NEW MEXICO HISTORIC SITES

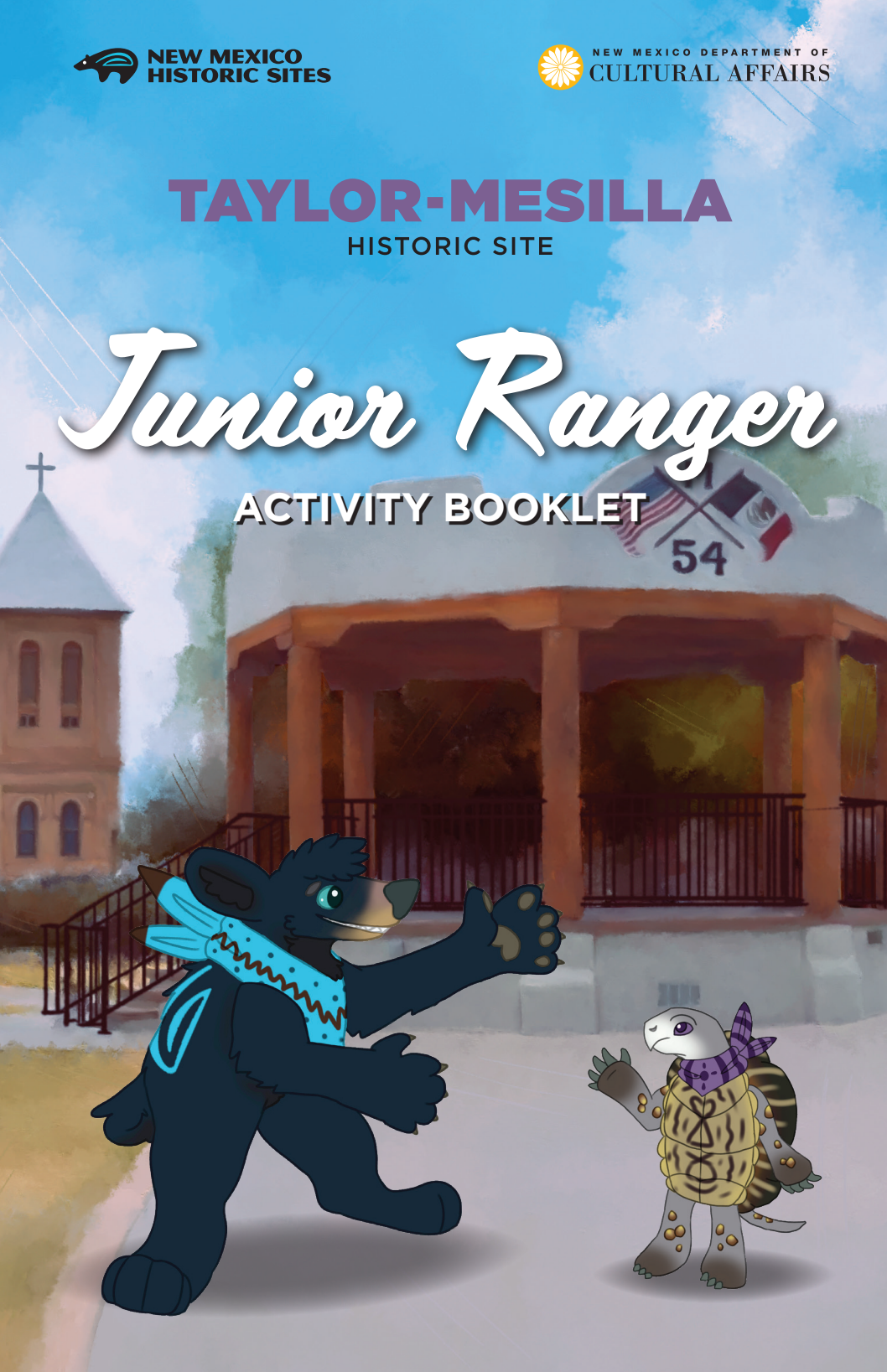
NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

TAYLOR-MESILLA

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.

Take care while you are here!

Welcome to Taylor-Mesilla Historic Site. We're so glad you are here. We have a few things to keep in mind during your visit.

Please be careful as you walk through the house as there are very narrow hallways and spaces.

Keep a respectful distance from the furniture and artifacts.

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.

As an historic site, it is important to always be respectful. Be mindful of noise so as not to disturb other visitors experiencing the site.

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!)

About Taylor-Mesilla Historic Site

Taylor-Mesilla Historic Site is a three-building historic site which includes two stores and a large home to the back with an amazing collection of art that teaches all about New Mexico history. The oldest parts of the home were built in the 1850s and are made of adobe, a type of mud brick.

