

Santa Fe National Historic Trail



Junior Ranger Activity Book



In association with:

Fort Larned National Historic Site, KS
Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site, CO

Capulin Volcano National Monument, NM
Fort Union National Monument, NM
Pecos National Historical Park, NM

Wagons Ho! Trail Guide to Santa Fe

Welcome to the Santa Fe Trail!

The place where you now stand was once bustling with activity. Between 1821 and 1880, the Santa Fe Trail was used to transport goods from Independence, Missouri to Santa Fe, New Mexico. Everything from coffee to furniture traveled down the trail. The trail was also used to transport military freight, including weapons, food, and ammunition to the many forts in the southwest. In 1880 the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe

Railway made its way into New Mexico, providing a faster, safer way to travel. This marked the end of the Santa Fe Trail. We invite you to explore this trail and imagine what life would have been like more than a century ago. Before you hit the trail, however, make sure to read the safety information and keep it in mind while you are traveling.

Trail Safety:

Weather: The Santa Fe Trail goes through many states with different climates, so be prepared for all types of weather, including extreme heat and thunderstorms.

Animals: Be respectful of wild animals; they should not be fed or approached.

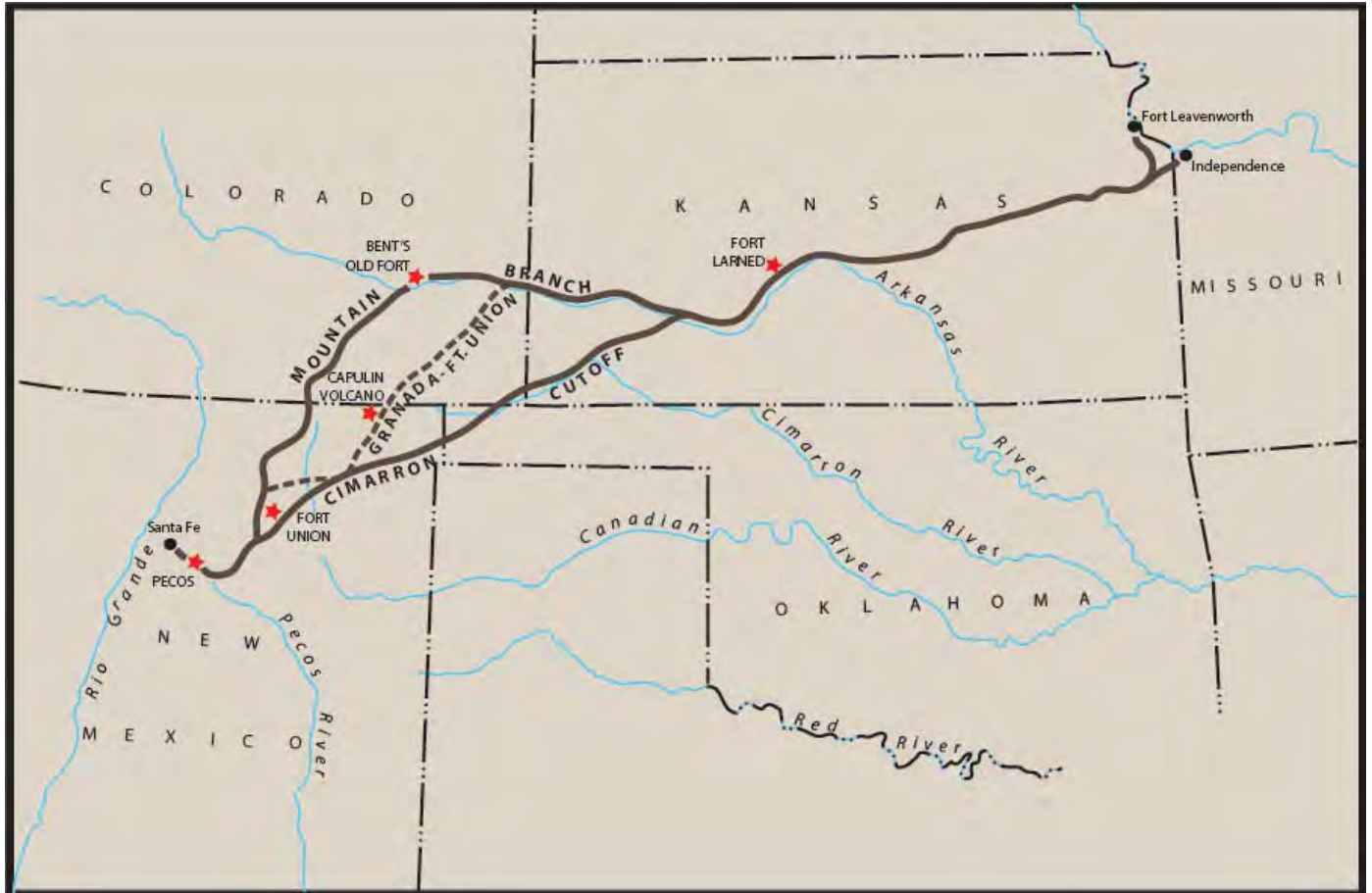
Preservation: Helps us preserve these sites; don't take anything or leave trash behind.

