

Daily Life at Fort Osage– A Letter Home

Lesson design by: Lori Keller

Minnie Cline Elementary – Savannah R–III School
District

4th grade Social Studies

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Teaching American History Program
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Mike Lair, Project Director

<http://www.chillihistoryproject.com/>

Lesson Overview: Students will research Fort Osage and discover what life would have been like for a soldier living there in 1815. They will use that information to write a "letter home" explaining what a 'typical' day might be.

Essential Question: "What would daily life have been like at Fort Osage in 1815."

Objectives: After completing this lesson, students

will: Have an understanding of daily life at Fort Osage in 1815.

GLE 3a: Knowledge of Continuity and change in the history of Missouri and the United States.

I. 3 (SS31.6) Evaluate the impact of Westward Expansion on the Native Americans in Missouri.

Assessment: Students will write a letter "back home" explaining their daily life at Fort Osage. The students will include at least 5 specific bits of information that would have happened to them while living/working at Fort Osage in 1815.

Use the following scoring guide to grade the letter:

Letter-Writing : Life at Fort Osage - Letter Home

Teacher Name: **Lori Keller**

Student Name: _____

CATEGORY	4	3	2	1
Grammar & spelling (conventions)	Writer makes no errors in grammar or spelling.	Writer makes 1-2 errors in grammar and/or spelling.	Writer makes 3-4 errors in grammar and/or spelling	Writer makes more than 4 errors in grammar and/or spelling.
Capitalization and Punctuation	Writer makes no errors in capitalization and punctuation.	Writer makes 1-2 errors in capitalization and punctuation.	Writer makes 3-4 errors in capitalization and punctuation.	Writer makes more than 4 errors in capitalization and punctuation.

Sentences & Paragraphs	Sentences and paragraphs are complete, well-constructed and of varied structure.	All sentences are complete and well-constructed (no fragments, no run-ons). Paragraphing is generally done well.	Most sentences are complete and well-constructed. Paragraphing needs some work.	Many sentence fragments or run-on sentences OR paragraphing needs lots of work.
Content Accuracy	The letter contains at least 5 accurate facts about the topic.	The letter contains 3-4 accurate facts about the topic.	The letter contains 1-2 accurate facts about the topic.	The letter contains no accurate facts about the topic.
Format	Complies with all the requirements for a friendly letter.	Complies with almost all the requirements for a friendly letter.	Complies with several of the requirements for a friendly letter.	Complies with less than 75% of the requirements for a friendly letter.
Ideas	Ideas were expressed in a clear and organized fashion. It was easy to figure out what the letter was about.	Ideas were expressed in a pretty clear manner, but the organization could have been better.	Ideas were somewhat organized, but were not very clear. It took more than one reading to figure out what the letter was about.	The letter seemed to be a collection of unrelated sentences. It was very difficult to figure out what the letter was about.
- Please Choose -				

Teacher Input:

* Fort Osage website:

<http://www.epsi.net/graphic/osage.html>

Class time: 1 – 50 minute class period

Enrichment: For a lesson extender, students could compare and contrast life at Fort Osage in 1815 to life at Fort Riley today. Students can research Fort Riley online and compare it to the information they learned about Fort Osage. The students could then work in small groups to produce a Venn Diagram poster showing 5 ways that life is the same, and 5 ways that life is different between the two forts.