The Town of Mesilla was founded around 1848 near the Rio Grande after the Mexican-American War. Many Mexican citizens wanted to stay in Mexico, where Mesilla was then located. In 1853 the U.S. purchased land from Mexico and Mesilla became part of the United States.

Over time Taylor-Mesilla Historic Site was home to several different families. Beginning in the 1850s, the Barela family operated a store from what is now the gift shop and lived in the home behind the storefront.

Charles Reynolds moved in next and purchased the building next door. He did a lot of construction on the buildings, combining the property into one. It cost a lot of money that he could not pay back. Because of this, Father Grange, the parish priest, became owner. After he died, he left the property to his housekeeper Perla Alidib.

In 1953, she sold the property to J. Paul and Mary Daniels Taylor. As the family grew to seven children, the Taylors made changes to make the home more livable and grew their art collection into what it is today. In 2003, they donated the property and artwork to the State of New Mexico so people can learn about Southern New Mexico history.

Glossary

Adobe (*ah-DO-bay*)**:** sun-dried bricks made of earth; the style of building using sun-dried bricks made of earth.

Acequia (*ah-SEK-ee-ah*)**:** an irrigation ditch.

Basilica: a Catholic church that has been given special status by the Pope.

Bosque (*BO-skay*)**:** the Spanish word for forest.

Bulto (*BOOL-toh*)**:** three-dimensional images of saints.

Jacal (*ha-KAHL*)**:** a style of building using wood posts held together by mud and stone and grasses.

Kiln: a furnace or oven used with pottery or bricks.

Kiosko (*kee-OH-sko*)**:** a Spanish word meaning gazebo; a bandstand.

Plaza (*PLAH-zuh*)**:** a community gathering space or public square in a city or town.

Territorial: used in New Mexico during 1850-1912 and referring to the time period and the type of architecture used when New Mexico was still a territory of the United States.

Glossary continued...

Tortugas (*tohr-TOO-gahs*)**:** the Spanish word for turtle; a local pueblo in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

Zaguán (*zah-WAHN*)**:** a Spanish word meaning hallway or corridor; the entry hallway to Taylor-Mesilla Historic Site.

Why Can't I Touch the Art?

Taylor-Mesilla Historic Site is a very unusual historic site because it is an art museum located inside a house. And unlike many museums you may go to, at this historic site, you can get up close and personal with the artwork. That is because the Taylor family, the family that donated the historic site, wanted you to be able to experience the home the way that they lived in it. For the family that called this historic site home, they lived in a home, not a museum. But today, everything that you see is now a museum object. Which means to preserve the objects for the future, you cannot touch the objects in the historic site.

Whenever we touch anything our skin leaves behind natural oils. These oils build up and can eventually damage artwork over time. The amount of humidity in the air, the temperature, and the light coming through the windows can also damage artwork. This is why we control the climate within the historic site. You might notice it is a little cold, or a little darker. This is because we want to protect the art, the furniture, the floors, and everything inside the home. You can help us protect the house and art too by not touching anything in the house.

After visiting the site, how is this home similar to and different from your house?

Mesilla Plaza Scavenger Hunt

1. What year was San Albino Church founded? _____

2. How many windows do you see on the front face of the church?

   _____

3. Count the names on all four sides of the memorial below the statue of La Virgen de Guadalupe. How many are there? _____

4. Write one of the names you see on the memorial. _____

   _____

5. Find and read a sign with historic information about Mesilla. List two facts from that sign that are interesting to you.

   a. _____

   b. _____

6. How many buildings around the Plaza have flat roofs?

   _____

7. How many buildings around the Plaza have peaked roofs?

   _____

Mesilla Plaza Scavenger Hunt, continued...

8. What historical person is painted on the building across from the southeast corner of the Plaza? _____

9. How many sides does the kiosko at the center of the plaza have?

   _____

10. What is the name of the oldest documented brick building in New Mexico? _____

11. List three facts you find interesting on the sign posted to this building:

    a. _____

    b. _____

    c. _____

12. Read about El Patio Cantina. Name three places that have existed within its walls.

    a. _____

    b. _____

    c. _____

Territorial Architecture

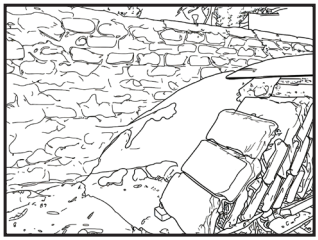
Architecture is the way people design and construct buildings. The types of buildings people create will be different depending on where you live and what kinds of materials exist where you live. During Mesilla's early days, most buildings were made in a style called "territorial architecture." This is a reference to the years that New Mexico spent as a territory of the United States – 1850-1912.