Your safety: Bring water, snacks, and sunscreen on your trail adventure.



Become a Junior Ranger

There are many places along the Santa Fe Trail you can visit to learn more information. This book includes five sites, which are part of the National Park Service. Each site played a different yet important role to the many people traveling the Santa Fe Trail.



To become a Junior Ranger of the Santa Fe Trail:



Explore each site along the trail in person, online, or through brochures



Complete 3 general trail activities, plus each park site's activity

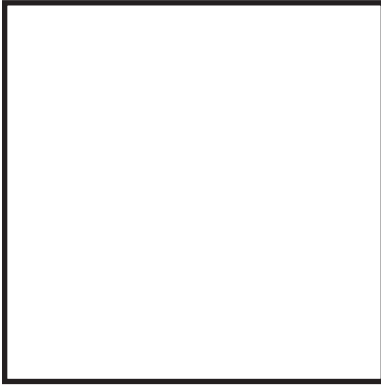


Turn in your book to a ranger, or by mail

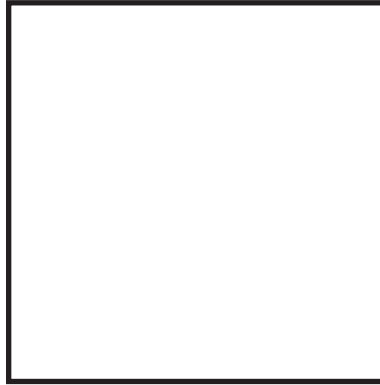
Have fun and good luck!

My Travels

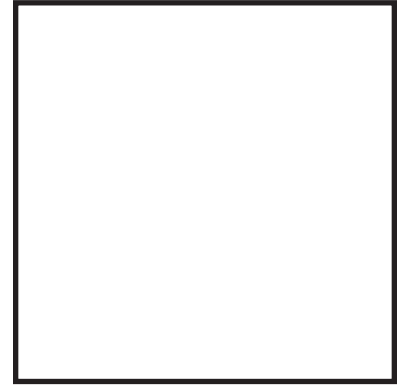
As you visit park sites, stamp the boxes to show where you've been.



