NEW MEXICO HISTORIC SITES

NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

FORT SELDEN

HISTORIC SITE

Junior Ranger

ACTIVITY BOOKLET





Junior Ranger Pledge

I pledge to: appreciate and protect all of New Mexico's Historic Sites, strive to continue to learn about the history of those sites, and promote awareness for our diverse and complex backgrounds in history by sharing what I learn with friends and family.

What is a New Mexico Historic Sites Junior Ranger?

A New Mexico Historic Sites Junior Ranger is someone who learns about a New Mexico Historic Site, and takes an oath to protect the site, its structures, trails, and exhibits for future generations. They also share their knowledge with family and friends to help preserve important places and the history of New Mexico.

A Junior Ranger is encouraged to visit other Historic Sites to learn more about New Mexico history and encourages others to do the same. We here at New Mexico Historic Sites hope that Junior Rangers will become advocates for the heritage of New Mexico and the precious resources and knowledge that these sites have to offer.

How do you become a Junior Ranger?

Anyone can become a Junior Ranger. There is no age limit. All you need to do is complete activities in this activity booklet based upon your age.

- ❑ **If you are 6 years or younger, complete 4 activities and check this box.**
- ❑ **If you are between 7 and 10 years old, complete 7 activities and check this box.**
- ❑ **If you are 10 years or older, complete all the activities and check this box.**

You are encouraged to explore the site, our exhibits, take a guided tour, and walk the trails to find inspiration for some of the activities and find the answers. If you want to work as a team, or if you need help from family and friends, that's okay. When in doubt, ask a ranger for help. When you are done with your booklet, take it to the visitor center. Your booklet will be reviewed, your certificate will be signed and stamped, and your badge will be given to you. Or you can take it home and complete it (just follow the directions on the back page on how to receive your Junior Ranger Badge!)

Take care while you are here!

Please stay on the trails and keep an eye out for wildlife and tripping hazards.

Keep a respectful distance from any wild animals. When walking around the site, you might see rabbits, lizards, birds, and snakes.

Please leave any historic items such as beads, buttons, glass, pottery, or bits of metal where you find them. This also includes natural items such as rocks, plants, and pieces of adobe. It's the law! And it ensures that other visitors enjoy them too.

Watch out for approaching storms. If you hear thunder, take cover by returning to the visitor center.

Do not climb, lean on, dig, or touch the ruins/structures. Digging is not allowed anywhere on site.

Glossary of Terms

Adobe: a type of building material made from a mixture of earth, water, and straw. Typically, in the form of sun-dried bricks

Ancestral Homeland: A country, region, or specific place that represents a family or group's heritage and is the place where people lived before settling elsewhere

Anglo-American: A term used to refer to the culture, people, and relations involving both the United States of America and England/ Britain

Archaeology: the study of human history and prehistory through the analysis of physical remains like tools, pottery, or buildings

Bands: A small, close-knit group of people or families that share the same culture, traditions, and language

Colonist: One that colonizes; a settler or inhabitant of a colony

Colonize: When a country sends its people to establish a settlement in a foreign territory, with the intention of gaining control over the land, people, and resources

Conquest: taking control of a place, people, or things, usually through force

Conquistador: A person, generally a 16th or 17th century soldier from Spain or Portugal, who is intending to conquer new territory, often through military conquest and colonial expansion

Firing/Fired: the process of applying high temperatures to turn soft, molded clay into hard, durable ceramic

Garrison: A group of soldiers stationed in a specific place

Heliograph: a communication tool with a mirror attached used to send messages over long distance using flashes of sunlight, generally using Morse code

Indigenous: A person, animal, culture, or object relating to or coming from the earliest inhabitants of a place, before the arrival of colonists

Mogollon: A prehistoric Indigenous culture that lived in the Southwest United States from about 200 to 1450 A.D.

Morse code: A secretive, quick code or alphabet used to send messages using dots (short sounds or lights) and dashes (long sounds or lights)

Ndé:or Ndé (the People), a federally recognized sovereign nation in New Mexico, that include the Mescalero, Chiricahua, and Lipan Apache peoples.

