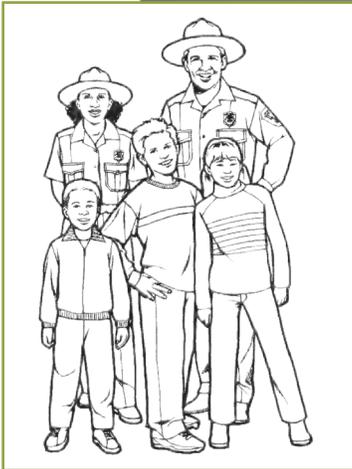


# Fort Union

## National Monument





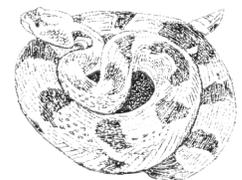
You'll find our national parks all across the United States, from the cold coast of Alaska to the swampy tip of Florida. Many parks offer visitors the chance to become a Junior Ranger. With the program, you'll discover each park's wild beauty and colorful human history. You'll even receive a special badge. The more parks you visit, the more Junior Ranger badges you can collect.

So get out your walking shoes, your water bottle, and your sun hat...it's time to go exploring!



## TAKE CARE WHILE YOU ARE HERE!

- **Trail Smarts:** Please stay on the gravel trail. Most of the flagstone at Fort Union is original and very bumpy, and the adobe walls and foundations are fragile.
- **Artifact Facts:** Please leave any historic items, such as beads, buttons, or bullets, where you find them. It's the law! And it ensures that other visitors enjoy them, too.
- **Wild Side:** Keep a respectful distance from wild animals. Be especially alert for rattle-snakes, and report any you see to a park ranger.
- **Stormy Weather:** Watch out for approaching storms. If you can hear thunder, then lightning is getting closer. Return to the visitor center immediately.



# Fort Union National Monument

## JUNIOR RANGER GUIDE

### *Discovering Fort Union*



The place where you stand now was once bustling with activity. Soldiers practiced their army drills on the parade grounds. Blacksmiths hammered horseshoes and wagon wheels. Post traders exchanged news in English and Spanish.

We invite you to explore the grounds of Fort Union and imagine what it would have been like to live and work here long ago. You can learn more by completing the activities in this guide. In the process, you'll also qualify to become a Junior Ranger. You can work alone, with a parent, or even with friends. When you are finished, bring your guide to a park ranger to receive your badge and certificate.

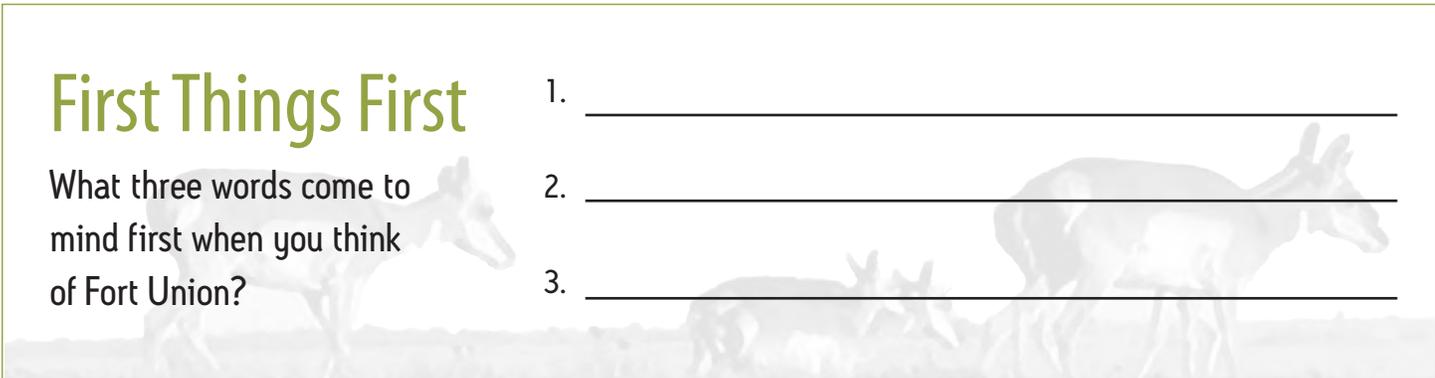
Fort Union was built shortly after the U.S.-Mexican War, providing a major military outpost on the Santa Fe Trail. Here soldiers worked to enforce United States policies in the New Mexico Territory. First built in 1851, the fort was reconstructed twice in different locations. Today as you visit Fort Union National Monument, you can see traces of all three sites.