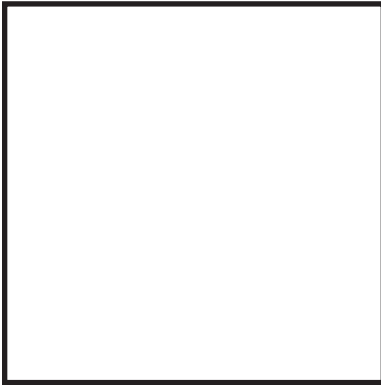
Fort Larned



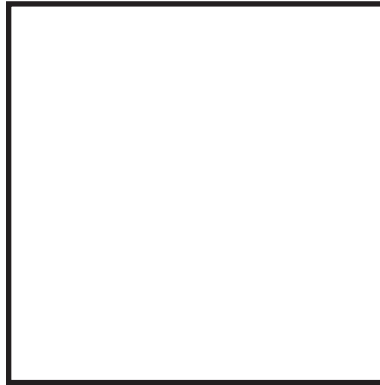
Bent's Old Fort



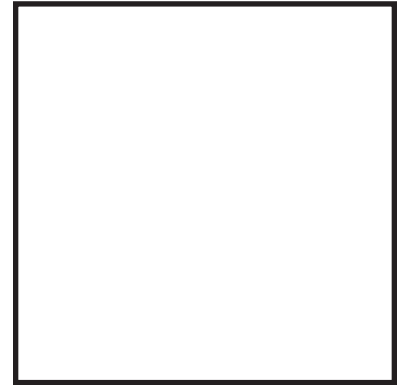
Capulin Volcano



Fort Union



Pecos



Santa Fe Trail

It takes about 13 hours to drive from Independence to Santa Fe today, but during trail days it took a couple months or more. What is different about traveling today versus traveling in the 1800s? What would be the same?

Differences

Similarities

Along the Way

It is 780 miles from Independence, Missouri, to Santa Fe, New Mexico. Today you can still see remnants of the trail and other pieces of history throughout the area. As you visit places along the trail, search for these items and circle what you find:



old fort	military weapon	tent
wagon ruts	Santa Fe Trail marker	prairie dog
horseshoe	National Park Service arrowhead	wagon



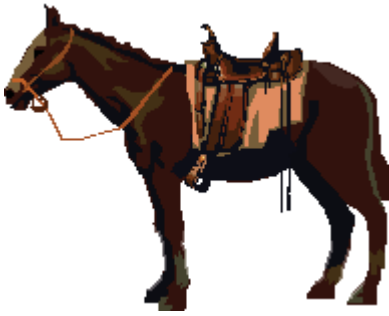
It was not easy for people traveling day in and day out. Food had to be rationed. The weather was often very hot or stormy. Encounters with snakes and insects were abundant. Use your imagination and draw a picture of what you think traveling on the trail would have looked like 150 years ago.

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for a student to draw a scene of traveling on the trail 150 years ago.

Bonus: If you were traveling at 2 miles/hour, how long would it take you to reach Santa Fe if you were 50 miles away?

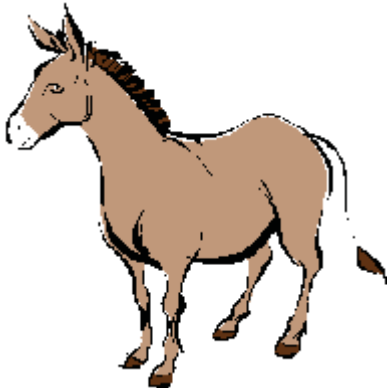
Trail Transportation

Animals were a major part of the Santa Fe Trail, especially horses, mules, and oxen. Each of these animals had different advantages and disadvantages, but all were necessary for travel. It would have been a much longer and more difficult journey without their help to pull wagons and carry goods. Match each animal by drawing a line to its correct description, then choose which one you would use for traveling. Write it on the line below.



horse

We were the cheapest animal and did not need a lot of feed because we could graze on grass. In an emergency we could be eaten, and were not appealing to American Indians. We could be very strong, but we were not the fastest pullers and our hooves needed to be protected with shoes.



mule

We were the first animals on the Santa Fe Trail, but we could not pull heavy wagons for long periods of time and needed more to eat than just grass. Although we were not used for heavy loads for very long, we were still used for riding and pulling stagecoaches and light wagons.



ox

We were very strong and fast and did not need much feed. Because of our speed we were preferred by the army. However, we were expensive and sometimes stubborn. We were easily stampeded and stolen by American Indians, who loved our meat.

