

Fort Davis

National Historic Site

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Curriculum Materials Grades 2-5

Native Americans Who Lived and Traveled Near Fort Davis



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Teacher Notes: Native Americans Near Fort Davis

Topic: Native Americans who lived and traveled near Fort Davis

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

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

Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
Social Studies 113.4:2,3,17a,18,19	Social Studies 113.5:16,17,18	Social Studies 113.6:1,22,23,24	Social Studies 113.7:23,25,26,27
Language Arts 110.3: 10,13,15,17	Language Arts 110.5: 10,13,15,17	Language Arts 110.6:10,13,15,17,23	Language Arts 110.7: 10,13,15,17,23
Science 112.3.8a	Science 112.4.8a,b,c,d		

Materials Needed:

Student reading: *The Apache*

Copies of three worksheets :

- a. Native American Worksheet #1
- b. Apache Travel
- c. Needs vs Wants

White construction paper

Crayons / Markers —1 pack per group

Computers with internet access

Lesson Activities:

1. Place students in five groups with an equal number of students in each group. Give each group a marker and one sheet of white construction paper. Tell each group of students to use markers to divide their papers into three sections. Have students label each section 1 (What I already know about Native Americans who lived or traveled near Ft. Davis) 2 (What I want to know about Native Americans who lived or traveled near Ft. Davis) and 3 (What I learned about Native Americans who lived or traveled near Ft. Davis). Then have each group write at least three things that they already know about Native Americans in section one on their construction paper and three things they would like to know.

What I already know about Native Americans who lived or traveled near Ft. Davis	What I want to know about Native Americans who lived or traveled near Ft. Davis	What I learned about Native Americans who lived or traveled near Ft. Davis
1.	1.	1.
2.	2.	2.
3.	3.	3.

2. Choose two to three groups to share what they have written. Explain to the class that you will be discussing Native Americans such as the Apaches and Comanches who traveled/raided in and through the area where the army post of Fort Davis was located.

3. For *The Apache handout*, the teacher can read it to students; upper level students can read it themselves. Discuss some of the facts and other information. Encourage students to ask questions. Pose questions to younger students about the Native Americans who raided and traveled near Fort Davis during its existence. Describe the differences between the tribes and the way they lived. Be sure to point out whether a tribe was nomadic and if its people were farmers, gathers, or hunters.

4. Assign each group one of the following tribes: **Jumanos, Lipan Apaches, Warm Springs Apache, Mescalero Apache, and Comanche**. These are tribes that traveled and raided in the area of Fort Davis when it was an active army post. Tell students to research information on the Internet about their assigned tribes. Teachers who do not have classrooms with computers or internet access may want to bring encyclopedias or other books into the classroom. Remind students that there are many Apache and Comanche living today; some still live on reservations, and others have assimilated into society.

5. Each group will then create a poster that summarizes some of the key things about their tribe. Each group’s summary should include where the tribe lived or traveled, if its people were hunters, farmers, or gatherers, and the type of housing the tribe lived in.

6. Have each group present its poster to the entire class. Then have each student complete the third and final box in his/her chart that is labeled “What I learned about the Native Americans who lived or traveled near Fort Davis.”