- **If you are 6 years old or younger, complete at least 4 activities.**
- **If you are between 7 and 10 years old, complete at least 6 activities.**
- **If you are 10 years old or older, complete all of the activities.**

### First Things First

What three words come to mind first when you think of Fort Union?

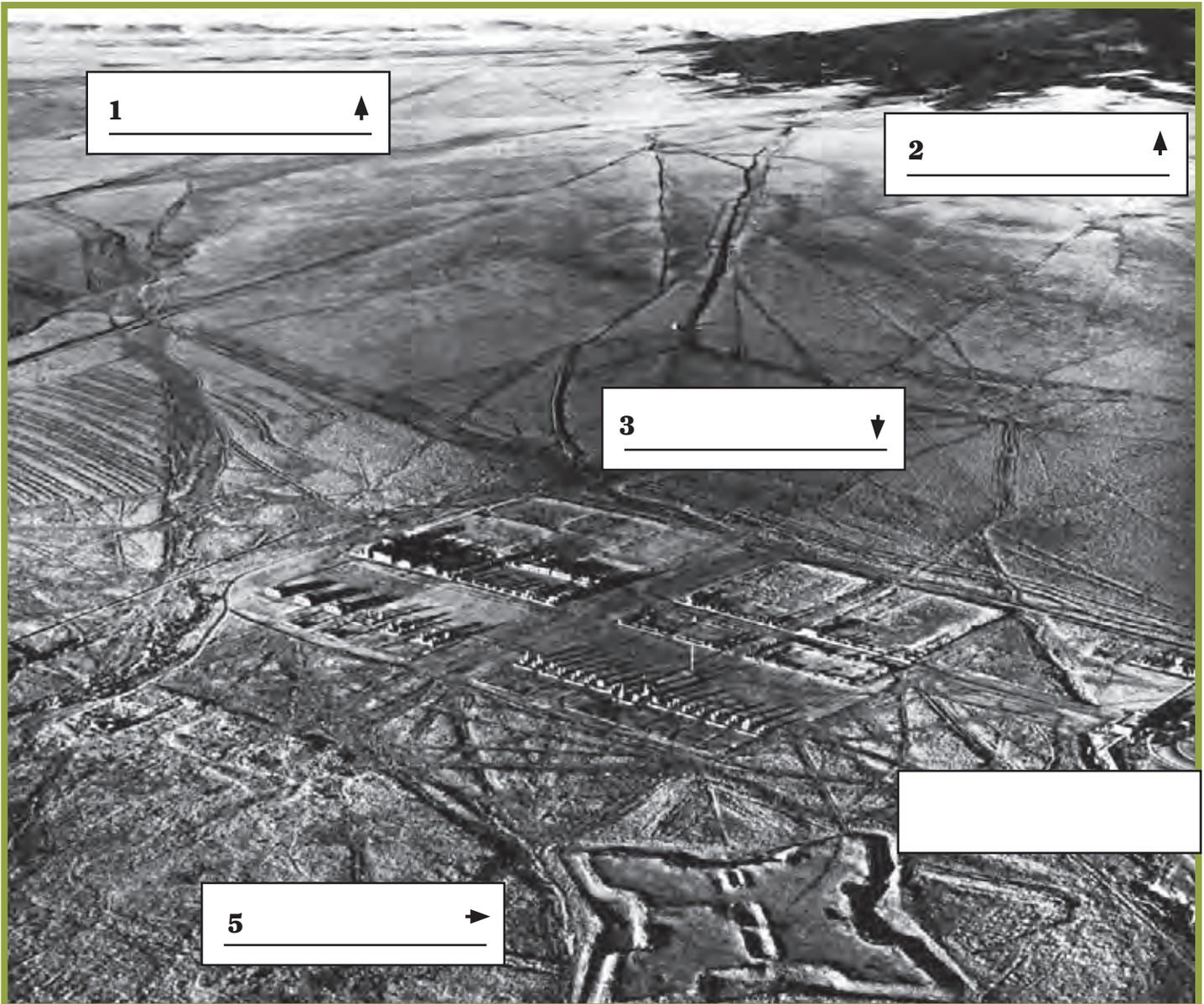
1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_



# Only a Few Have This Sort of View

If you could fly over Fort Union, it would look something like it does in this aerial photograph. Can you find where you're standing? Mark that spot with an X. Then label the features in the photograph choosing from the list below:

**Earthwork, Santa Fe Trail, Visitor Center, Turkey Mountains, Ocaté Volcanic Field**



What else can you see in this photograph? What do you like best about this view?

