NEW MEXICO HISTORIC SITES

NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

FORT STANTON

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 snakes and tripping hazards.

Keep a respectful distance from any wild animals.

Please leave any historic items such as beads, buttons, glass, pottery, or bits of metal where you find them. 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.

As a historic site, it is important to always be respectful. Be mindful of noise so as not to disturb other visitors experiencing the site and do not climb on structures.

Glossary of Terms

Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC): a government program that ran from 1933 to 1942 in the United States to provide unmarried men with jobs to help after the Great Depression.

Decommissioned: to remove or retire (a ship, airplane, etc.) from active military service.

Laundress: a woman whose job is to wash clothes and linens.

Living History: an event that tries to make history come to life, so that you can experience past cultures, settings, and times to gain a better understanding of them.

Mescalero (Ndé): means "the people" and is what the Mescalero Apache call themselves. They are a federally recognized sovereign nation in New Mexico, that includes the Mescalero, Chiricahua, and Lipan Apache peoples.

Nomadic: a person or group who travels from place to place, usually to follow seasons or animals.

Reservation: a sovereign, self-governing area of land managed by a Native American tribe that is recognized by the United States federal government using treaties, laws, or executive orders.

Tuberculosis: a potentially fatal disease that usually attacks the lungs and is caused by a bacterium called *Mycobacterium tuberculosis.*

Wickiup: a hut made of an oval frame covered with brushwood or grass.

About Fort Stanton

Welcome to Fort Stanton Historic Site and our Junior Ranger program! Fort Stanton was built in 1855 and has had many uses over its long history. In this book you will find activities to help you learn about Fort Stanton and New Mexico. Use the map that you were given at the museum to start exploring to become a Junior Ranger!



Color the Whiptail Lizard



Hi, my name is West, and I am your Site friend! Keep an eye out for me on the grounds at Fort Stanton and throughout this book.

The whiptail lizard is the state lizard of New Mexico! Whiptails are special because they are all female. Every baby whiptail lizard is a clone, or copy, of their mother.

Color in your site friend, West, the whiptail lizard.



How many lizards did you see at Fort Stanton?_____

Animal tracks at Fort Stanton

Fort Stanton is located within the Fort Stanton-Snowy River Cave National Conservation Area. In some areas there are rules about how you can get around walking, biking, riding UTVs, riding horses, or driving cars. Another rule is that there is no hunting allowed at Fort Stanton so there are more wild animals here than in some other places. You might see elk, skunk, raccoons, turkeys, or whiptail lizards.

Match the track to the animal you think it belongs to.



Elk



Raccoon



Skunk



Turkey



New Mexico Whiptail Lizard











Mescalero

The land that Fort Stanton is on is part of the ancestral home of the Ndé (Mescalero Apache). Traditionally the Ndé saw all the land in the Sacramento Mountains between the mountain peaks of Sierra Blanca, Guadalupe Peak (Texas), Sierra Tres Hermanas (south of Deming), and Oscura Peak (west of Carrizozo) as their homeland. The Ndé were nomadic, meaning they did not settle in permanent homes, but traveled to collect food and other resources. Eventually, non-native settlers began moving into areas that the Ndé considered part of their own homes. These settlers established communities in the fertile lands along the Rio Bonito, Rio Ruidoso, and Rio Tularosa. The Ndé and the settlers came into conflict, which led to the establishment of Fort Stanton.



Mescalero and Building of the Fort

In 1855 the U.S. Army built Fort Stanton to stop Mescalero raids in central and southern New Mexico. From 1862 to 1863, the U.S. Army forcibly moved the Ndé (Mescalero Apache) to a new reservation at Bosque Redondo. In 1865, the Ndé escaped the reservation. Many fled to the southern Great Plains and lived with the Comanche. Others relocated to the Guadalupe Mountains along the New Mexico-Texas border. In the early 1870s, most Ndé returned to the area around Fort Stanton. In 1873, the federal government established a new reservation for the tribe to the south of the fort.

