

Fort Larned National Historic Site



Junior Ranger Program



EXPLORE, LEARN, PROTECT

CARVED IN STONE

The American people have set aside special places to preserve for future generations. The National Park Service cares for these places. At Fort Larned, we've been preserving and protecting the fort's original sandstone buildings since the park was formed in 1966. As a Junior Ranger you can be part of that preservation effort and help keep them safe for future generations.

As you tour the fort you'll notice many names and dates carved into the walls of the fort's buildings. These carvings date mainly from the private ownership period between 1884 to 1966. If allowed to continue over time, though, carving on the sandstone walls is just as destructive as the erosion of wind, rain and snow.

The best way to help us preserve this national treasure is to not touch the sandstone buildings as much as possible when visiting and NEVER carve anything on the walls for any reason. Preservation in the Park Service is not just the job of the park rangers, it's for everyone to whom these treasures belong.

On the last page of this booklet is space for you to write down some of the more interesting carvings you see on the fort's walls during your time here.

THE PARK SERVICE ARROWHEAD



- The **Arrowhead** represents historical and archaeological treasures.
- The **Tree** represents all vegetation.
- The **Mountains** represent land formations, scenery, and recreational opportunities.
- The **Lake** represents clean water and recreational opportunities.
- The **Bison** represents wildlife.

FORT FACTS

The Santa Fe Trail, established in 1821, cut through the heart of Plains Indian territory. Fort Larned was established to help protect the U.S. mail and commercial traders attacked on the trail by the Indians, who resented this invasion of their homeland.

Look through the museum exhibits to find the answers to the following questions.

- 1) What year was Fort Larned established? _____
- 2) How many battles or skirmishes would the average soldier fight in during a five year enlistment? _____
- 3) Find the Mail Station interactive and pick a city. How long would it take for the mail to get there from Fort Larned? _____
- 4) What year did the Buffalo Soldiers arrive at Fort Larned? _____
- 5) Which Spanish explorer led the first European expedition across the Great Plains?

- 6) When was the Santa Fe Trail established? _____
- 7) Name two Plains Indian tribes that lived in this area. _____
- 8) Name two reasons why Plains Indian tribes raided. _____

A FORT LARNED ADVENTURE

Use the words in the word bank to fill in the blanks in the story below.

dominoes Infantryman sentry Kiowa Army
bunkies Cavalryman Larned Sutler's Store
hospital horses barracks Creek

Private Johnson is a foot soldier in the U.S. _____ in 1868. He

is an _____ and is stationed at Fort _____.

Sometimes he works with soldiers who ride and fight on horseback known as

_____. He works in the _____ helping the Army

Surgeon care for the sick patients. Some evenings he spends time with the rest of his

_____ in the _____ playing a game of _____.

Other evenings he is on duty at the _____ box. One time, Pvt. Johnson

was ordered to hunt down some _____ that had strayed from the fort.

This outing made him a bit nervous. Earlier in the day a band of _____

had visited the _____ _____ to buy ammunition. He found his

charges, led them safely across Pawnee _____, and returned them to the fort

without incident.

WHAT IS IT?

Find each of the objects below in the fort buildings and take your best guess on what it is.

DID YOU KNOW?

The blacksmith, known as the “smithy”, was not actually in the army. He was a civilian who worked for the Quartermaster Department. He had to take care of any metal work the Quartermaster gave him.

What does the word civilian mean?

Soldiers were issued only a certain amount of uniform items per year during their enlistment. The soldiers could pick up their uniform items in the Quartermaster Warehouse Issue Room.

List three separate items issued to soldiers.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



Uniforms were made of _____. _____.

Shoes like these, called brogans, were worn by Fort Larned soldiers. Brogans (also called bootees) wore out quickly because the infantry soldier walked up to 20 miles every day!

How many pairs of brogans were issued to one soldier in 5 years?

BE A HISTORY DETECTIVE!

*Find the items on this list. Tell us where you found them, don't take them from the park.
Taking anything from a National Park or hurting any of the plants or animals is against
the law!*

- ☐ Drum _____
- ☐ Medicine Bottle _____
- ☐ Brick Oven _____
- ☐ Ambulance _____
- ☐ Hammer and Anvil _____
- ☐ Shackles _____
- ☐ Map of the United States _____
- ☐ Ham _____
- ☐ Cannon _____
- ☐ Folded American Flag _____
- ☐ Stuffed Golden Eagle _____
- ☐ Pitcher and Wash Bowl _____
- ☐ Piano _____

TRAVELING THE TRAIL

The Santa Fe Trail spanned 800 miles. Examine the map carefully. List the five states the Santa Fe Trail traveled through.