.....

.....

.....

# FORT UNION TIMELINE

Many important events occurred before, during, and after Fort Union was in operation. Read about some of the events that shaped Fort Union's history below. Then create your own Fort Union timeline by writing the number of each event in the correct circle on the timeline below.

*For many centuries before the arrival of the Spanish, Native American communities developed trade and travel routes that eventually became what is known as the Santa Fe Trail.*

*This was a time of exploration by the Spanish. Conflicts between the Spanish and Native Americans occurred as the Spanish tried to colonize the land.*

*New Mexico became the 47th state in the United States in 1912. The railroad continued to bring big changes to the West.*

1500

1600

1700

1800

1900

2000

*Spanish explorers arrived to this area in 1540 and claimed the land for the Crown. The Spanish founded Santa Fe in 1610.*



1821



1846



1848



1851



1861



1864



1879



1891

## EVENTS

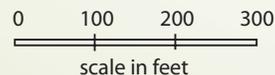
- 1 The United States declares war on Mexico. (1846)
- 2 After the Civil War breaks out, Fort Union's second fort is built, providing a Union base for supplies. (1861)
- 3 The Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railway reaches Fort Union and use of the Santa Fe Trail ends. (1879)
- 4 Mexico declares independence from Spain and the Santa Fe Trail officially opens for trade. (1821)
- 5 The U.S. invasion of Mexico ends with the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. The United States claims much of what is now the American Southwest. (1848)
- 6 Fort Union is abandoned 12 years after the railroad arrived. (1891)
- 7 Fort Union is established as the main military base in the Southwest to protect military freight, trade, and commerce on the Santa Fe Trail. (1851)
- 8 Colonel Christopher "Kit" Carson leads a campaign against the Mescalero Apache and Diné in the "Long Walk" to Bosque Redondo. (1864)

# Fort Scavenger Hunt

Fort Union was like a small city, complete with a bakery, mercantile, hospital, homes, and corrals. Use the diagram below to help you navigate the fort grounds in order to locate each of the places and objects in bold on the following page. Once you find each one, answer the questions. **Be sure to stay on the gravel trails at all times and do not climb on any structures during your hunt.**



Fort Union  
1877





1. People once told time by looking at where the sun cast its shadow on a **sundial**.

*What time does it say on the sundial? What time does it say on your watch?*

---

2. This **cistern** could hold 20,000 gallons of water! The water was used to fight fires at the fort.

*How does the width of the cistern compare to your height? Is it longer, shorter, or the same?*

---

3. Topographical engineers working for the army placed **elevation markers** to show how high above sea level they were.

*What is the elevation of the Geological Survey Marker? What year was it constructed?*

---

4. Bakers lit fires in ovens at the **bakery**, then removed the coals and placed loaves inside. The oven stayed hot enough to bake the bread.

*What do you think this oven is made of?*

---

5. Doctors and nurses cared for people with scurvy, cholera, small pox, and other diseases at the fort **hospital**. No person was turned away.

*How many patient rooms does the hospital have?*

---

6. Local women and enlisted men's wives lived and worked at **laundresses' row**, washing clothes and linens for soldiers at the fort.

*Do the laundry rooms have washing machines? How do you think the laundresses washed and dried clothes?*

---

7. The soldiers at Fort Union built a **military prison** in 1868 out of sandstone and adobe brick.

*How many cells did the prison have?*

---



# What Is It?

Look carefully at the pictures below. Can you guess what each one is? Hint: They are all close-up views of things you can find at Fort Union. Unscramble the letters to find out what the items are. Did you guess right? Draw your own close-up picture in the empty box. Write a clue, and then see if someone else can guess!