Nomadic: A term that refers to people, animals, or groups that move from place to place instead of settling in one place permanently

Pit house: A type of home built partially in the ground, using wooden posts for support with a roof made of branches, earth, or animal hides

Pre-historic: Relating to the period before written records

Preservation: The act of protecting something to keep if safe from damage, decay, or loss; maintaining it in its current state

Resources: Anything that helps us solve problems, complete tasks, or satisfy our needs, normally referring to natural resources (air, sunlight, plants, minerals, etc.)

Sherd: a broken piece of ceramic, especially if found on an archaeological site

Sutler: a civilian merchant who sold goods not supplied by the military to the soldiers

Trade: Buying, selling, or swapping goods and/or services between people, businesses, or countries

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About Fort Selden

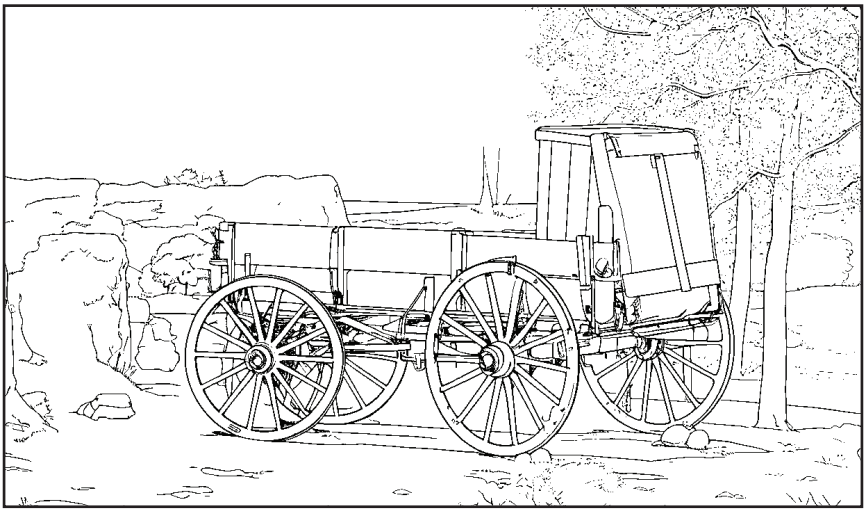
As early as 200 A.D., the Jornada branch of the Indigenous Mogollon peoples lived and prospered here on the land that would become Fort Selden hundreds of years later. Until about 1000 A.D., the Mogollon lived in earthen pit houses near trails that connected central Mexico with what is now New Mexico. Pottery production was an important tradition of the Mogollon people, and archaeologists have found hundreds of pieces of pottery here!

Later, the land that would become New Mexico became the ancestral homeland and hunting grounds for various groups of Ndé (Apache) peoples. They made their homes and freely traveled throughout modern day southern New Mexico, southeastern Arizona, and west Texas. Their descendants include the federally recognized tribes of the Fort Sill Apache Tribe of Oklahoma, the Mescalero Apache Tribe of the Mescalero Reservation, the White Mountain Apache Tribe of the Fort Apache Reservation, and the Jicarilla Apache Nation.

In 1595, Spanish conquistador Juan de Oñate received permission from the King of Spain to colonize in modern day New Mexico. A few years later, his 1598 conquest formalized a trade and settlement route known as El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro, or the Royal Road to the Interior. In the process, his party connected 1,590 miles of Indigenous footpaths and Mexican trade routes from Mexico City to Ohkay Owingeh, northeast of present-day Española in northern New Mexico.

After this conquest, this area was known to the Spanish as Paraje de Robledo, an important campsite where travelers could rest and access water from the Rio Grande river. This campsite marked either the end of a dangerous stretch of land known as the Jornada del Muerto, or Journey of the Dead. For northbound travelers, it was the last place to rest and get water before continuing for 90 miles! Later, a portion of the road became known as the Chihuahua Trail, a significant international trade route.

In 1850, New Mexico became a United States Territory. The U.S. government built Fort Selden in 1865 with hopes of providing regional security to its settlers, along with travelers along El Camino Real.



Fort Selden Timeline

A lot happended here, before, during, and after Fort Selden was in operation. Use **About Fort Selden** on page 4 to help identify who lived here from past to present.