Word Scramble

Unscramble the words below. *Hint: each word is mentioned in the paragraph above.*

R F T O _ _ _ _

C A D E L O T E R _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

E P C A H A _ _ _ _ _ _

L S O A E M R C E _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

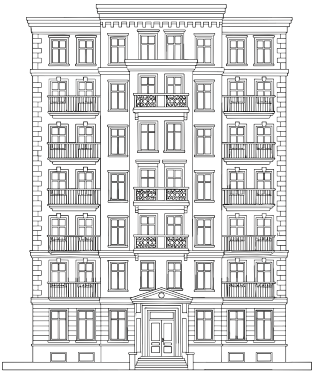
N O T A V E R S I R E _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

T N O S N T A _ _ _ _ _ _ _

Wickiup

Which of these homes do you think would work best for the Ndé?

Circle the house that you think the Ndé lived in as nomadic people around Fort Stanton.



This building has many homes inside. Often large groups of people are needed to create these multi-story buildings using specialized equipment and materials. Buildings like this take up a lot of space and take time to create. They use metal support pieces to hold up concrete.



This house is made of clay bricks stacked on top of one another and held together with a strong glue-like material called mortar. Bricks are usually made in large ovens by someone who learns how to make them as a special skill. They are heavy and can be expensive to make and move over long distances.

Use the space at the bottom to explain why you chose which one you chose.



This house is made of poles dug into the ground to create a frame and then sticks, grasses, and plants are used to cover the frame. It is easy to construct and can be created using materials you find just about anywhere.



This house is made of logs that come from sawed down trees that are cleaned of branches and trimmed to fit using large saws. The logs need to be straight so that they fit together. Finding trees that will work to make logs for houses like this takes time, and cutting trees is a lot of work.

Buffalo Soldiers Bingo

Following the Civil War, the United States military established four Black regiments and deployed them to the American West. They became known as the Buffalo Soldiers. From 1875 to 1881, Fort Stanton was home to the largest garrison of Buffalo Soldiers in New Mexico. While historians disagree over the origins of the name Buffalo Soldier, one theory is that the Comanche and Mescalero Apache gave the name to the Black soldiers due to their persistence.

As you explore the barracks keep an eye out for the items in the chart. Mark an X or a check mark through any that you see. Get four in a row up, down, across, or diagonally and you have a BINGO!

BUNK BED	**AMERICAN FLAG**	**CANTEEN**	**SOLDIER BOOTS**
WOODEN RIFLES	**WOOD SAW**	**HORSE BRUSH**	**MONEY**
COFFIN	**SNARE DRUM**	**NAILS**	**COAL STOVE**

Ladies of the Fort

Laundresses were one of the most essential and yet least known members of the military during the Civil War. It was recognized as the only paying job for women in the military during that time. What was the pay like? It depended on the location and would include things like food rations and a stipend of money. For many, they could make as much as $19 a month. In contrast, an enlisted soldier could make around $13 a month.

Help the laundress and the soldier each find their tools. Circle the tools that are used by the laundress. Underline the tools that belong to the soldier.













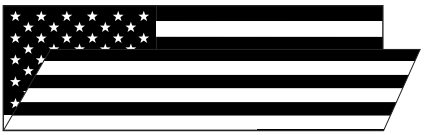

Closing the Fort

In 1886, the Apache Wars came to an end when the United States Army captured Geronimo and his band of Chiricahua Apache. In 1890, the United States government declared the frontier closed and began abandoning military forts in New Mexico. On August 19, 1896, the soldiers of Fort Stanton played one final retreat and lowered the flag as the fort was decommissioned. Fort Stanton stayed empty for the next three years.

Every time an American flag is lowered, it is folded in a traditional and respectful way.

Use the pictures below to fold the next page into a triangle.