Travelers on the Santa Fe Trail truly left their mark!

ogawn ustr

\_\_\_\_\_

What is tall, yellow, and has been used for food and medicine?

fsnulwoer

\_\_\_\_\_

You'd be watchful, too, if coyotes, foxes, and birds of prey hunted you for dinner!

arbibt yee

\_\_\_\_\_

What's made from sand, straw, and clay, then dried in the sun?

oadeb iskbrc

\_\_\_\_\_

When it's hot, I hide in the shade; when it's cool, I warm myself in the bright sun.

asekn

\_\_\_\_\_

How does flowing water leave a signature on sandstone?

prlpe mrkas

\_\_\_\_\_

I can jump more than 15 times my height—can you?

spohgsaperr

\_\_\_\_\_

When you walk through grassy areas, watch out for me and my sharp spines!

lkpyirc arep

\_\_\_\_\_

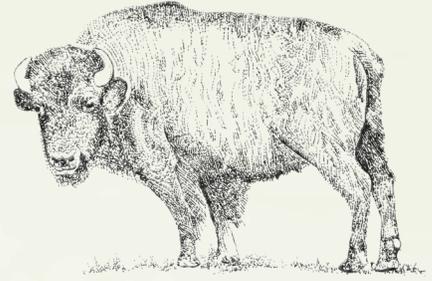
Can someone else guess?

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Can someone else guess?

# ¿Como Se Dice?



Over the centuries, the sounds of many different languages have filled this valley. Home to the Jicarilla Apache and other Native Americans for thousands of years, this land was then taken over by Spain, Mexico, and finally the United States. When Fort Union was at its peak, English and Spanish were the most common languages spoken on the post.