Lots of examples of territorial architecture can be found inside Taylor-Mesilla Historic Site as well as around the Mesilla Plaza. In this activity, read about a few characteristics of territorial architecture and see if you can find another like the examples below. **Once you've found another example, note whether you found it inside Taylor-Mesilla Historic Site or in a store on the Mesilla Plaza.**

Example:

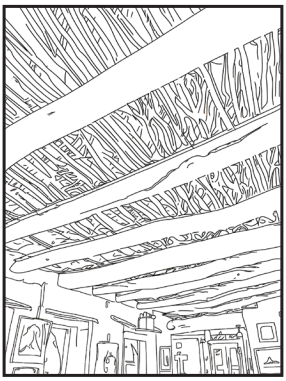
	Example	**Find another**
transom window a window above a door that brings light into a house and provides a cross breeze on a hot day.		Taylor-Mesilla Historic Site – Reynolds Store Visitor Center

Now you try!

adobe a type of brick made of sand, water, clay, and an organic material like straw or manure.		

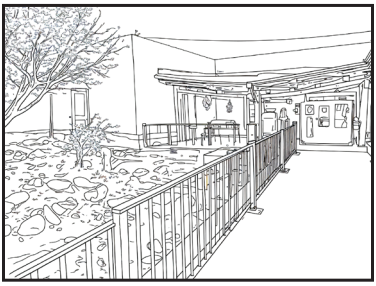
viga

a heavy log used to support the roof of a building.



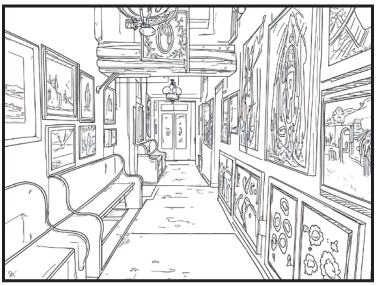
courtyard

an open air space surrounded by the walls of a building.



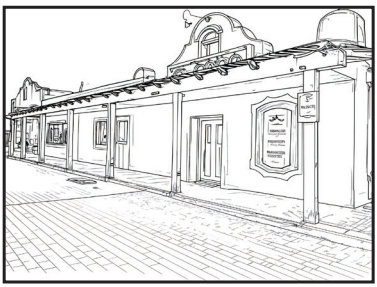
zaguán

a passageway.



portal

in territorial New Mexico, portals are covered porches.



Taylor-Mesilla I Spy

Inside Taylor-Mesilla are a lot of beautiful objects. What can you find?

Count:

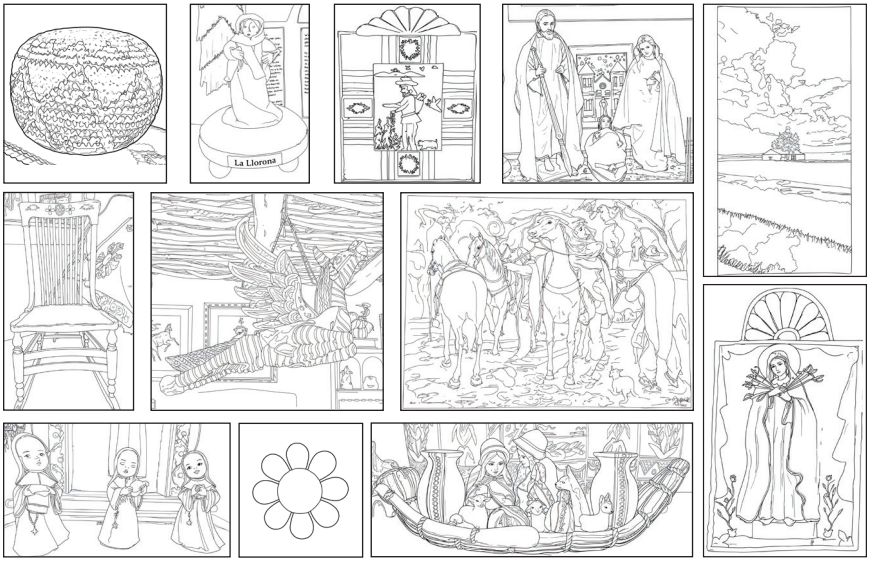
How many horses do you see? _____

How many churches can you find? _____

How many chairs are there? _____

Find:

Put an **X** or circle when you find each of the below objects.