- 1) _____ 2) _____ 3) _____
4) _____ 5) _____



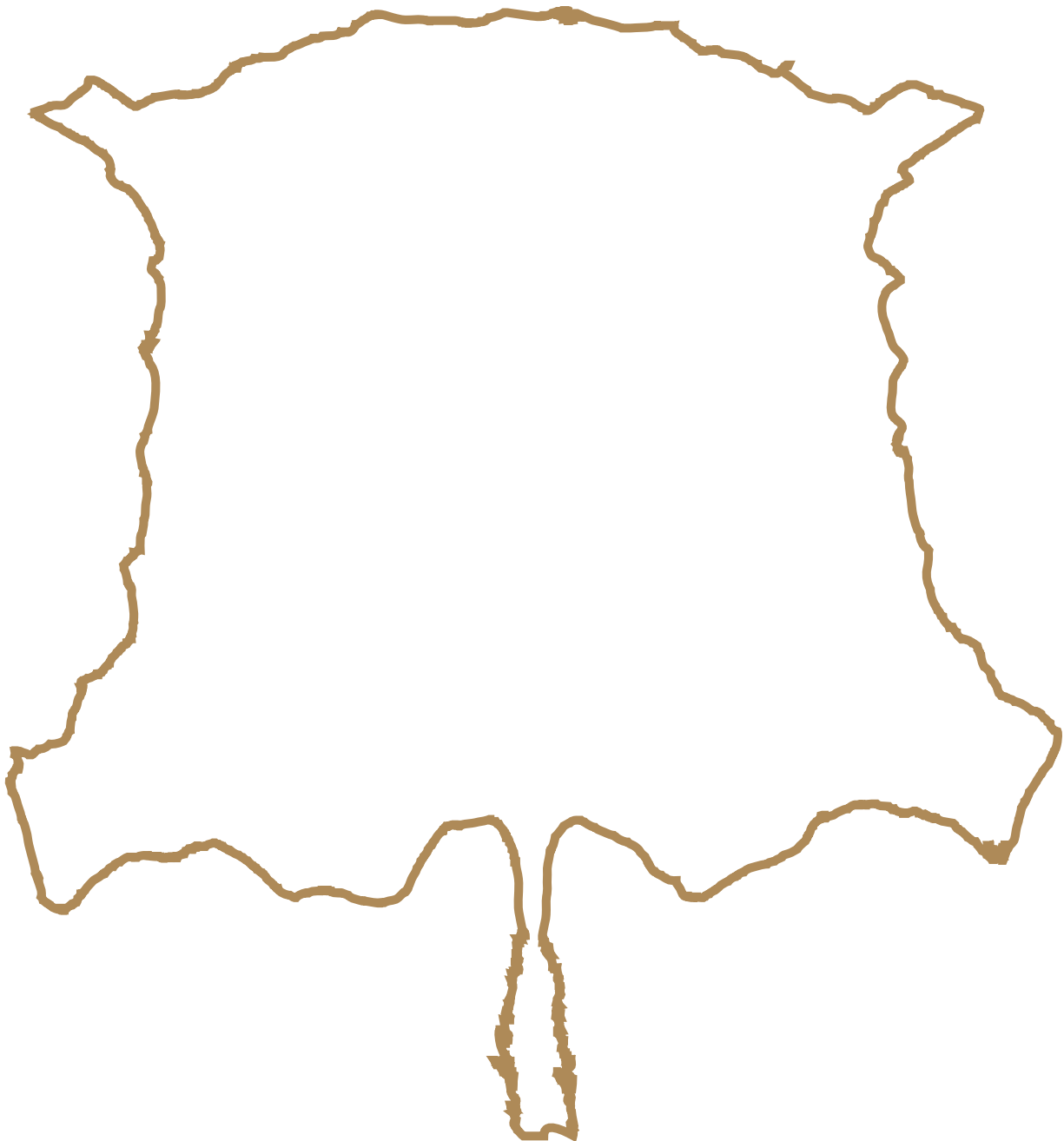
Wagon trains on the Santa Fe Trail averaged 15 - 20 miles per day. It took them about eight weeks to travel from Independence, MO to Santa Fe, NM.

In the space below write where you came from to get to Fort Larned. If you traveled by wagon train, how long would it take you to get from your home to Fort Larned?

PERSONAL HISTORY

Plains Indians used bison hides to record their tribal history in what was known as a winter count. Every winter they would draw one important event from the year on the hide.

Draw an important event in your life in the space below.



EVERYTHING YOU NEED

For the Plains Indians, the American bison was like a department store. Everything they needed for their daily lives came from either the bison, other large animals like deer, or the plants they gathered on the prairie.

Match the bison parts on the left with the everyday items the Plains Indians made out of them on the right.



Bones



Hide



Hair



Horn



Sinew



Rope



Cup



Thread



Shovel



Tipi

CARVED IN STONE

Use the space below to write down some of the interesting names and dates you found on the buildings.

One last question....Why do you think it's important to preserve Fort Larned?

Congratulations!



is an official



Junior Ranger

Fort Larned National Historic Site

As a Junior Ranger, I promise to protect the plants, animals and history of Fort Larned. I will share what I have learned about National Parks, and will continue to explore our national treasures.



Park Ranger

Date