Can you speak Spanish? Try saying the names of the following items in Spanish. Draw a line from the Spanish word to its English translation, then write the word in Spanish.

## Caballo (Kah-buy-oh)



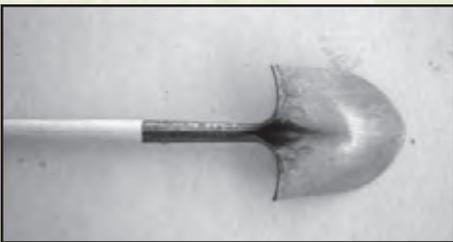
\_\_\_\_\_

Oxen

\_\_\_\_\_

Gloves

## Pala (Pah-lah)



\_\_\_\_\_

Shovel

\_\_\_\_\_

Money

## Soldado (Sol-dah-doh)



\_\_\_\_\_

Horse

\_\_\_\_\_

Soldier

## Guantes (Want-ehs)



## Bueyes (Bway-es)



## Dinero (Dee-nehr-oh)



# The Santa Fe Trail

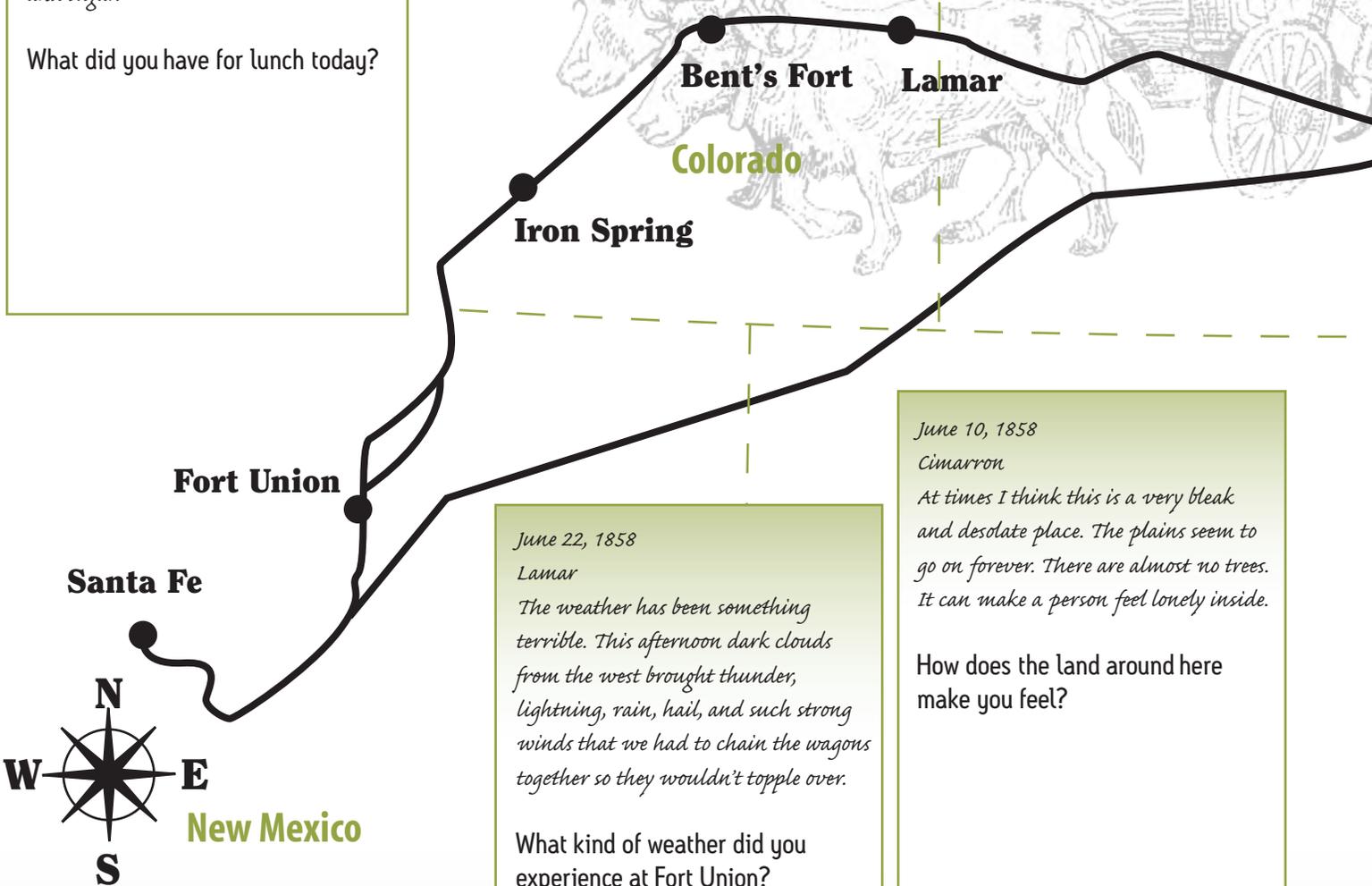
The Santa Fe Trail was once a main east-west travel corridor, extending from Missouri to northern Mexico. In the early and mid-1800s, activity on the trail was at its peak with merchants and traders conducting international business. Military forts were established to protect this commerce and the trail was also busy with freighters transporting military supplies. Wagon ruts all around Fort Union remind us of this time.