What's pulling your wagon? _____

What's in the Wagon?

The Santa Fe Trail was a major trading route and many different goods were moved up and down the trail. Traders of all kinds traveled with their goods to sell and exchange in Santa Fe for money or new items to bring back east. People traveling also had to bring supplies with them because they would be on the trail for months at a time.

Unscramble the words below to find out what items were taken on the trail for both traveling and trading. Then, find them in the wordsearch. HINT: Use the pictures to help you unscramble the words.

ndseedel **N E E D L E S**

srcsioss _____

bcaon _____

flrou _____

skliet _____

csndlae _____

bllutes _____

bunttos _____

fgals _____

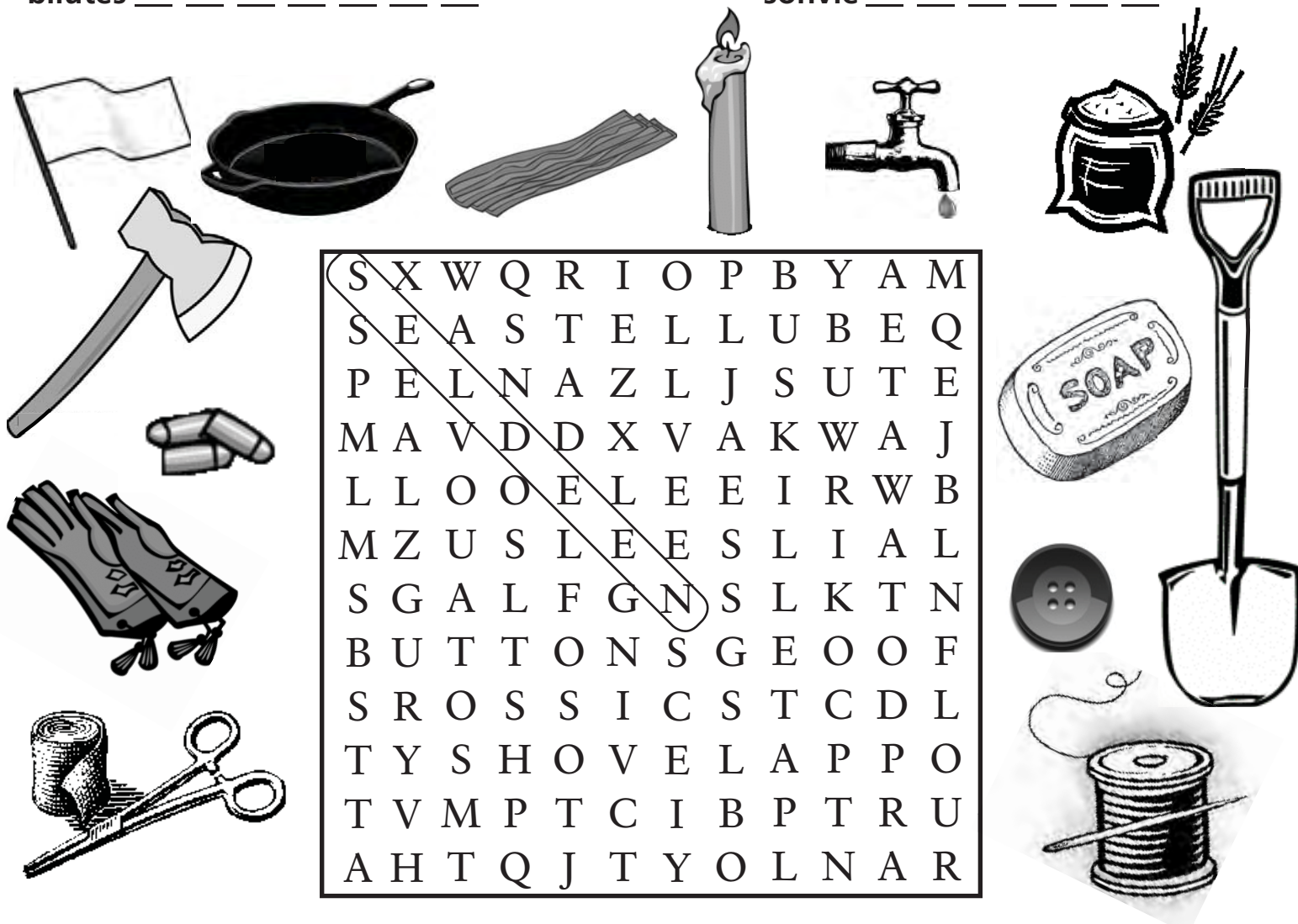
axse _____

wreta _____

glevso _____

spoa _____

sohvle _____



S	X	W	Q	R	I	O	P	B	Y	A	M
S	E	A	S	T	E	L	L	U	B	E	Q
P	E	L	N	A	Z	L	J	S	U	T	E
M	A	V	D	D	X	V	A	K	W	A	J
L	L	O	O	E	L	E	E	I	R	W	B
M	Z	U	S	L	E	E	S	L	I	A	L
S	G	A	L	F	G	N	S	L	K	T	N
B	U	T	T	O	N	S	G	E	O	O	F
S	R	O	S	S	I	C	S	T	C	D	L
T	Y	S	H	O	V	E	L	A	P	P	O
T	V	M	P	T	C	I	B	P	T	R	U
A	H	T	Q	J	T	Y	O	L	N	A	R

Travel Journal

Many people who traveled on the Santa Fe Trail recorded their observations about what they saw and how they felt. When you stop at different places along the trail, in-person or on the web, record some of your own observations.

Location: _____

Weather: _____

Landscape: _____

How you feel: _____

Location: _____

Weather: _____

Landscape: _____

How you feel: _____

Location: _____

Weather: _____

Landscape: _____

