

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?

Tab 2- Trade Routes



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 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?

13. William Bent's Quarters: What items in his room reflect 2 cultures: American and Native American?

American: _____

Native American: _____

14. What happened to the fort after 1848 -

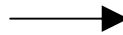
After it closed: What happened?

1848: _____

1849: _____

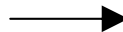
1853: _____

Buffalo Trade Ended: Cause and Effect



Effect:
Buffalo Trade Ended

Bent's Fort Destruction: Cause and Effect



Effect:
Bent's Fort Destruction

Tab 4: A Day in the Life

CHOOSE YOUR CHARACTER

Bent's Fort was a thriving, busy place where people of many different cultures came together to trade goods and services.

On any given day, a visitor to Bent's Fort might hear English, Spanish, French, Cheyenne, or Arapaho spoken. What was it really like at the Fort?

Choose one of these fictional characters, based on real people who lived and worked at the Fort, to find out!



LT. MICAH B. EWING

A member of the U.S. Army Corp of Topographical Engineers

Lt. Ewing has travelled from Washington DC to create a map of the area and to deliver a message to his commanding officer.



JOSEFA TAFOYA

Mexican by birth and suspicious of increasing American influence

Josefa is pretending to be a mexican worker at the fort. She is really a spy gathering information for Padre Martinez before returning home.



CEDRIC GERARD

A fur trapper and trader grown tired of working alone

Cedric has come to the fort to recover from a difficult journey and to look for a permanent job.

MOUNTAIN MEN

TRADE ROUTES

BENT'S FORT

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? _____