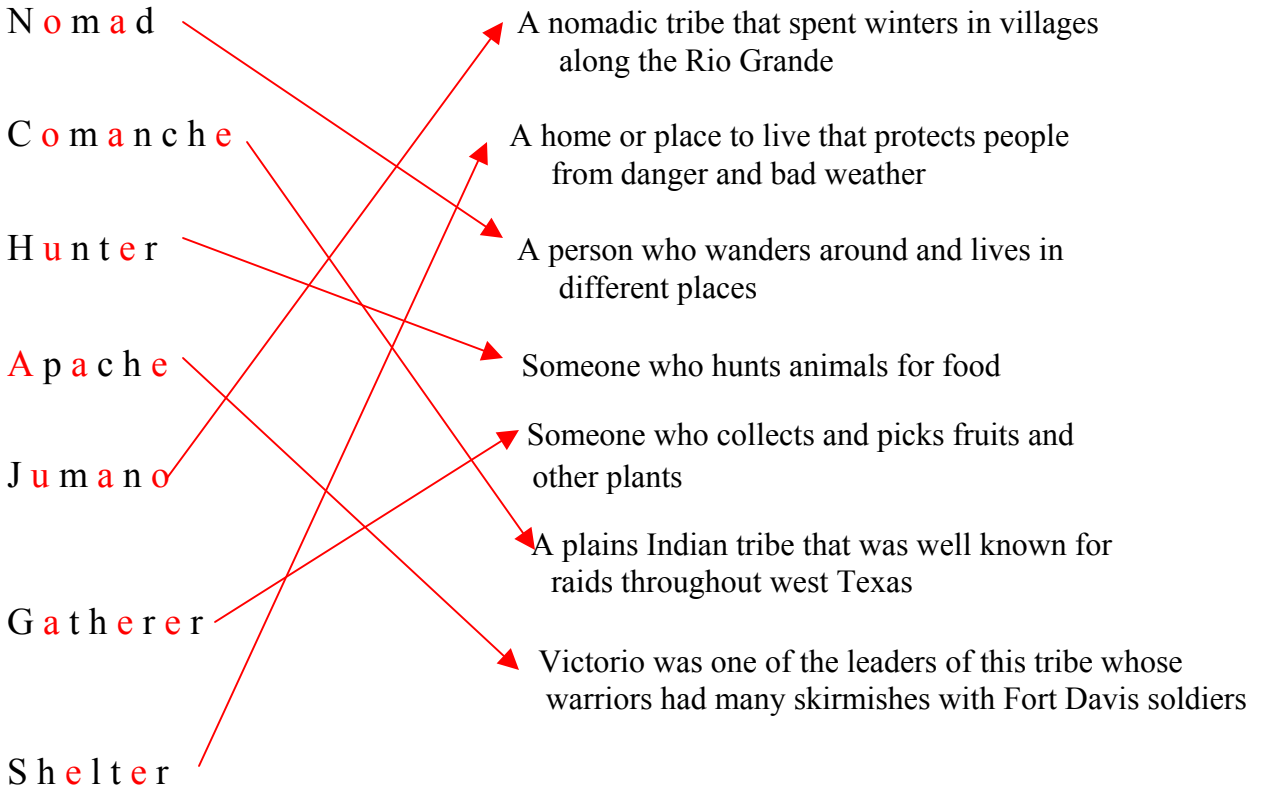
Other Activities and Projects: Here are several other activities that can be done in conjunction with this lesson.

- As a class, publish student-created posters as a book. Have students write a brief summary of their tribes for the pictures that they have created.
- Have students determine the needs and wants of the different Native American tribes. Be sure to explain to students the distinct difference between things that are needs and necessary to substance life here on earth, and things that are wants in which people will not die if they don’t have them.
- Create models of different Native American shelters or homes.
- Research a particular Native American leader or shaman/medicine man.

Answer Keys:

Native American Worksheet 1

DIRECTIONS: Use the vowels a, e, i, o, u to complete the following vocabulary words. Then connect each word with its proper definition.



Think about what it would be like to have lived among one of the Native American tribes discussed in this lesson. Imagine it is the 1880s. What type of things would you see and do? Where would you live and what would you eat? Explain your answers in paragraph form on the back of this page.

Accept reasonable answers.

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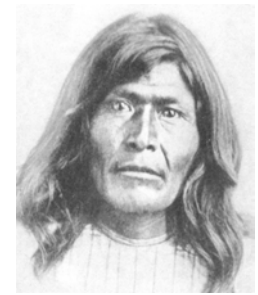
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Student Activity: Native Americans Near Fort Davis

The Apache

Around the 17th century, groups of Apache and Comanche began to migrate to the Trans-Pecos region of west Texas. The Apache were predominant in the Fort Davis area. The Comanche and Kiowa were further east, but they sometimes moved through west Texas while conducting raids into northern Mexico.

Apache were nomadic hunters and gatherers at that time. By the 1800s, few Apache actually lived in west Texas, except for some Mescalero Apache who occupied seasonal villages in the Davis Mountains and the Big Bend. Victorio was one of the Apache leaders whose warriors had many skirmishes with Fort Davis soldiers.