1



Fold flag in half lengthwise

2



Fold in half lengthwise again

3

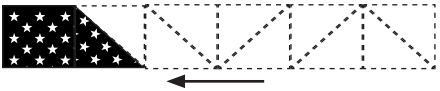


Fold lower right corner up to meet top of flag

4



Fold again continuing to make a triangle



5

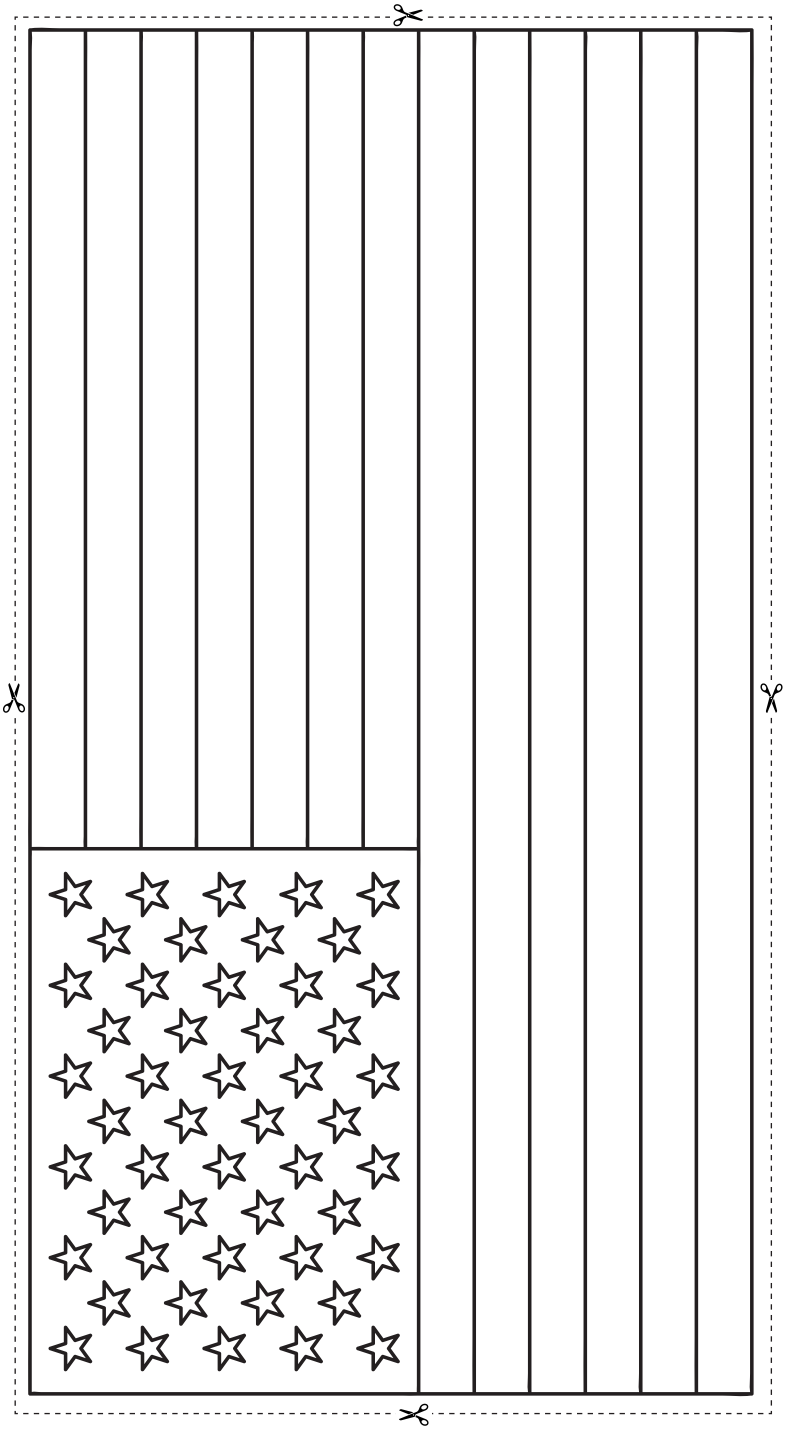


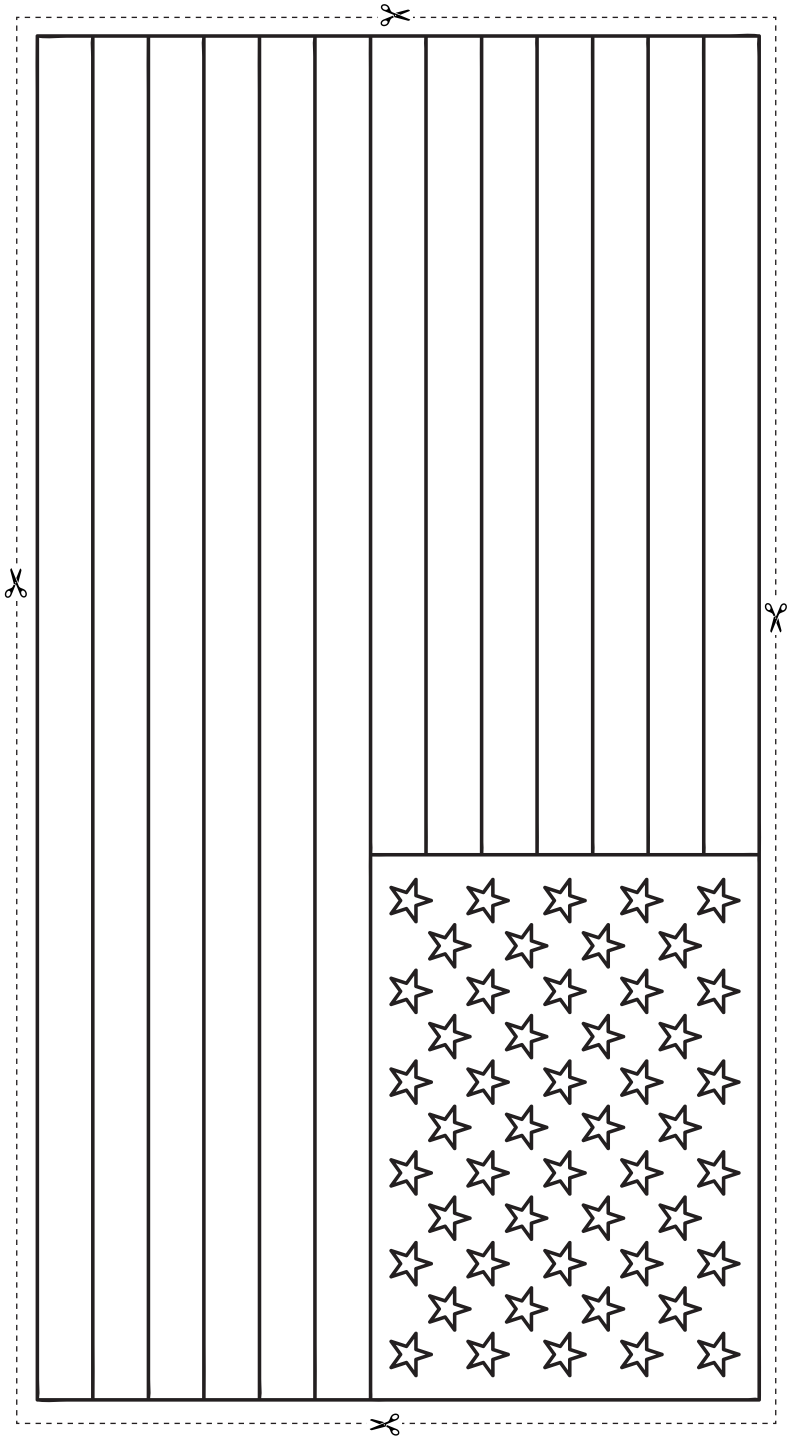
Fold last two triangles in half

6



Your flag should look like this

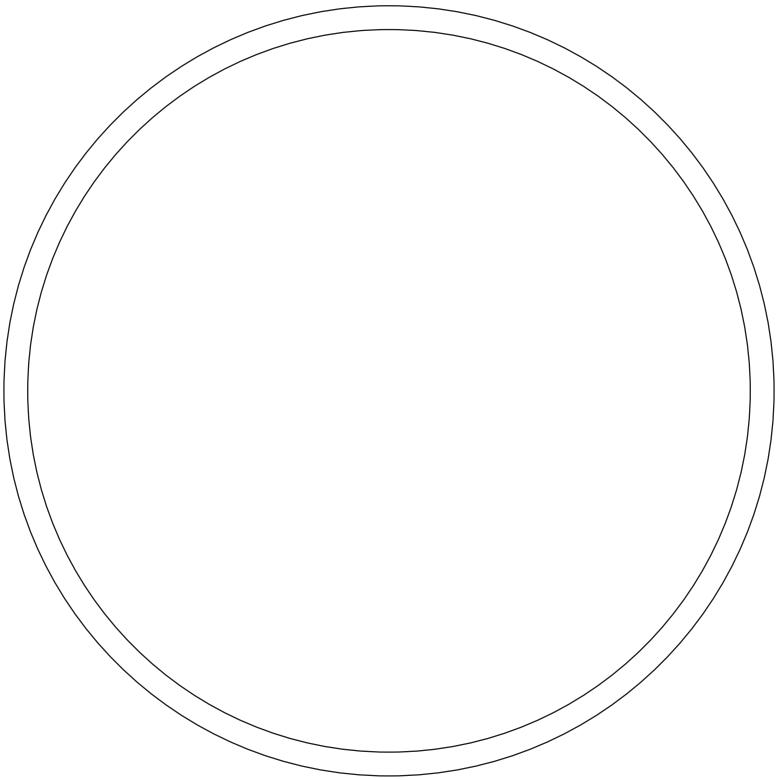




Tuberculosis and Opening the Hospital

In 1899, the President of the United States gave Fort Stanton to the Merchant Marines so that they could create a hospital to learn about and treat a disease called tuberculosis. This was the first United States