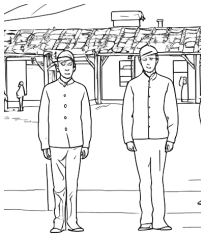
New Mexico Historic Sites oversees the preservation of Fort Selden



Apache people live in homes called wickiups



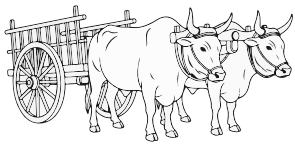
The U.S. military is operating Fort Selden



Mogollon people live in pit houses



The Spanish travel El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro



Draw a line from the picture to the correct order in history.
Which event occured first?

1

2

3

4

5

A Sense of Place

The land Fort Selden Historic Site sits on is a very special place. What do you think it was like to live here in the past? Historic people would have had different experiences than us, but some things might have been the same. As you walk around the site, use your senses to see, smell, hear, and feel.

Find each of the following, then write what it is and where you found it.

1. Something fuzzy: _____

2. Something rough: _____

3. The feel of wind: _____

4. A good place for an animal to live: _____

5. Something that smells: _____

6. Something that makes a noise: _____

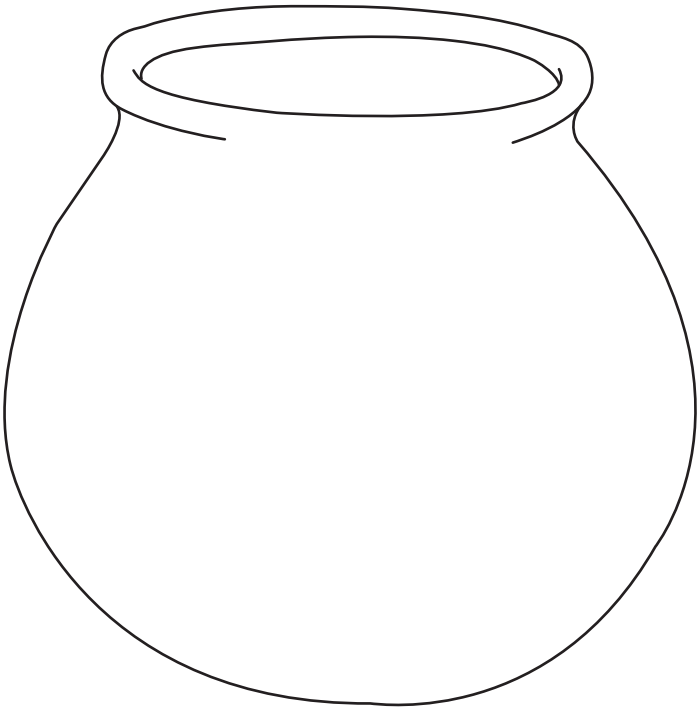
7. Something an animal eats: _____

8. Something pretty: _____

Mogollon Pottery

Every day you use bowls and plates to store and hold the food you eat. Yours are probably made from plastic, paper, metal, or glass. The Mogollon made their containers from clay. Some vessels were painted with black or red mineral-based paints, or organic paints boiled down from plants on a white or brown slip. Others were occasionally left undecorated and fired into a reddish-brown to black-brown color. The pottery would sometimes be decorated with geometric shapes or life-like images that reflect the beliefs, values, and cultural identities of the Mogollon people. Sometimes pottery fragments, called *sherds*, are still found here at Fort Selden! As a reminder, if you find anything, be sure to leave it where you found it, and let a ranger know.

Design your own pottery below.



All About Desert Plants — Survival in the Desert

Fort Selden Historic Site is located in the Chihuahuan Desert. This is the largest desert in North America! Lots of different plants and animals live around the site.

Indigenous people, Spanish colonists, and Anglo-American traders traveling El Camino Real experienced the desert environment in all its harshness — and beauty. One of the most important resources the desert provided was its plants; you would just need to know how to use them.

Remember, don't remove or disturb anything during your visit to Fort Selden. Some of these plants are protected by law!

For hundreds of years, many plants were used by people for food or medicine. Some people use these plants to this day.



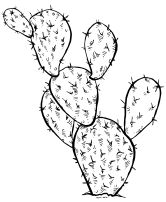
Draw a line from the plant to the correct name and common uses.



