. The following web page will also provide information for various time periods: <http://www.historymole.com/>

3. Individual students should take the role of a person (real or imaginary, such as a soldier or townsman) who lived at the time of each event. Students will then narrate the timeline by introducing themselves and telling something about the event, using their reference material for content. For example, a student might step forward and say, "I am Lieutenant William Whiting of the U.S. Army. I left San Antonio in February, 1849 to find a good military and commercial route to El Paso...." Students could then place a drawing or original pictures to mark their place on the timeline.
4. Encourage students to create costumes of their characters. Invite other classes to view the presentation.
5. Other activities could include researching and placing various U.S. flags on the timeline at the appropriate time. In addition, to show how things have changed, students could make pictures of clothing, fashions, or inventions for each part of timeline.

Major Sources:

Williams, Mary L. (National Park Service historian at Fort Davis National Historic Site), "Year by Year: A History of Fort Davis."

Lone Star Junction <http://www.lsjunction.com/events/events.htm#statehood>

Additional Resources: (The following books can all be ordered from the bookstore at Fort Davis National Historic Site 432-426-3224 ext. 28. Ask for teacher discount).

Utley, Robert M. *Fort Davis National Historic Site*. NPS Historical Handbook Series #38, Washington DC, 1965.

Wooster, Robert. *Fort Davis: Outpost on the Texas Frontier*. Texas State Historical Assn., 1994.

Ramsey-Palmer, Paige, *Young Troopers: Stories of Army Children on the Frontier*. Southwest Parks and Monuments Association, 1997.

Cobblestone Magazine, "Buffalo Soldiers." February, 1995.

Websites:

Fort Davis National Historic Site, National Park Service, homepage <http://www.nps.gov/foda>

Assessment:

Teachers can assess the learning in this lesson using any method they wish. The following rubric is just a sample and can be modified.

Rubric

	4 Exemplary	3 Accomplished	2 Developing	1 Below Standards	Points
Research, Timeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People, events and inventions on timeline are important. • Timeline is attractive and uncluttered. • Spelling and grammar are correct. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People, events and inventions on timeline are important. • Timeline is fairly well done. • Spelling and grammar are mostly correct. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incomplete information on people, events or inventions on timeline. • Timeline is somewhat cluttered. • Spelling and grammar are careless and often incorrect. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People, events and inventions on timeline are not important or are missing. • Timeline is incomplete or shows lack of care. • Spelling and grammar are incorrect. 	
Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation was well planned and coherent. • Oral report included computer-generated and/or hand-made visuals that enhanced presentation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presenter was informed when speaking about the material while referencing notes. • Oral report included computer-generated and/or hand-made visuals (clip-art, graphs, tables). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presenter was unable to completely discuss information related to topic, or simply read information from paper. • Limited or incomplete visuals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presenter was unable to accurately discuss information related to topic. • Oral report did not include visuals or supplementary materials. Or materials used did not enhance presentation. 	
Group Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performs all duties of the assigned team role. • Always does the assigned work without having to be reminded. • Works well with group members. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performs nearly all duties. • Usually does the assigned work; rarely needs reminding. • Works well with group members. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performs few duties. • Rarely does the assigned work; often needs reminding. • Needs some improvement in working with others. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not perform any duties of the assigned team role. • Always relies on others to do the work. • Argues and does not work well with others 	



Fort Davis Timeline

Mary Williams, National Park Service historian at Fort Davis National Historic Site, compiled the following information. It is provided as reference material for teachers to use in assisting students in choosing topics or events for the Living Timeline activity.

- 1848
 - The Mexican War ends with the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo.
 - Gold is discovered in California.
 - The Hays-Highsmith Expedition looks for a shorter route between San Antonio and Chihuahua, but fails.
- 1849
 - The race to the gold fields is in full swing.
 - The Whiting-Smith Expedition leaves San Antonio in February to explore western Texas and find a better route to El Paso that became the Lower Road. (Lower Road slightly shorter and offered more dependable sources of water than the Upper Road.)
 - The Ford-Neighbors Expedition explores a route that became known as the Upper Road.
- 1850
 - Transcontinental mail service begins.
 - There is a need for protection of the mail as well as of pioneers and freighters / freight wagons.
- 1853
 - The road between San Antonio and Santa Fe becomes part of the Federal mail route, with a monthly service contract for carrying the mail going to George Giddings.
- 1854
 - In April 1854, the mail service between San Antonio and Santa Fe begins.
 - Fort Davis is established in October, with Lieutenant Colonel Washington Seawell as post commander.
 - The post is named for Jefferson Davis, Secretary of War for the United States.
- 1855
 - Structures at Fort Davis are constructed in late 1854–1855, but they are of poor quality.
 - Congress appropriates \$30,000 for experiments in camel transportation in the Southwest.
 - Army sees the need to establish other posts on the San Antonio - El Paso Road. Fort Lancaster is established.