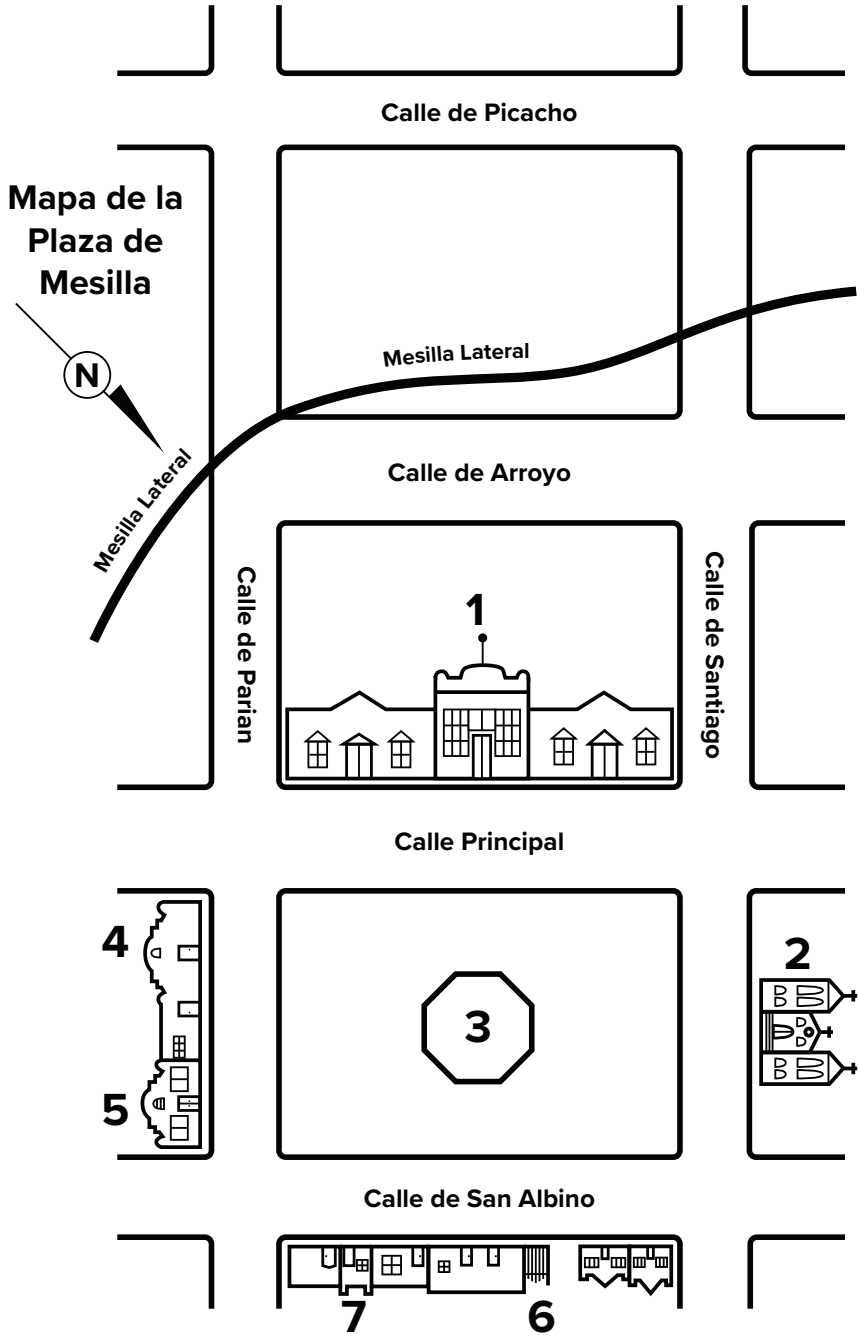


Mapa de la Plaza de Mesilla

Taylor-Mesilla Historic Site is on the west side of the Mesilla Plaza and San Albino Church is on the north. Take a look at the map on the next page. Taylor-Mesilla has already been identified.

Walk around the plaza and using the map, find #2-7 and fill in the name of each place.

1. Taylor-Mesilla Historic Site
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____


Mapa de la Plaza de Mesilla
N
Calle de Picacho
Mesilla Lateral
Mesilla Lateral
Calle de Arroyo
Calle de Parian
Calle de Santiago
1
Calle Principal
4
5
3
2
Calle de San Albino
7
6

Animals of Taylor-Mesilla Historic Site

The Site's Junior Ranger Friend is Trample the Turtle. Taylor-Mesilla has a bale of box turtles who call the inner courtyard home. They enjoy their home, trampling over mulch and even their food, crushing leaves, and climbing rocks as they explore during the cool parts of the day.

Read the panel about Taylor-Mesilla's turtles and the sandhill crane sculptures in the rear courtyard and fill in the missing blanks below. Once you've completed all the missing pieces, use the letters that match the letters below to learn a fun fact about animals in New Mexico.