July 2, 1858

Iron Spring

*At mid-day we stopped and let the horses graze and drink. We had our usual rations of bread, bacon, coffee, and sugar.*

What did you have for lunch today?



June 10, 1858

Cimarron

*At times I think this is a very bleak and desolate place. The plains seem to go on forever. There are almost no trees. It can make a person feel lonely inside.*

How does the land around here make you feel?

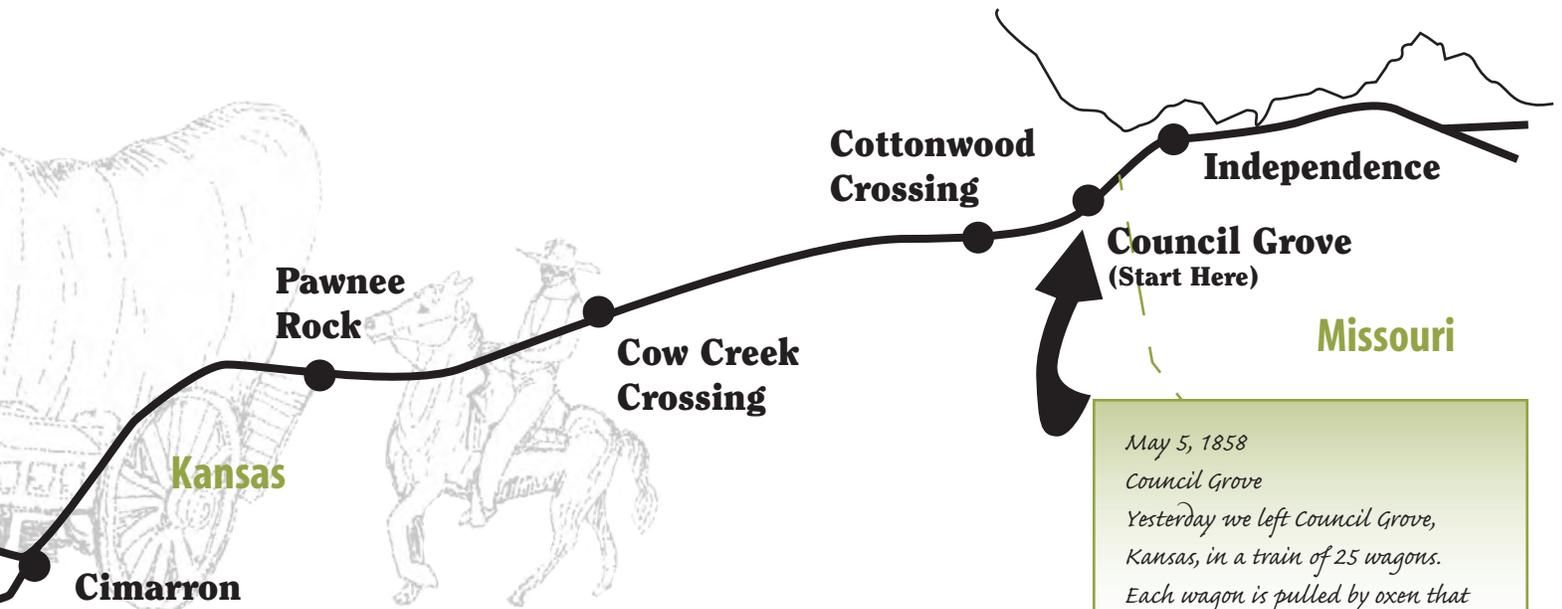
June 22, 1858

Lamar

*The weather has been something terrible. This afternoon dark clouds from the west brought thunder, lightning, rain, hail, and such strong winds that we had to chain the wagons together so they wouldn't topple over.*

What kind of weather did you experience at Fort Union?

What would it have been like to travel with your family on the Santa Fe Trail? **Start at Council Grove** in eastern Kansas and **experience the journey as you follow along by reading fictional journal entries** written by a teenager. **Then write your own present-day observations** in the spaces provided.



*May 5, 1858  
Council Grove  
Yesterday we left Council Grove, Kansas, in a train of 25 wagons. Each wagon is pulled by oxen that move slowly across the rutted trail. Pa says we should cover about 15 miles a day.*

How did you get to Fort Union today? How fast did you travel?

*May 25, 1858  
Cow Creek Crossing  
All kinds of animals scurry and proul on these plains. We've seen prairie dogs, elk, antelope, jackrabbits, and coyotes. Best of all is seeing huge herds of buffalo!*

What animals have you seen while traveling near Fort Union?

Oklahoma

**MATH PUZZLER: How Long Will It Take?**

Imagine you are a freighter carrying military supplies down the Santa Fe Trail to Fort Union. If you are traveling at a rate of 17 miles per hour, and you have 34 miles left to go, how long will it take you to get to Fort Union?

Hint: Distance=Rate x Time       $d = (r) (t)$

# Trail Listeners

Fort Union once buzzed with the activity of soldiers, animals, civilian workers, and more. What sounds would you have heard then? What sounds do you hear now?

## WRITING SOUNDS

Choose a sound you've heard today, or that you think you might have heard in 1865. How would you spell that sound if you were to write it on paper?

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## COUNTING SOUNDS

Close your eyes. Lift your finger every time you hear a sound. Count sounds you could have heard 150 years ago on your left hand and sounds you could not on your right. Which hand gets to five first?

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## IMAGINING SOUNDS

Close your eyes and imagine standing here in 1865. What sounds might you hear?

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## EYES OPEN, EYES SHUT

Listen carefully to the sounds around you. Now close your eyes. Listen again. Do you notice more sounds when your eyes are open or closed?

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## ANIMAL NOISES

Listen for an animal (even a bird or insect counts!). What sounds does it make? Can you make those noises? Can you guess what is making the sound? Write your guess here.