Prickly Pear (*PRIK-lee pehr)*: Cactus whose raw fruits and cooked pads can be eaten. Spines can be used as needles.



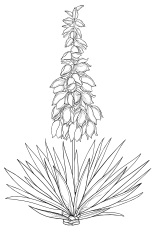
Mesquite (*meh-SKEET*): A small tree with sharp thorns and flowers that bloom into bean pods. Different parts of the plant are used in food and medicine, also make a great firewood.



Yucca *(YUK-uh)*: A small shrub that simulates the smell of rain when its leaves are rubbed between palms.



Creosote *(KREE-oh-soht)*: Used mostly for medicine. Long stalks can be used as walking sticks or arrow shafts.



Agave *(uh-GAH-veh)*: Used for food and medicine. Fibers from the plant can be used for weaving, while leaves and roots can be used for soap.

El Camino Word Search

When travelers came up El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro from Mexico, they brought a written and spoken language — Spanish. This was a new language to the region at the time.

Search for the Spanish words related to travel on El Camino Real and circle the ones that you find. Words can be found forward, backward, and diagonal.

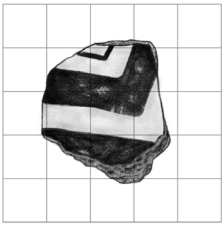
X A F J B A R A Y A Y W A O F X G M I L
A A B H K T L S D P H H H N X B U R R Z
J P V A W E Z A A E A C A R N U V F Q I
J X S T Q R N S N O N R Y O E R F M P R
G G I W O R R O R O B T A H T A K L M O
G M Z J O A U I D H I E R J J L E F E R
J A L J I C O E Y Q F J I O E B F Z E U
J W V K R G L I D A Q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

TIERRA (land)
CAMINO (road)
HORNO (oven)
ROBLEDO (oak wood)
MAIZE (corn)
ADENTRO (inside)
CARRETA (wagon)
JORNADA (journey)
MUERTO (death)
PARAJE (stopping place)
PUEBLO (town)
RIO GRANDE (big river)

Searching for Sherds

Archaeologists study items people made, used, and left behind. These items are artifacts that tell researchers about daily life in the past. During surveys and excavations, archaeologists map the locations of artifacts on grids. If artifacts are removed, or excavated, they are labeled with the grid coordinates.

Did you know more than ten different types of pre-historic pottery have been found here at Fort Selden?



Using the example, practice your archaeology skills by transferring the drawing of the pottery sherd to the blank grid. Once you're finished, be sure to decorate it!