1. The desert box turtle is ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ to the dry
   8 **4**
   regions of the Southwestern United States and the states of Sonora and Chihuahua, Mexico.

2. The desert box turtle ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ an important role
   9
   in many Indigenous ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ of the
   2
   Southwest including the Tortugas Pueblo.

3. While it is unclear where the name Tortugas came from, two theories suggest that the village was named after a butte in the Organ Mountains which resembles a ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
   6
   while another references the abundance of turtles in the ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ nearby where the community settled.
   10

Animals of Taylor-Mesilla Historic Site, continued...

4. Every winter, ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ of sandhill
   11 **3**
   cranes return to the wetlands of Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge.

5. Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge manages and
   ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ the wetlands that
   12
   sandhill cranes and other ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
   7 **5** **1**
   birds rely on for food in the winter months.

6. New Mexico has more of these than most other states, ranking 4th in the whole country!

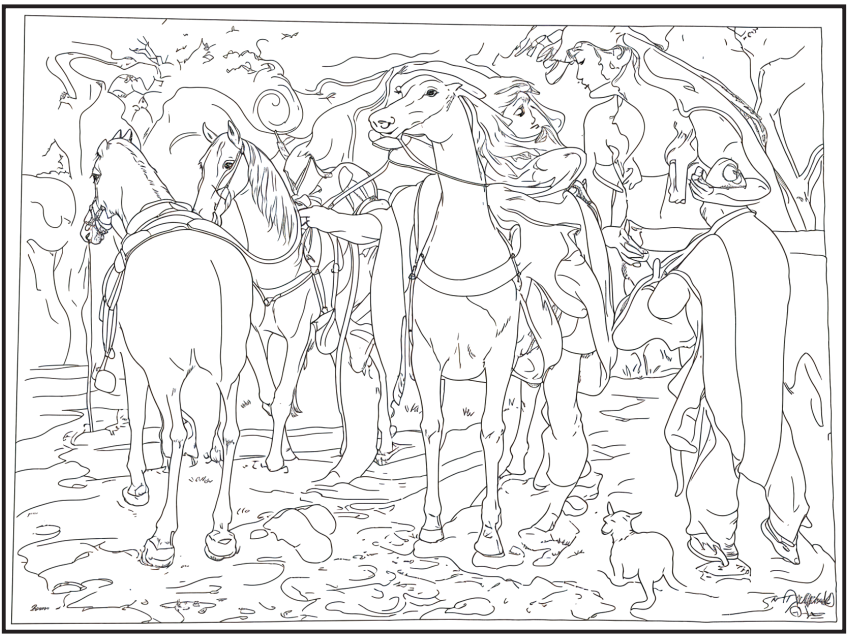
Using the letters from the activity above, spell out your final answer to learn a fun fact about animals in New Mexico.

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
8 1 11 5 12 4 9 6 1 8 11 1 8 3

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
1 8 5 7 1 6 10 9 4 2 5 4 10

Art Can Tell a Story

Find this painting and then write a story below about what is happening in the painting.



Identifying Art

Art styles are visual language. Just as people communicate with one another through a language like English, Spanish, or French, many art styles communicate the culture, history, and personal experiences of the artists who made the art. Once you begin to look at different art styles, it gets easier to recognize that style of art.

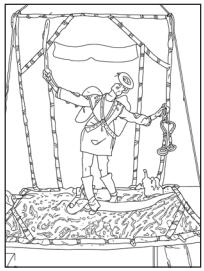
Learn about different art styles found at Taylor-Mesilla.

Learn a little about each style, look at a couple examples of the art and then find another example on display at the site. Once you find another example, draw it or describe it below.

Bulto

Bultos are three-dimensional images of saints. Images of saints are very common in New Mexico because of New Mexico's cultural history with the Catholic faith.

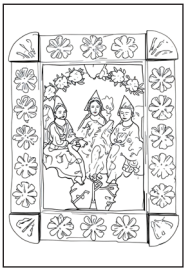




I found:

Tin

Tin is a type of metal that artists have been cutting, shaping, and painting for hundreds of years to create art. The art made from tin can include crosses, picture frames, mirrors, stars, hearts, and more!

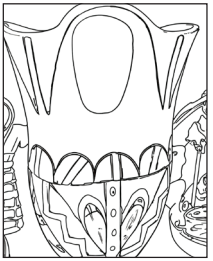


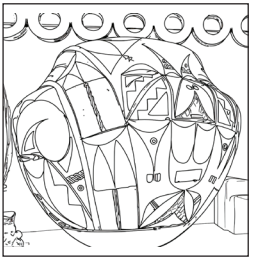


I found:

Pottery

Pottery is the art of shaping clay or other ceramic materials into objects like vases, bowls, mugs, and other dishes. It is one of the oldest crafts in the world.