- 1856
 - More substantial structures are built at Fort Davis, including six enlisted men's barracks.
- 1857
 - James Birch wins Federal contract to carry mail from San Antonio to San Diego. George Giddings as well as other famous frontier figures such as Big Foot Wallace and Henry Skillman drove the Birch coaches.
 - Camels come through Fort Davis for first time under Lieutenant Edward Beale, who had been assigned to survey a wagon road to Arizona.
- 1858
 - Butterfield stages begin to use the Upper Road.
 - Fort Quitman is established.
- 1859
 - Butterfield stages begin to use Lower Road in competition with the Birch mail contract.
 - Both lines use the same route until 1861.
 - Camels again come through Fort Davis under Lieutenant Edward Hartz, who is seeking a shorter route from San Antonio to Fort Davis.
 - Fort Stockton is established.
- 1860
 - More camels come to Fort Davis with Lieutenant Echols, who is attempting to find a new route from Pecos to Fort Davis; he nearly perishes in the desert while doing so.
- 1861
 - Texas secedes from the United States on March 4.
 - On April 13, Federal (U.S.) troops of Company H, 8th Infantry, under Captain Edward Blake abandon Fort Davis.
 - By May, Confederate troops are at the post. Concerned only with supporting the invasion of New Mexico, Confederates do not mount an offensive against the Apaches.
 - In August, thirteen men under the command of Confederate Lieutenant Rueben Mays are ambushed by Apaches who had raided cattle pens near Fort Davis. Nearly all of them die. This is called the “Mays Fight.”
- 1862
 - Confederate forces are beaten at Battle of Glorieta Pass, New Mexico, in March. Fort Davis becomes a medical receiving station for many Confederate wounded.
 - Confederates abandon Fort Davis in August.
 - California volunteers (Federal troops) come to Fort Davis at the end of August but soon return to Fort Bliss.
- 1862-1865
 - Fort Davis is abandoned until the end of the Civil War. Indian attacks on settlers remaining in the area and on travelers increase.

- 1865
 - Phil Sheridan, commander of Federal troops in Texas, blames the Indian troubles on the Texans. The Texans argue that Federal troops should be kept on the frontier for protection rather than in the cities.
- 1866
 - Frederick P. Sawyer, a partner in an east Texas stage line, is granted a contract to carry the U. S. mail over the San Antonio–El Paso Route.
 - By late spring, the War Department musters nearly one million men out of its massive volunteer forces.
 - Black (African-American) regiments are established to enlarge the forces of a permanent army.
- 1867
 - On June 29, 1867, Colonel Wesley Merritt and four companies of the Ninth Cavalry, an all black regiment reoccupy Fort Davis. With the responsibility to protect travel on the road, they immediately begin patrolling the road both east and west from the fort.
 - Civilian laborers are hired to help rebuild Fort Davis.
 - In November, a new lease is negotiated with the private land owner, John James of San Antonio, for one section (640 acres) of land on which Fort Davis is located. Terms of the lease: \$900.00 per year for up to 50 years.
- 1868
 - In March, the 41st Infantry arrives at Fort Davis. This is the first time both infantry and cavalry serve at the post together.
- 1869
 - In March, building by civilian workers stops because of a cut-back in government funding.
 - In November, Colonel Edward Hatch assumes command of Fort Davis. Hatch believes more offensive action is required to stop Indian raids on mail coaches, settlers, and travelers in area.
- 1870
 - Hatch mounts three separate campaigns against the Apaches in the Guadalupe Mountains.
 - The 24th and 25th Infantry and the 9th Cavalry are now at Fort Davis.
- 1871
 - Colonel William Shafter of the 24th Infantry becomes post commander in May. He, also, believes in offensive campaigning against native peoples.
 - Congress reduces pay of enlisted men from \$16.00 per month to \$13.00 per month--effective on June 20.
- 1872
 - Colonel George Andrews of the 25th Infantry takes command of Fort Davis.

- 1873
 - In March, Andrews relinquishes command of Fort Davis to Major Zenas Bliss. Andrews travels back East to see his ill wife, who dies.
- 1874
 - Colonel Andrews of the 25th Infantry returns to Fort Davis in September from leave, bringing his new wife Emily and step-daughter Maud with him.
- 1875
 - Company H, 10th U. S. Cavalry, also an all-black unit, comes to Fort Davis.
 - Construction begins on a new hospital at Fort Davis.
 - The 9th Cavalry is transferred from Fort Davis to New Mexico Territory
- 1876
 - Small raids in west Texas increase.
- 1877
 - Raiding increases and a number of people are killed along the San Antonio-El Paso Road.
 - By summer, troops from Fort Stockton have erected poles and strung telegraph wire west to Barrilla Springs. In September, army headquarters orders that the line be continued to Fort Davis. Construction begins in October and is completed in November.
 - The Indian Bureau decides to consolidate some of the Apache groups by moving the Warm Springs people from their homeland in western New Mexico to the San Carlos Reservation in Arizona. A few months later, Warm Springs leader, Victorio, leads some 300 people off the San Carlos reservation.
 - For the next two years, Victorio plays “cat-and-mouse” with the army—attacking ranches, stagecoaches, and isolated army detachments throughout southern New Mexico.
- 1878
 - Work on the telegraph line westward to El Paso from Fort Davis begins in September.
- 1879
 - Troops complete the telegraph line from Fort Davis to El Paso—91 ½ miles in February. This is the final link in a network connecting San Diego, California to Fort Concho (through Fort Davis), and then from Fort Concho to San Antonio and down to Brownsville.
 - This year sees the beginning of the “Victorio Campaign.” Victorio and band show up at the Mescalero Reservation in June and wants to stay there. His request is forwarded to Washington, but meanwhile, his people are not allowed to draw food rations at the agency. As Victorio’s band grows hungrier, Victorio and many followers flee the reservation again.