government hospital focused on treating tuberculosis. At the time, the disease was the leading cause of death in the United States. Tuberculosis originated from a type of bacteria or germ. Germs are tiny living things that can enter the body and cause people and animals to become sick. Tuberculosis is a sickness usually found in the lungs that causes people to cough and not be able to breathe well. The germ that causes tuberculosis travels through the air and enters the body through breathing.

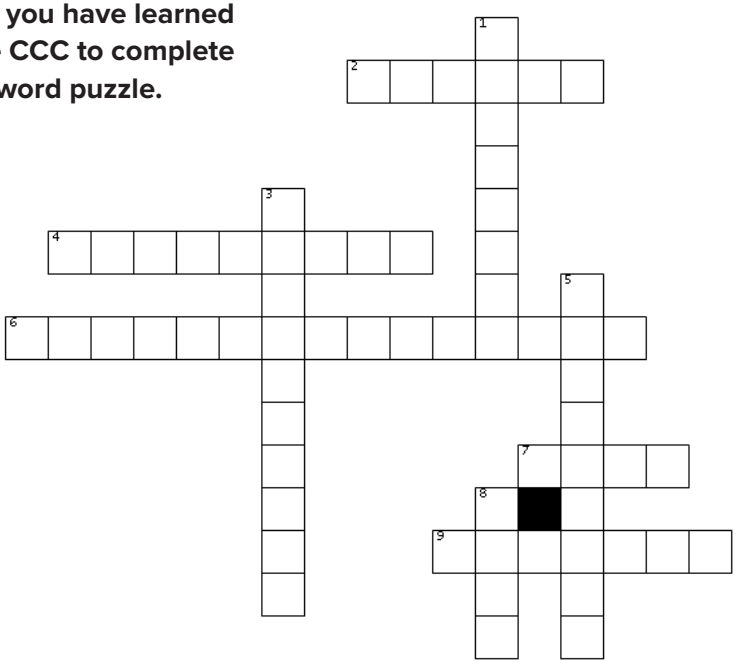
Draw what you think a tuberculosis germ looks like below:



Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Camp

In 1929, there was a period in American history known as The **Great Depression**. People couldn't find jobs, weren't able to pay for food, clothes, or a place to live. There was tremendous **poverty**. The Depression lasted for a **decade**. To **help**, the federal **government,** under President Franklin D. **Roosevelt,** designed a program called the Civilian Conservation Corps, or CCC. Men in the CCC lived and **work**ed on projects around the country and were paid by the federal government. At Fort Stanton's CCC camp, the workers lived in one-room buildings with many beds, called a **bunkhouse**. Workers were also given army clothes to wear, called **fatigues**.