How you feel: _____



Fort Larned NHS

Protector of the Santa Fe Trail

Fort Larned was established in 1859 due to hostility and conflicts along the trail between travelers and American Indians. Until 1878, it was a U.S. Army military fort, with supplies for troops to control conflicts while protecting the central section of the trail.

The fort consisted of officers' row, shops, warehouses, barracks, and a blockhouse. Explore these buildings in-person, on the website, or in the brochure, to find the items below. When you find something, circle it and write down its location. Then try to answer the questions below.

underground well

bunk beds

soldier's clothing

large brick oven

operating table

lieutenant's room



How much money did a blacksmith make at the fort per month in 1867? _____

How many army units were stationed at the fort? _____



What type of wagon is this? _____

Bent's Old Fort NHS

Trading Post on the Trail

From 1833 to 1849, Bent's Fort was a busy international trading post providing explorers, adventurers, and the U.S. Army with a place to get needed supplies. The trade room had goods from around the world from Europe to Asia. There was sugar from Cuba, guns from England, and gunpowder from Delaware, as well as American Indian goods, such as blankets and animal skins.



You are a trader making your way to Santa Fe and decide to stop at Bent's Fort because you are low on food. Here bartering, or trading goods, is the primary method of "buying" items. Figure out what you want to trade for and make sure it all comes out even in each column.