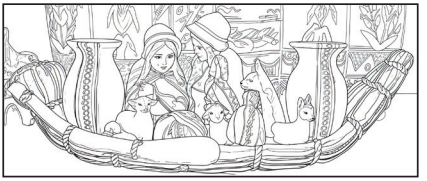




I found:

Nacimiento

Nacimientos is Spanish for “birth scene.” These are nativity scenes. Traditionally you would see a nativity scene during the Christmas season as nativity scenes depict the birth of Jesus. At Taylor-Mesilla, many nacimientos are left out all year round. A nacimiento will include Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus.



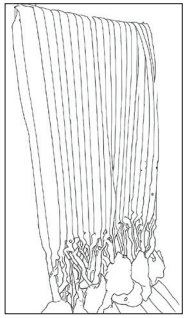
I found:



Textile

A textile is a woven craft. This can be done in a variety of ways including rugs, blankets, table runner, and even embroidering shapes on clothing, curtains, and bedsheets.

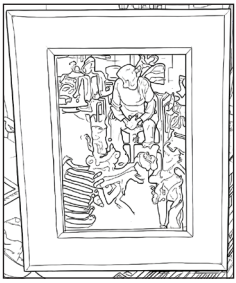




I found:

Photograph

Believe it or not, photography was invented in the early 1800s! It has been around for more than 200 years! Like a lot of houses, this home is filled with photos of members of the Taylor family.





I found:

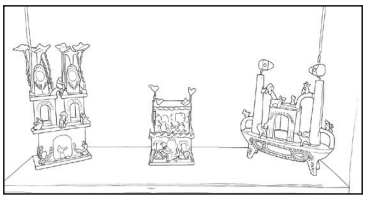
How Does Art Make Me Feel?

Art is subjective. This means that not everyone will like all types of art. Art can make you happy or sad or mad or confused. As there is a lot of art at Taylor-Mesilla, it can make a person feel a lot of emotions. In this activity, you will find the pieces of art or the rooms shown below and spend some time looking at them and deciding how they make you feel. At the bottom of the page are some emotions to pick from.

Once you decide how they make you feel, draw the emotion and if you want, say why.



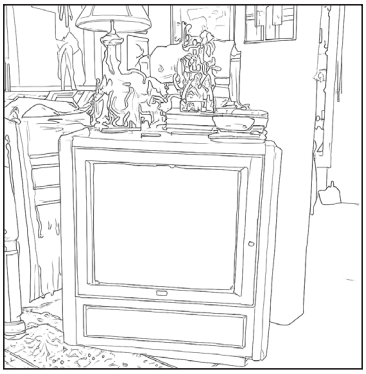
I feel:



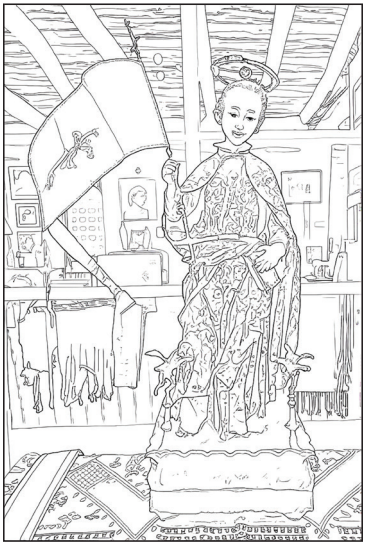
I feel:



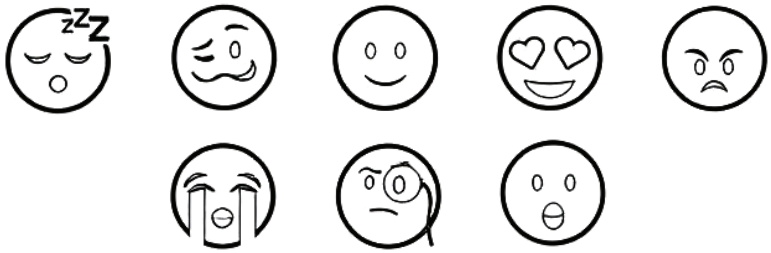
I feel:



I feel:



I feel:



Store Activity

Taylor-Mesilla's Visitor Center is a historic building that used to be a mercantile. For a small town like Mesilla, a mercantile was very important. A mercantile was a general store where families could buy many different things they needed from sugar and bread, to medicine, to clothing, to tools, and even toys. These stores were also where a family could place an order for special items that would need to be ordered and shipped into Mesilla either by railroad or on a wagon.

