Fur Trade: Trappers and Traders

Special Thanks to Mary Brinton and Denise Guthrie from Peakview Elementary for sharing this activity sheet.

You’ll be exploring the world of Fur Trappers and Traders. Click the following website and follow the guide.
http://exhibits.historycolorado.org/bentsfort/bents_home.html#mountainMen

Tab 1- Mountain Men
Click on the finger, you will see a book of maps.
1. What is different about these maps compared to the maps we see today?
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

Click on the powder horn of the man pointing.
2. List five items a mountain man would carry with him.
   a. _________________________________________________________________
   b. _________________________________________________________________
   c. _________________________________________________________________
   d. _________________________________________________________________
   e. _________________________________________________________________

Click on the green light of the man standing next to the man pointing.
3. What did the mountain man eat during lean (when there is not a lot to eat) times?
4. What nationalities would you find among the mountain men?

5. How were bull boats made?

6. Why were they made this way?

Click on the rider in the distance on the left.

7. List what happened in each of the following years.
   1806 -
   1815 -
   1822-
   1823 -
   1825 -
   1833 -
   1838 -

Click on the mountain man on the very right.

8. List one interesting fact about each of the following mountain men.
   Jim Baker- 
   Jim Bridger -
   Kit Carson -
   Uncle Dick Wootton -
   James Beckwourth -

Watch the James Beckwourth video.

9. What jobs did Beckwourth do for the Bent brothers when he came back from California?
Goods came from all over the world to Bent’s Fort.

1. List the items that came from each of the countries below.
   a. China- __________________________________________________________
   b. Italy and France ___________________________________________________
   c. Canada __________________________________________________________
   d. Mexico __________________________________________________________

2. How far was Bent’s Fort from the United States?  
_______________________________________________________________________

Click on the American Indian Trade Network.

3. What Indian tribes competed for control of the trade?  
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________

4. What is the name of the red trail and when was it established? What traveled west on the trail?
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________

Click on the blue trail.

5. What is the name of it and where does it go to from Santa Fe?  _____________________
6. What goods were carried south?

7. What goods came north?

8. What route is the purple line? How did goods get to Bent’s Fort from here? ___________

Click on the globe.

9. What languages could be heard spoken at Bent’s Fort?

Click on the buffalo.

10. Who were the three men involved in the trade operation?

Click on the kettle.

11. How did Bent’s Fort change the way the Indian’s traded?

Tab 3: Bent’s Fort
1. Explore the Fort movie: Why was Bent’s Fort so well known?

______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________

2. Blacksmith Shop: What is it responsible for?

______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________

3. Trappers and Traders: Who were they? Where did they come from?

______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________

4. Man and horse: What river was the international border? Whose land was North of the river? Whose land was South of the border? Why was Bent’s Fort a great location?

______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________

5. Carpenter’s Shop: How was it like an auto mechanic’s shop?
6. Military: What did the Army use Bent’s Fort for during the Mexican American War?

7. Trade Room: What are some services that were provided?

8. Well Room: Why would fresh water and ice be a pleasant surprise at Bent’s Fort?

9. American Indians: How did the American Indians use Bent’s Fort?

10. Kitchen: Watch the video. How was Charlotte’s life unique?

11. Council Room: Watch the video. Why did Bent want peace so badly?

12. Flag: How did Bent’s Fort help Westward Expansion?

14. What happened to the fort after 1848 -

After it closed: What happened?

1848: ___________________________________________________________________
1849: ___________________________________________________________________
1853: ___________________________________________________________________

Buffalo Trade Ended: Cause and Effect

__________________________________________  Effect: Buffalo Trade Ended
__________________________________________
__________________________________________  Effect: Bent’s Fort Destruction

Tab 4: A Day in the Life
Choose a Fictional Character, based on real people who lived and worked at the fort, and experience what a day in the life might be like.

Name:________________________________________________________________

Role/Job:_____________________________________________________________

Summarize what happened in 1 sentence.

1. Task/Chore:______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________

2. Task/Chore:______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________

3. Task/Chore:______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________

4. Task/Chore:______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
Reflection:

After exploring the life of Fur Trappers and Traders, how would you summarize their life?

______________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________

What did you find surprising?

______________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________