In your wagon

1 yard of cloth.....\$1.00
1 spool of thread.....30¢
1 hat.....\$2.00
1 steel knife.....\$1.50

Bent's Fort trade room

1 pound of beans.....20¢
1 water cracker.....2¢
1 pound of sugar.....\$2.00
1 pound of rice.....75¢

Trade Log

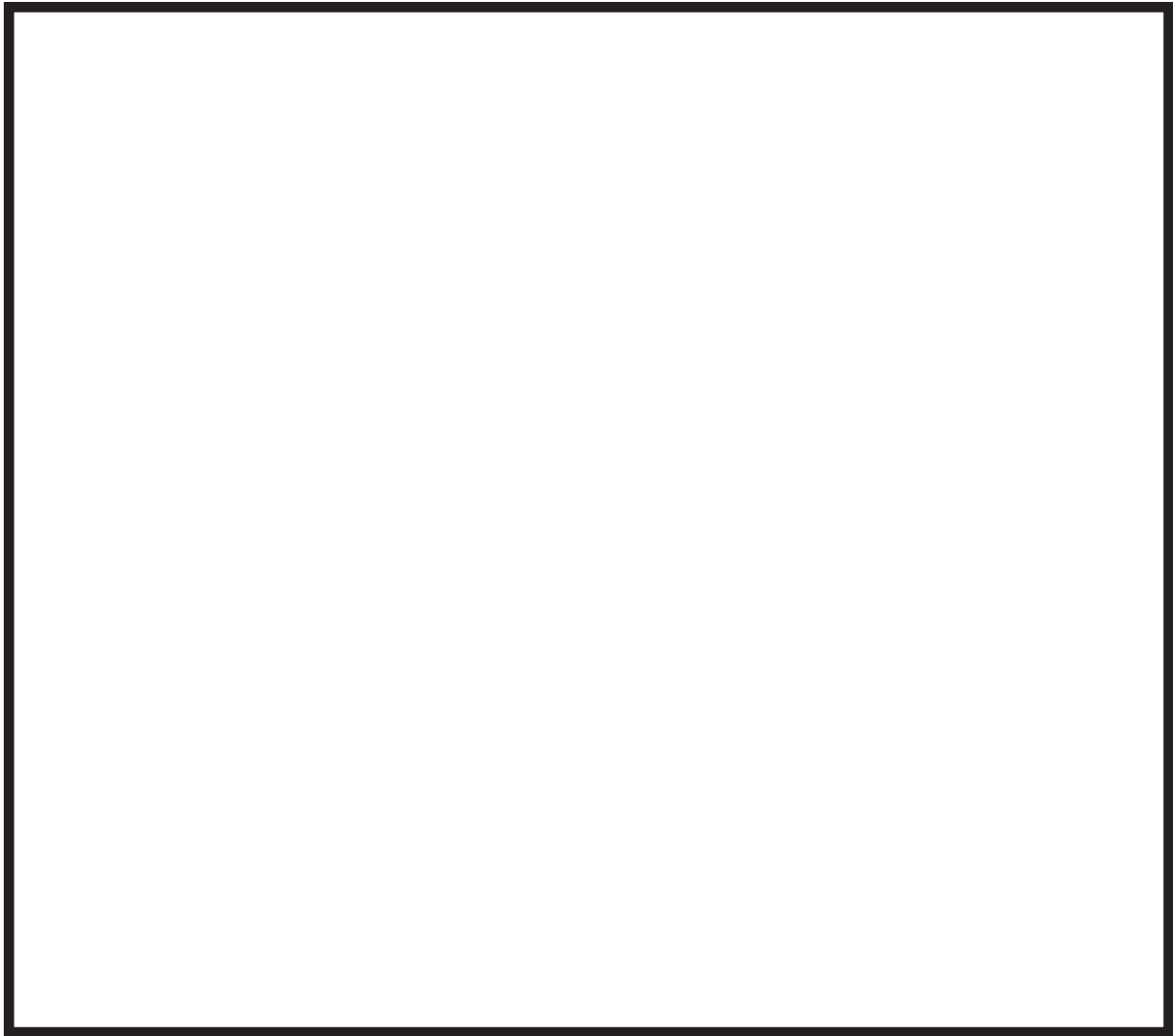
I am trading:			For:		
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
<i>amount</i>	<i>item</i>	<i>price</i>	<i>amount</i>	<i>item</i>	<i>price</i>
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
<i>amount</i>	<i>item</i>	<i>price</i>	<i>amount</i>	<i>item</i>	<i>price</i>
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
<i>amount</i>	<i>item</i>	<i>price</i>	<i>amount</i>	<i>item</i>	<i>price</i>