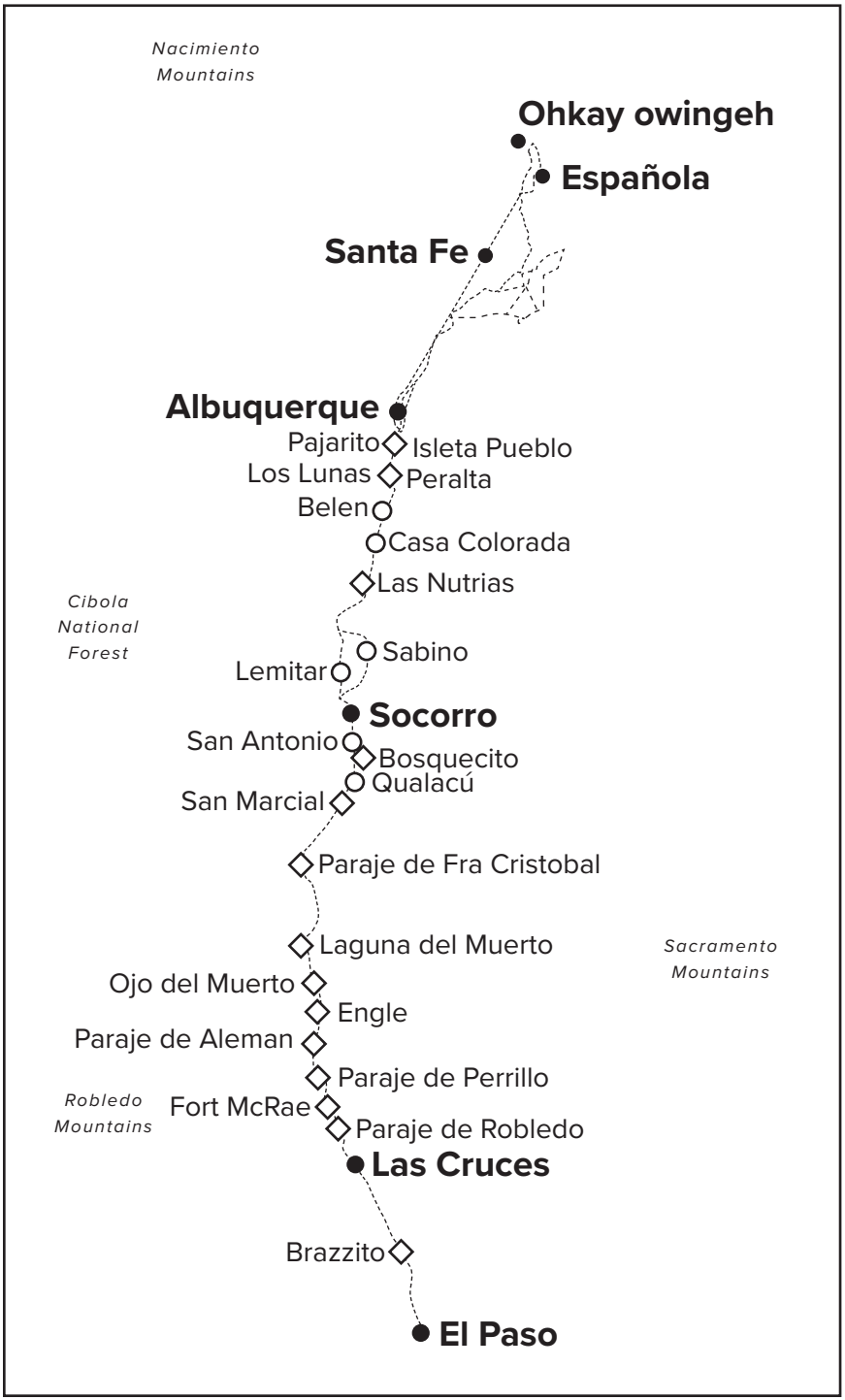
Stops along El Camino Real

People traveling El Camino Real could only travel about 10 miles per day because both people and animals walked the trail. This meant that there had to be places where people could stop and rest along the trail. These stops were sometimes villages, missions, or parajes. The map on the next page shows some of the stopping places along El Camino Real.

Find the resting spots on the list and circle them on the map.

Paraje de Robledo	**Bosquecito**	**Ohkay Owingeh**
Paraje de Fra Cristobal	**Pajarito**	**Fort McRae**
Peralta	**Engle**	**San Marcial**




Nacimiento Mountains
Ohkay owingeh
Española
Santa Fe
Albuquerque
Pajarito
Isleta Pueblo
Los Lunas
Peralta
Belen
Casa Colorada
Las Nutrias
Cibola National Forest
Sabino
Lemitar
Socorro
San Antonio
Bosquecito
Qualacú
San Marcial
Paraje de Fra Cristobal
Laguna del Muerto
Sacramento Mountains
Ojo del Muerto
Engle
Paraje de Aleman
Paraje de Perrillo
Robledo Mountains
Fort McRae
Paraje de Robledo
Las Cruces
Brazzito
El Paso

Vocabulary in Context

The Ndé (Apache) lifestyle emphasizes connection to their land, traditions and language. The term “Apache” is used to refer to many different groups, often with smaller bands within them. This meant that different groups of Ndé spoke different languages. Learn the meaning of the Mescalero-Chiricahua words below, then use the list to complete the sentences.

Tú: Water

Tł’é’na’áí: Moon *(use twice)*

Yidiits’e: Hear

Tai’: Three

Yiiłtse: See

Iyą: Eat

Łitsu: Yellow

Naaki: Two

Łiga: White

The _____ and stars are important for traveling at night. The creator told the _____ : “You will be their eyesight at night,” and the Stars “When they travel, by you they will know the directions to guide them.”

While visiting the Mescalero Apache Cultural Center and Museum, you can _____ ancient stone tools, baskets, weapons, and clothing.