A group of Apache near wickiups (National Archives photo)

For shelter, Apache used tipis, ramadas, and wickiups. Tipis had hide covers. Ramadas were open-air shelters constructed of poles set in the ground and connected by cross poles covered by brush. Wickiups were made of a circle of poles bent over and thatched together, then covered with plants such as

yucca or grass. A smoke hole was left at the top, and a low door was covered by a piece of animal hide, canvas or a blanket.

They gathered food according to the season. The Apache diet included a variety of game, berries, and nuts. Game included deer, pronghorn, and rabbits, and often the meat was preserved by drying it into thin sheets of jerky. Piñon nuts and agave—known as mescal (“century plant”), were two of the most important staples. Berries and cactus fruit were eaten raw. Nuts

were eaten fresh, or they were roasted, ground into flour using a metate and mano, then baked as bread. When Apaches harvested mescal, they baked the hearts or roots of the plant; this food could then be stored almost indefinitely.



Apache Bride
(National Archives photo)

The responsibilities of women and men were clearly defined. Women were in charge of household chores. They gathered, preserved, and stored food, prepared the meals, collected firewood, and carried water. Women cared for and educated the children. They also cured animal hides and fashioned them into clothing or shelter.

Most of the men's time was occupied with hunting, defense, and raiding. Each warrior had to make and maintain his own tools, weapons, horse gear, and ceremonial items. His weapons included lances, knives, bows and

arrows, and war clubs.

The spiritual world was very important to the Apache. There were both medicine men and medicine women whose main job was to bring rain, to predict future events, to ward off evil spirits and sickness, and to insure success in hunting, war, raids, love and other endeavors. Each of them had a medicine bag containing items such as plants, feathers, crystals, and arrowheads that were considered sacred. Lozen, sister of Victorio, was a medicine woman who Apaches believed had the power to sense the location of the enemy.

As European Americans began traveling west in the 1800s, the struggle began between newcomers trying to control the land and the Apache trying to retain their way of life. From that time on, the way of life for the Apache would never be the same.



Today many Apache live on reservations in New Mexico and Arizona, and others live in cities and towns elsewhere. Most have blended into the mainstream culture, while keeping aspects of their Apache history and traditions.

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Student Activity: Native Americans Near Fort Davis
Worksheet 1

Native American Worksheet 1

DIRECTIONS: Use the vowels a, e, i, o, u to complete the following vocabulary words.
Then connect each word with its proper definition.

N _ _ m _ _ d

A nomadic tribe that spent winters in villages along the Rio Grande

C _ _ m _ _ n c h _ _

A home or place to live that protects people from danger and bad weather

H _ _ n t _ _ r

A person who wanders around and lives in different places

_ _ p _ _ ch _ _

Someone who hunts animals for food

J _ _ m _ _ n _ _

Someone who collects and picks fruits and other plants

G _ _ t h _ _ r _ _ r

A plains Indian tribe that was well known for raids throughout west Texas

S h _ _ l t _ _ r

Victorio was one of the leaders of this tribe whose warriors had many skirmishes with Fort Davis soldiers

Think about what it would be like to have lived among one of the Native American tribes discussed in this lesson. Imagine it is the 1880s. What type of things would you see and do? Where would you live and what would you eat? Explain your answers in paragraph form on the back of this page.



Picture Taken From Fort Davis National Historic Site website at www.nps.gov/foda

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Student Activity: Native Americans Near Fort Davis
Apache Travel Inc. Worksheet

Apache Travel Inc.

Apache Travel Inc. is having a contest. First prize is a one week trip to visit and stay with a real life Apache tribe. To enter, fill in the blank entry form below. You must be under 12 years of age to enter.

Name _____ Date of Birth _____

School _____

Write about what you would like to see and do when you visit the Apache tribe.

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Student Activity: Native Americans Near Fort Davis
Needs vs. Wants. Worksheet

Needs vs Wants

DIRECTIONS: Identify, then draw and label needs and wants of Native Americans who lived or traveled near Fort Davis.



Picture Taken From Fort Davis National Historic Site website at www.nps.gov/foda

Needs

Wants