Capulin Volcano NM

Landmark of the Trail

Capulin Volcano was an important landmark on the Santa Fe Trail because it was easily recognizable for its distinct shape from the other volcanoes in the area. The Granada-Fort Union portion of the Santa Fe Trail, which was a military freight route, passed just southeast of the volcano. This part of the trail was also used once railroads expanded westward to supply Fort Union.

Draw a picture of the volcano and describe the area around it for your friends and family at home. Use the website or the brochure to draw your picture if you can't visit in-person.




Fort Union NM


Guardian of the Trail


Fort Union was established in 1851 as a military supply depot, and also provided protection for travelers from American Indian attacks. The fort was similar to a village with military housing, a hospital, jail, post office, stores, and many different corrals.


You are a soldier at Fort Union and you need to have your wagon fixed.

1. Start from the company quarters and go through the maze to the transportation corral to pick up the wagon.
2. Then head to the mechanic's corral to get it fixed.
3. Lastly, go to the storehouse and get some ammunition for your gun.

Storehouse

storage for weapons and ammunition

Mechanic's Corral

National Archives
wagon repair and maintenance

Company Quarters

military personnel housing

Transportation Corral

storage for mules and wagons

Pecos NHP

Getting Through the Pass

It's the late 1800s and the Santa Fe Trail is no longer the bustling route to the west. The railroads are built and there is no need for the long wagon journey. You are exploring the trail near Santa Fe and you come across what remains of Pecos Pueblo and the adjacent Spanish mission church.



National Park Service Historic Photograph Collection

The pueblo and mission you find are deserted and crumbling. When you look closer you find some interesting items:



Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial

U.S. Army button



pottery



camping stove

Can you figure out what happened here based on what was found? Place numbers 1-6 below each event in the order in which they occurred.