The name “Mescalero” came from the Spanish. It means “the people who _____ mescal.”

Sierra Blanca, also known as _____ Mountain, is one of four sacred mountains to the Ndé.

The Ndé were hunter-gatherers. This meant the men hunted, while the women found and gathered things like berries, roots, nuts, and seeds. The women also had to find _____ .

During Ndé tribal ceremonies, bright _____ cattail pollen is used for blessing and protection.

Occasionally, the Mescalero Apache Tribe will host cultural events in which members of the public can watch social and ceremonial dances. Visitors can also _____ traditional music.

According to Mescalero Apache legend, White-Painted Woman gave birth to _____ sons, Killer of Enemies and Child of Water.

Today, the Mescalero Apache Tribe is made up of _____ separate sub-tribes: Mescalero Apache, Lipan Apache, and Chiricahua Apache.

Bonus Question:

Why do you think knowing these words helps us understand the perspective of Ndé people?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Animal Tracks

There are lots of animals that call Fort Selden their home. If you find any tracks on site, see if you can identify them with the help of this guide!

Draw a line from the animal on the left to its track on the right



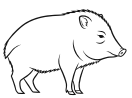




















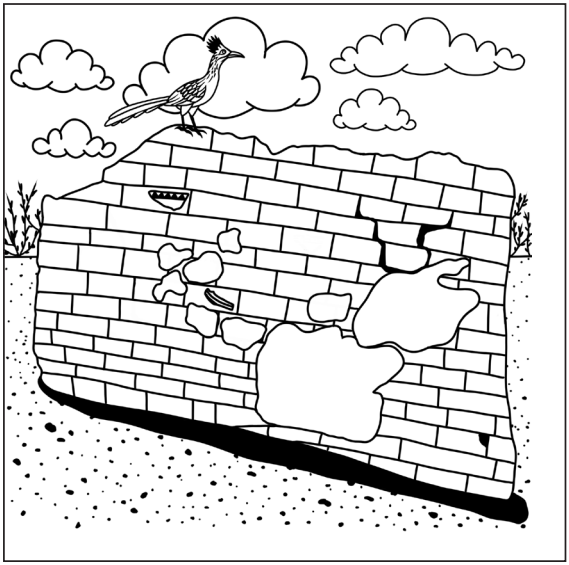


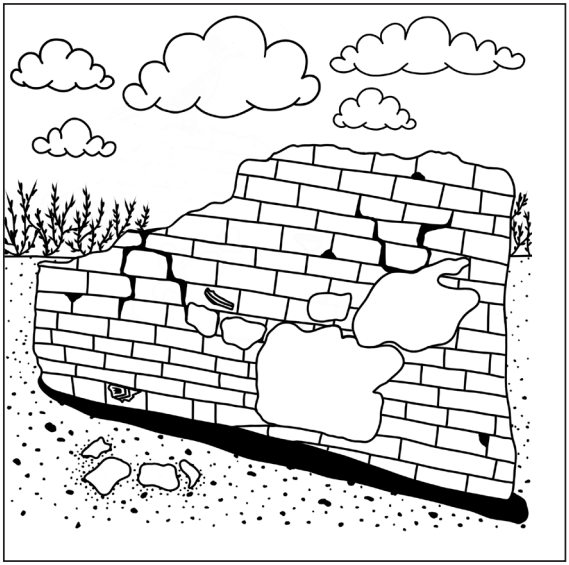




Adobe Condition Report: Spot the Difference

An important part of the job rangers do here is monitoring the ruins for changes caused by erosion, animals, or people.





Help out the rangers by spotting nine differences between the two images to see what has changed.

Buffalo Soldiers and the Quartermaster

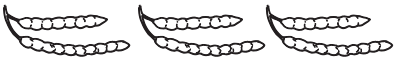
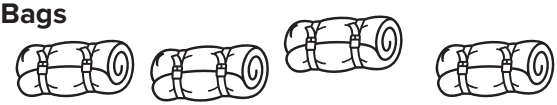
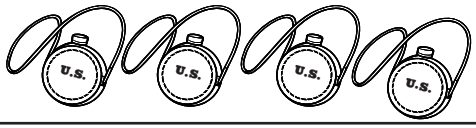
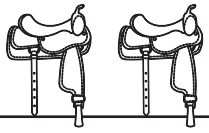
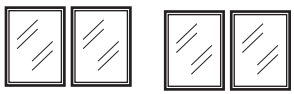
Buffalo Soldiers were African American military units who served in the American West during the late 1800s. Around 400 Buffalo Soldiers served at Fort Selden! The statue near the ruins honors the men who served as Buffalo Soldiers.