Antonio Garcia was a 29-year-old blacksmith who lived in Mesilla in 1870 alongside his wife Soledad and their 8-year-old daughter Teresa. Soledad has $5 to get the weekly groceries from the mercantile store. The tables below will show you how much food and different home goods cost in 1870.

How much can you buy using Soledad's $5 per week allowance.

For example:

If Soledad purchased 1 pound of butter, 1 gallon of milk, 2 hats, and some soap:

1 pound of butter = $0.71

1 gallon of milk = $0.66

2 hats = $2.00

Soap = $0.49

$0.71 + $0.66 + $2.00 + $0.49 = $3.86

Soledad's total bill is $3.86.

Store Activity, continued...

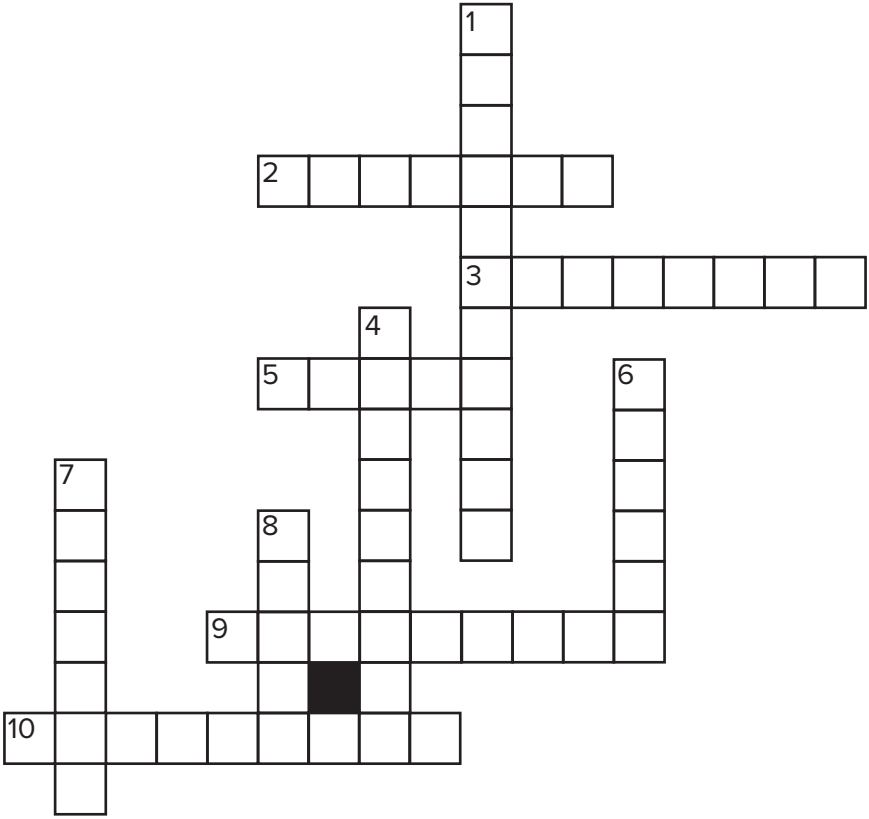
Item	Price	Amount Purchased
Butter	$0.71 per pound	
Cheese	$0.38 per pound	
Coffee	$0.43 for pound	
Eggs	$0.78 per dozen	
Fish	$0.29 per pound	
Flour	$1.00 per pound bag	
Milk	$0.66 per gallon	
Potatoes	$0.66 per bag	
Salt	$0.35 per pound	
Sugar	$0.18 per pound	

Item	Price	Amount Purchased
Coat	$1.98 each	
Hat	$1.00 each	
Lamp oil	$0.27 per gallon	
Medicine	$0.98 per tube	
Pants	$1.48 per pair	
Paper and ink	$0.50 per pack and bottle	
Shoes	$1.35 per pair	
Soap	$0.49 for 12 bars	
Toothpaste	$0.25 per tube	

Total bill: _____

Crossword Puzzle

Using the information found inside this booklet, answer the questions below to complete the crossword.



Across

2. What animals live at the historic site?
3. What is the Spanish word for turtles?
5. Many of the buildings are made of a mud brick. The bricks are called this.
9. What is the name of the church in Mesilla?
10. This is the name of the river that flows near Mesilla.

Down

1. He was a famous outlaw who now has a gift shop named after him.
4. This is an open air space surrounded by the walls of a building.
6. In what country was Mesilla first located?
7. What is an irrigation ditch called in New Mexico?
8. The community gathering space in front of the historic site is called a...