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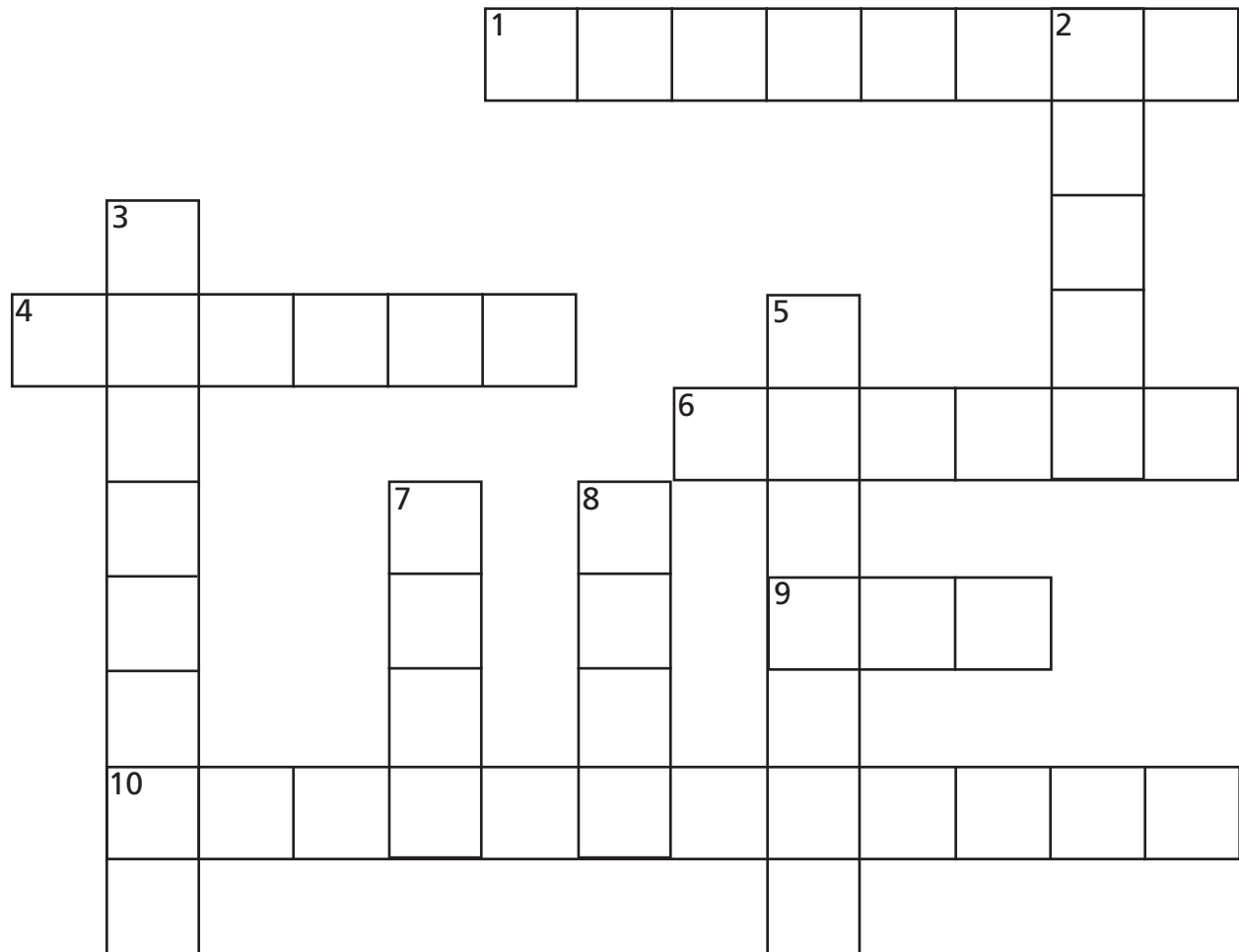
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Trail Puzzle

Now that you've explored the Santa Fe Trail, test your knowledge with this crossword puzzle! The answers to the clues can be found in this book, online, and at the sites.



ACROSS

1. Larned, Bent's, and Union were all forts used by the military during this war.
4. These were rode by many soldiers patrolling the trail.
6. Someone who brought goods to Santa Fe to make money.
9. The abbreviation for the National Park Service.
10. The starting point of the trail (in Missouri).

DOWN

2. The type of building material used for Pecos Pueblo, Fort Union, and Bent's Old Fort.
3. The branch of the trail Bent's Old Fort is on.
5. The _____-Fort Union part of the trail went just southeast of Capulin Volcano.
7. The wooden bar used to hitch oxen together.
8. Before wagons, this animal would usually carry goods.

Be a Junior Ranger!

Once you have completed all your activities take your book to a Ranger or mail it to Fort Union National Monument to receive your badge and certificate! And remember:

Explore, Learn, Protect!

Pledge

I pledge to be a good Junior Ranger;
I promise to continue
to discover and explore
our national parks
and much much more.
I will do my best
to protect and preserve
so the Santa Fe Trail
can forever be observed.

Site websites

Fort Larned: www.nps.gov/fols
Bent's: www.nps.gov/beol
Capulin: www.nps.gov/cavo
Fort Union: www.nps.gov/foun
Pecos: www.nps.gov/peco
Santa Fe Trail: www.nps.gov/safe

Want to keep exploring?

Check out www.nps.gov/webrangers
and become a Web Ranger!



Fort Union National Monument
PO Box 127
Watrous, NM 87753

Written and designed by:
Annie Boyd and Ruaidhrí Crofton



Congratulations!

We are pleased to announce that

_____ is now an official Junior Ranger
of the Santa Fe National Historic Trail

_____ Park Ranger

_____ Date