One of the Buffalo Soldiers who served at Fort Selden was Sergeant Richard Anderson. He served as the Post Quartermaster Sergeant. Some of his responsibilities as quartermaster were managing the post's records, distributing money, and keeping track of all the equipment.

Sergeant Anderson was responsible for tracking all the supplies here at the fort. This meant keeping an inventory of every item on hand.

Practice record keeping like the post quartermaster. Record the number of each item listed below.

Mesquite Pods for Coffee 	
Sleeping Bags 	
Water Canteens 	
Compasses 	
Bars of Soap 	
Saddles 	
Window Glass 	

Travel Decisions — What would you take?

The people who traveled El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro spent months on the road. The Oñate conquest traveled with thousands of animals, along with new fruits, seeds, trade goods, and religions.

Circle three items below that a traveler may take with them, then flip this book upside down to see what might happen if you decide yes or no!

Water	**Trade Goods**
Food	**Tools**
Blanket or Warm Clothes	**Religious or Personal Item**

What else would you like to bring?

_____

_____

_____

WATER
Yes: You stay hydrated and survive the dry desert.
No: You risk dehydration, and your journey is very dangerous.

FOOD
Yes: You have your strength and energy for the long days of travel.
No: You begin to starve and must rely on help from other groups in the expedition.

BLANKET OR WARM CLOTHING
Yes: You stay warm during cold desert nights.
No: Once the sun goes down it gets chilly, you may get sick or lose energy from poor sleep!

TRADE GOODS
Yes: You can barter for food, water, medicine, or supplies along the way.
No: You might struggle getting help or supplies from other people.

TOOLS
Yes: You can repair your wagon, shoes, and other equipment.
No: You may have to stop traveling or must leave a broken wagon behind.

RELIGIOUS OR PERSONAL ITEMS
Yes: You have comfort and something that reminds you of home to encourage you on the journey.
No: You might miss what you know in a new land and lack the encouragement to continue.

Communication Before Telephones

In the early 1880s, a heliograph was set up on Lookout Peak. A heliograph is like morse code, except you use the sun and mirrors to create dots and dashes.

Use the Morse Code key below to see if you can decode the messages. At home, try using a flashlight to recreate some!

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

1 ..-. --- .-. - ... . .-.. -.. . -.

2 -... . ... .- ..-. .

3 . -..- .--. .-.. --- .-. .

Answers: 1. FORT SELDEN; **2.** BE SAFE; **3.** EXPLORE

Ruins and Reflection

Sometimes when visitors come to Fort Selden, they draw pictures or write about their experience and how they feel about what they've learned.

Create your own picture or write a couple of sentences about how you feel about the site and all that you saw today.

Don't forget to drop off your completed booklet at the Visitor Center. You will get a badge and be on your way to becoming a New Mexico Historic Sites Junior Ranger!

Need more time to work on your booklet? Just mail it to us (with your return address) when you are finished and we will send you your badge. Please mail your booklet to:

New Mexico Historic Sites
725 Camino Lejo
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Thank you for visiting our site...please come back soon.

FORT SELDEN
HISTORIC SITE
Junior Ranger

THIS CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT IS PRESENTED TO

_____

FOR THEIR COMPLETION OF THE JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM AT FORT SELDEN HISTORIC SITE AND TAKING THE OATH OF NEW MEXICO'S HISTORIC SITES JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM.

_____ _____

RANGER'S SIGNATURE DATE

FORT SELDEN
HISTORIC SITE

1280 Fort Selden Road | Radium Springs, NM 88054
(575) 526-8911 | nmhistoricsites.org/fort-selden

HOURS:
Wednesday through Sunday; 8:30 am to 4:00 pm

ADMISSION:
$5 for adults; Free for children 16 years and younger