Word Search

Use a pencil to find the hidden words in the word search. Each word is important to Taylor-Mesilla Historic Site's history. The words go up, down, forward, backwards, and diagonally.

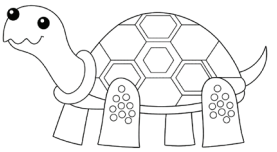
Find the definitions of each word at the beginning of the book on the "Glossary of Terms" page.

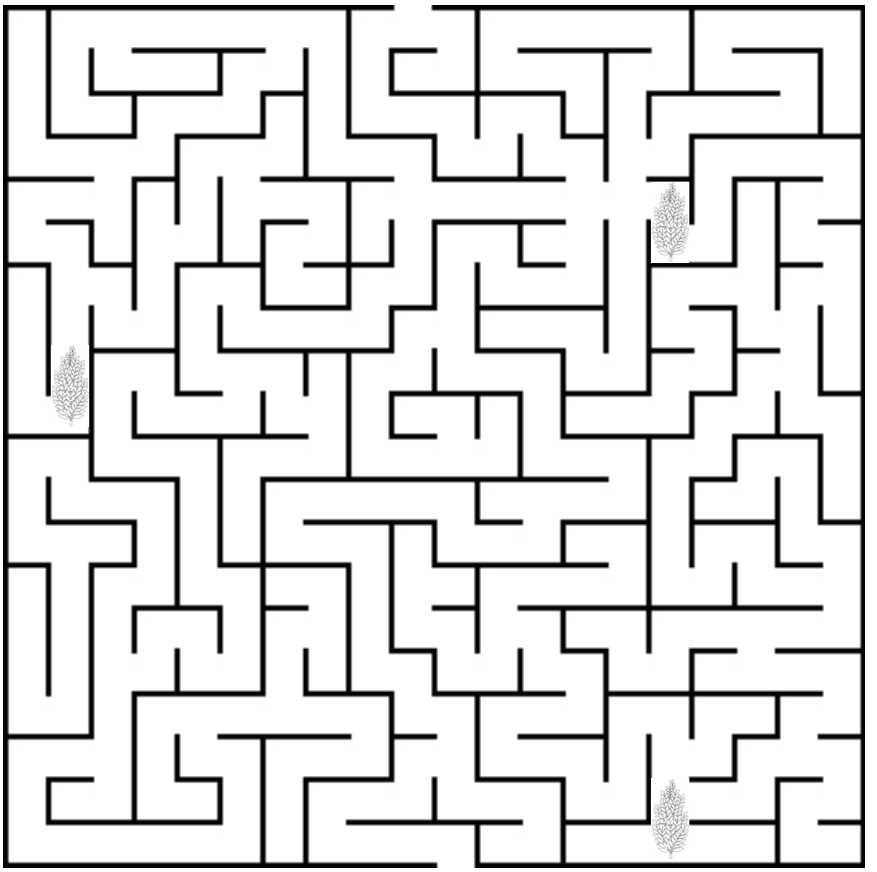
I E B O D A A E F J E K C I R B C A K W
R J J U R L U O H L A X D L F P O C N L
E E G H L A U D P C N C T I D P U I J D
Z A Y I D N W A P O A D A R H O R L P J
Q D S N T O T L I H O P B L A S T I A Z
Z E S A O I N T I U S E A B E O H S D E
M G I A O L A A B V L L U S C S O A R L
G N O Q N G D L A L I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

ADOBE
ART
BASILICA
MESILLA
PLAZA
DONA ANA
ZAGUAN
KIOSKO
NEW MEXICO
APACHE
ESPANOL
CHURCH
BARELA
REYNOLDS
KILN
BUTTERFIELD
RAILROAD
TERRITORIAL
IRRIGATION
LAS CRUCES
JACALES
COURTHOUSE
FOUNTAIN
HOTEL
CIVIL WAR
WILD WEST
ACEQUIA
AGUA
SANTOS
PADRE GRANGE
EL PATIO
BILLY THE KID
DOUBLE EAGLE
BRICK
SAINT
SPAIN
J PAUL TAYLOR
PADRINOS
BELLS

Maze

It's hot in the desert! Help Trample the Turtle find his way to his water bowl in the courtyard.





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.

TAYLOR-MESILLA
HISTORIC SITE

Junior Ranger

THIS CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT IS PRESENTED TO

_____

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

_____ _____

RANGER'S SIGNATURE DATE



TAYLOR MESILLA
HISTORIC SITE

Calle Principal on the Mesilla Plaza | Mesilla, NM 88046
(575) 202-1638 | nmhistoricsites.org/taylor-mesilla

Hours:
Tuesday through Friday; 10:00 am to 4:30 pm

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