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# Weather Wonders

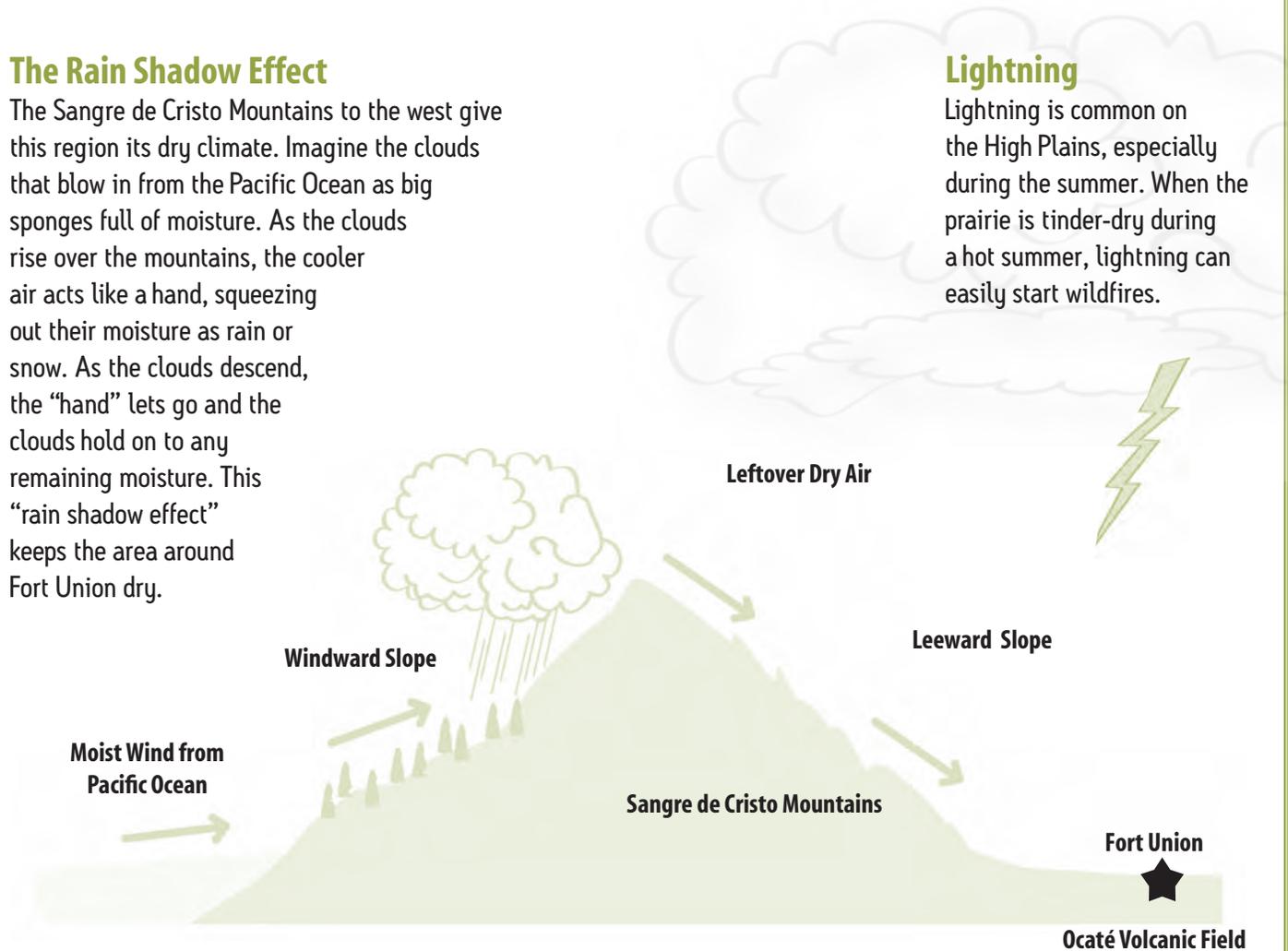
Fort Union lies in a semi-arid region known as the High Plains. Read about common weather conditions in this area, and then record your own weather observations in the space provided.

## The Rain Shadow Effect

The Sangre de Cristo Mountains to the west give this region its dry climate. Imagine the clouds that blow in from the Pacific Ocean as big sponges full of moisture. As the clouds rise over the mountains, the cooler air acts like a hand, squeezing out their moisture as rain or snow. As the clouds descend, the “hand” lets go and the clouds hold on to any remaining moisture. This “rain shadow effect” keeps the area around Fort Union dry.

## Lightning

Lightning is common on the High Plains, especially during the summer. When the prairie is tinder-dry during a hot summer, lightning can easily start wildfires.