- 1880
 - Battles with Victorio take place in west Texas at Viejo Pass, Tinaja de las Palmas, Rattlesnake Springs, and Ojo Caliente—forcing him to flee to Mexico.
 - Victorio is killed in mountains of Mexico in October.
 - Lieutenant Henry O. Flipper transfers to Fort Davis.
- 1881
 - Lieutenant Flipper is brought to trial at Fort Davis on charges of embezzlement.
 - The Texas and Pacific Railroad from the east reaches Toyah on Sept. 12. Two months later, it reaches Sierra Blanca and connects with the Southern Pacific Railroad.
- 1882
 - Headquarters of the 10th Cavalry moves to Fort Davis.
 - Lieutenant Flipper is dismissed from the U.S. Army.
 - Southern Pacific from the west reaches Marfa in January.
- 1883
 - General William Sherman retires as head of the U.S. Army, and General Phil Sheridan takes his place.
 - Work begins on new water system.
- 1885
 - 10th Cavalry transfers from Fort Davis to Arizona Territory.
 - 3rd Cavalry arrives at Fort Davis.
 - A new commissary building is completed at Fort Davis, and Thomas Forsyth becomes new commissary sergeant.
- 1886
 - Troop activity is concentrated along the Rio Grande, Big Bend and Presidio area due to stealing by Mexicans from across the border.
- 1887
 - The post canteen opens at Fort Davis in an effort to control alcohol consumption by soldiers. The post trader is soon to be eliminated.
- 1888
 - An ice machine arrives at Fort Davis. It makes ice by putting ammonia under compression.
- 1889
 - Fire in an abandoned enlisted men's barracks that houses the ice machine at Fort Davis destroys the ice machine and the building.
- 1890
 - Difficulties at the Mexican border continue.
- 1891
 - Fort Davis is abandoned as a military post in June. The land and its improvements revert back to the owners in September.
- 1892
 - The bodies of 100 soldiers buried in the Fort Davis post cemeteries are moved to the National Cemetery at San Antonio.

Other Texas Events:

December 1845 -- Texas becomes the 28th state of the United States.

April 1846-1848 -- The Mexican-American War begins as a result of disputes over claims to Texas boundaries. The outcome of the war fixes Texas's southern boundary at the Rio Grande River.

November 1850 -- In a plan to settle boundary disputes and pay her public debt, Texas relinquishes about one-third of her territory in the Compromise of 1850, in exchange for \$10,000,000 from the United States.

April 1856 -- Backed by the U.S. military, a shipment of 32 camels arrives at the port of Indianola. The resulting Texas Camel Experiment uses the animals to transport supplies over the "Great American Desert."

February 1861 -- Texas secedes from the Federal Union. Governor Sam Houston is one of a small minority opposed to secession.

October 1861 -- Advance units of the newly formed Brigade of General H. H. Sibley marches westward from San Antonio to claim New Mexico and the American southwest for the Confederacy.

May 1865 -- The last land engagement of the Civil War is fought at the Battle of Palmito Ranch in far south Texas, more than a month after General Lee's surrender at Appomattox, Virginia.

1866 -- The abundance of longhorn cattle in south Texas and the return of Confederate soldiers to a poor reconstruction economy marks the beginning of the era of Texas trail drives to northern markets.

March 1870 -- The United States Congress readmits Texas into the Union, but Reconstruction continues for another four years.

October 1876 -- The opening of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas (Texas A&M) makes this the state's first college. Tuition costs \$10 per semester.

September 1883 -- The University of Texas opens in Austin with its first courses offered in the Academic Department and a Law Department.

May 1888 -- The dedication of the present state capitol in Austin ends seven years of planning and construction. The building is funded with 3,000,000 acres of land in north Texas.

January 1891 -- Based on a campaign platform calling for the regulation of railroads and big business, James Hogg takes office as the first native-born governor of Texas.

January 1901 -- The discovery of "black gold" at the Spindletop oil field near Beaumont launches Texas into oil exploration, electronics, and human space travel.