

Lesson Title: Forts along the Way
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Teaching Traditional American History Program
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<http://www.chillihistoryproject.com/>

Lesson overview: In this lesson students will compare and contrast two forts along the Santa Fe Trail.

Essential question:

- 1) What are some of the important similarities and differences of the forts along the Santa Fe Trail?
- 2) What are the reasons for differences of these forts?

Assessment: Students will create a graphic organizer showing the differences and similarities of the forts along the Santa Fe Trail.

Materials: computer access is preferable

Class time: 1 period (approx. 50 minutes)

Teacher input: The focus of this lesson is to teach students the similarities and differences of the forts along the Santa Fe Trail. In order to do this the students should have a basic understanding of the Santa Fe Trail and its purpose. The following questions can be used to lead a discussion about the Santa Fe Trail.

1. What was the purpose of the Santa Fe Trail?
2. How is this different from other trails west such as the Oregon and California Trails?
3. What was the time frame of the Santa Fe Trail?
4. What were the beginning and ending points of the Trail?
5. What were some stops along the Trail?

Activity: Either in small groups or individually, students should use the computers to do basic research on two forts along the Santa Fe Trail. Then, students should use a graphic organizer to compare and contrast these two forts.

Closure: After completing the activity, students should share their organizers with the class.

Extension: As a class, students will discuss all organizers and use the information presented to construct one chart that compares and contrasts all forts mentioned.

Resources: <http://www.42explore2.com/santafe.htm> This is a site that lists several other sites to provide in depth information on the Santa Fe Trail and its forts.