Use what you have learned about the CCC to complete the crossword puzzle.



ACROSS

2 A period of 10 years.

4. Where men lived who joined the program.

6. The period in Ameican History that resulted in the need for the program.

7. What the program tried to do for the men and their families.

9. What impact the Great Depression had on people's lives.

DOWN

1. What workers were issued to wear

3. Who ran the CCC Camp

5. The President who created the program

8. What men did when they joined the program

World War II and the SS Columbus

In 1939, World War II broke out in Europe. A German cruise ship, the SS Columbus, was near the coast of Cuba when war was declared. After dropping off passengers in Havana, the crew of the SS Columbus attempted to break the British naval blockade of the Atlantic and return to Germany. But when the British Navy intercepted them, they scuttled (sunk) the ship. A nearby United States naval destroyer rescued the German sailors and brought them to the United States.

In 1941, the United States government relocated the German sailors to the former CCC Camp at Fort Stanton. The sailors lived relatively free lives at the Fort and were allowed to travel into area towns for shopping and visits. Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, the United States government confined the sailors to the camp and put up fences around the site. The German sailors remained at the camp until the end of World War II in 1945.

The sailors were stuck at the camp, far from home, for a very long time. To stay active and busy they did many activities like swimming in the pool they built on site, playing sports, reading, and hiking in nature.

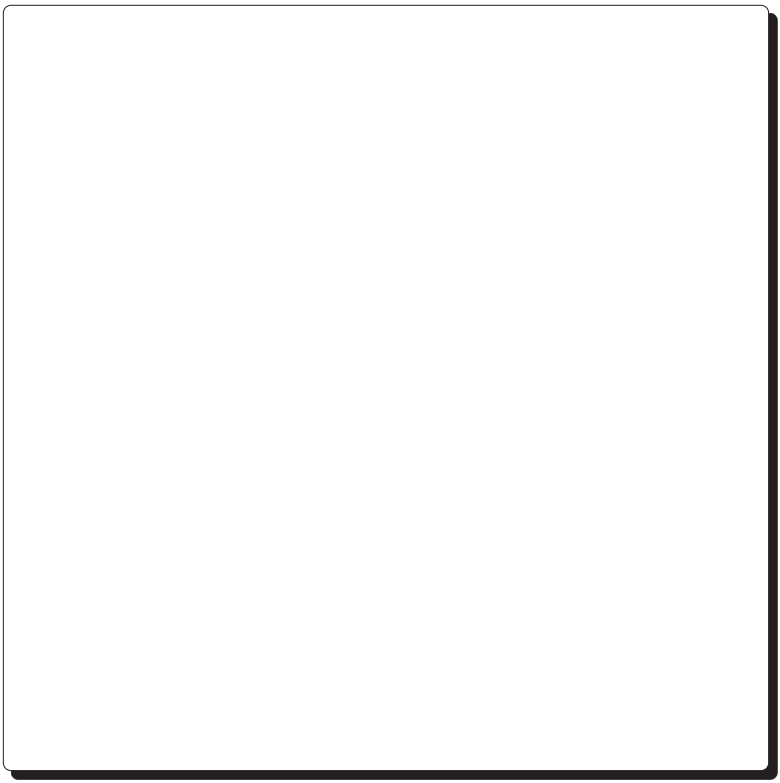
Use the space below to write or draw some things you like to do when you are stuck at home.

Training School

In 1953, the federal government gave Fort Stanton to the State of New Mexico. Fort Stanton continued to operate as a state tuberculosis hospital until 1967. That year the hospital closed its doors, as fewer people were getting sick and new medications were available to help people get better. Fort Stanton then became something new.

In 1967, Fort Stanton became a school for people with developmental disabilities. Part of the program at the school involved art and one of the projects was making ceramic tiles. Below is a space for you to draw your own tile.

Use the space below to design and decorate your own ceramic tile.