## Weather Journal

Today's date: \_\_\_\_\_

Temperature: \_\_\_\_\_

Precipitation (rain, snow, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

Cloud cover: \_\_\_\_\_

Wind conditions: \_\_\_\_\_

Storm conditions: \_\_\_\_\_

Other observations: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

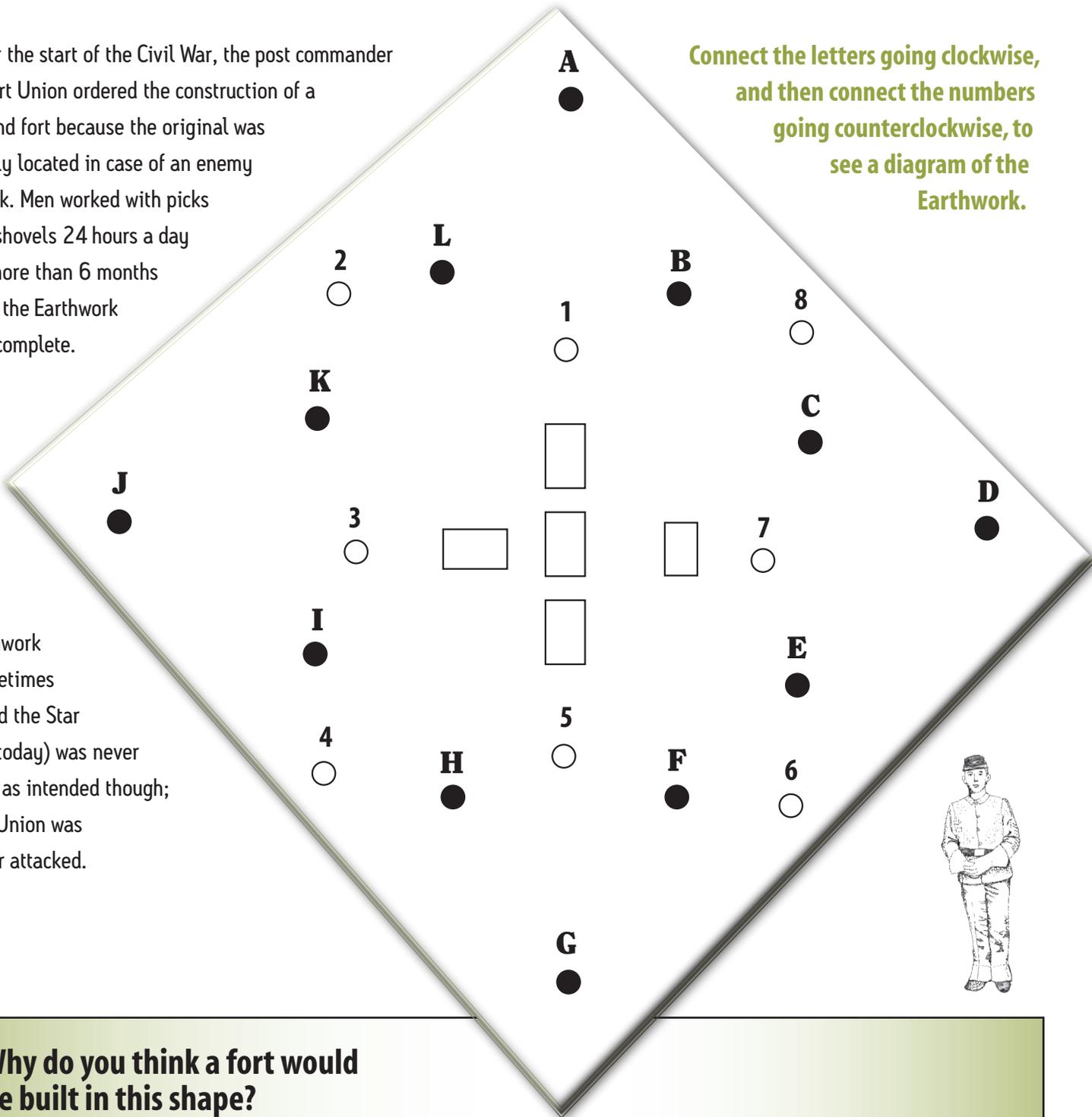
# Compass Connection



After the start of the Civil War, the post commander at Fort Union ordered the construction of a second fort because the original was poorly located in case of an enemy attack. Men worked with picks and shovels 24 hours a day for more than 6 months until the Earthwork was complete.

The Earthwork (sometimes called the Star Fort today) was never used as intended though; Fort Union was never attacked.

Connect the letters going clockwise, and then connect the numbers going counterclockwise, to see a diagram of the Earthwork.



**Why do you think a fort would be built in this shape?**

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# Fort Union National Monument



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Edited by Melissa Urreiztieta

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To learn more about Fort Union National Monument visit [www.nps.gov/foun](http://www.nps.gov/foun).

## Junior Ranger Pledge

**As a Junior Ranger,**

**I promise to explore the rich history**

**of the Southwest, respect nature,**

**and help protect all**

**National Park sites.**

**WESTERN  
NATIONAL PARKS  
ASSOCIATION**