Living History Word Search

Fort Stanton volunteers and staff love sharing the history of the site. We regularly invite visitors to join us for Living History. Living History is like playing dress up or being an actor in a play. Those who participate wear the same clothes worn by people from the past and they even do some of the same chores and activities that were common during a particular period. This helps visitors get an idea of what it was like to live during a certain time in history.

Use a pencil to find the hidden words in the word search. Each word is important to Fort Stanton. The words go up, down, forward, backwards, and diagonally.

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

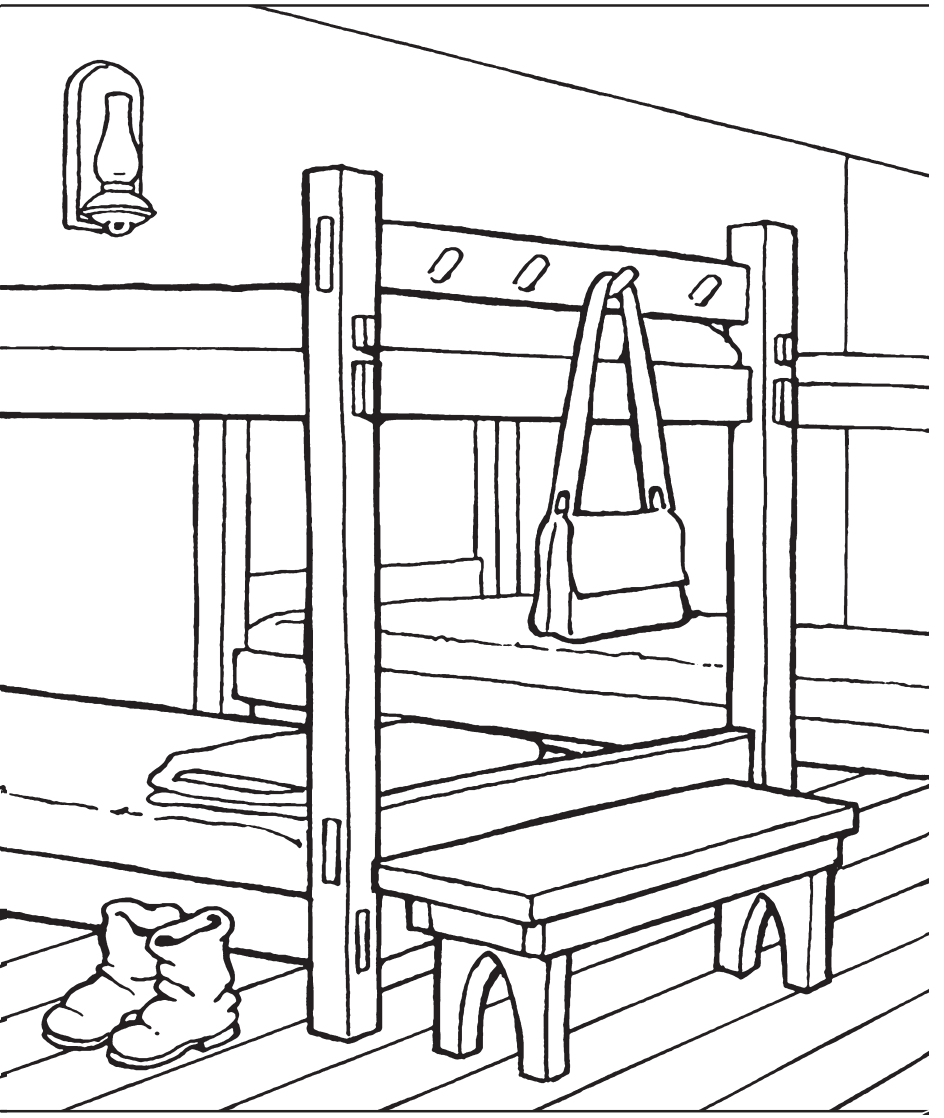
HOSPITAL
BARRACKS
COLUMBUS
LIZARD
CHAPEL
CAMP
CAVALRY
PARADE
GERMS

Sleeping Quarters at the Fort

At Fort Stanton, most soldiers slept in barracks– four to a bunk. Junior officers and the post's commander had more private quarters in the building along the parade grounds.



Color the inside of the barracks. What colors will you use?



Archaeology Activity

Archaeologists are scientists who study people from the past using the things that they have left behind. They do this by excavating or digging in spaces where people lived. During their digs they often find things that people left. One of the best ways to learn about people as an archaeologist is by studying their trash!

During a dig, archaeologists pick through dirt and rocks to collect things. They make notes on where things are found, how deep in the ground, how many they find, and how far apart things are. Once they are done digging, they gather up the things they found, put them in bags, and then wash and sort them in a lab.

While sorting, archaeologist group items into categories, like the ones shown in the table below. **Can you put the letter of the items in the list below in the category where they belong?**

A. A button made of metal
B. A broken teacup
C. An antler button
D. A horseshoe
E. A musket ball
F. An arrowhead
G. The bottom of a glass bottle
H. A piece of clay bowl that is black and red
I. The skull of a snake
J. A bead
K. A long sharp blade made of black rock
L. A square headed nail

Stone	**Pottery**
Bone	**Other**

What other things do you think archaeologists find during their digs? Can you put them in the category where they belong?

Cave Activity

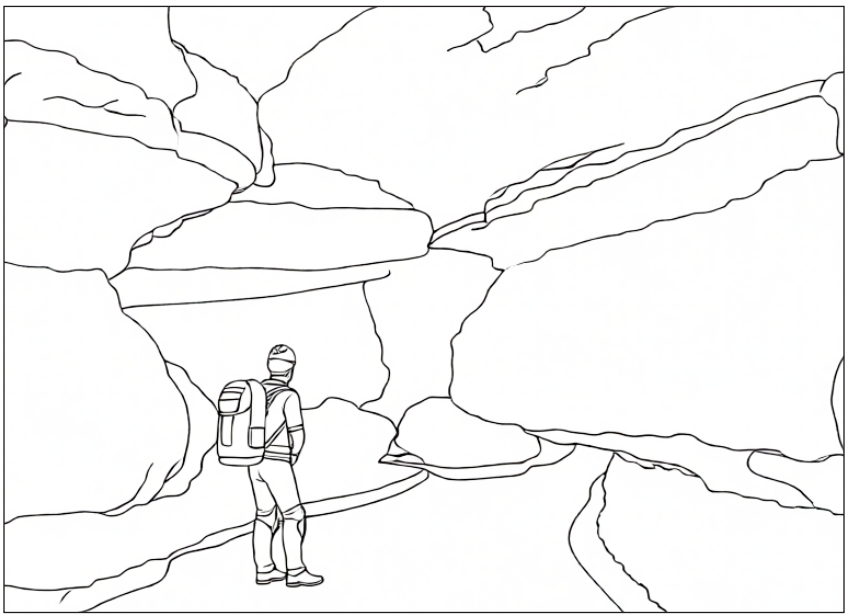
Here are two examples of information about our Snowy River Cave exhibit. **Read the paragraphs and fill in the blanks from the word box below.**

Extensive scientific research is performed in _____ Cave. Because every cave has a unique _____, there are many unique lifeforms found in only that cave. Scientists use caves to compare similar sites for other _____.

Currently access to Snowy River Cave is limited to _____, surveyors, scientists and administrators. ALL persons _____ and exiting Fort Stanton Cave must undergo a stringent _____ protocol.

Word Choices

bat	biologists	decontamination
ecosystem	planets	Snowy River
entering		



Reflection

Fort Stanton has a long and busy history. There were many people living and working at the site for a long time.

Use the space below to reflect on your visit. Fill in the space below with a note, drawing, or a list of your favorite memories during your visit.

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 STANTON
HISTORIC SITE

Junior Ranger

THIS CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT IS PRESENTED TO

_____

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

_____ _____

RANGER’S SIGNATURE DATE

FORT STANTON
HISTORIC SITE

104 Kit Carson Road | Fort Stanton, NM 88323
(575) 354-0341 | nmhistoricsites.org/fort-stanton

Hours:
Thursday through Monday; 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Admission:
$7 for adults; Free for children 16 years and younger

