

**Moving West with the Forts:
Using an Interactive Map**
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Subject: Texas history

Grade level: 7

Rationale or Purpose: Students will read a map of Texas forts and analyze westward movement from Statehood to the Civil War.

Materials: Computer access to:

<http://www.texasbeyondhistory.net/forts/military.html#map>

Student Handouts, pencils, pens

Objectives:

- Social studies 7.6A, identify factors leading to the expansion of the Texas frontier
- Social studies 7.8A, use geographic tools, such as maps
- Social studies 7.8B, pose and answer questions about geographic distributions and patterns during the 19th and 20th centuries
- Social studies 7.9A, locate places and regions of importance in the 19th and 20th centuries
- Social studies 7.10A, analyze ways the land has been modified
- Social studies 7.11B, analyze how immigration and migration influenced Texas in the 19th and 20th centuries
- Social studies 7.21A, use primary and secondary sources
- Social studies 7.21B, analyze information by sequencing, categorizing, comparing, contrasting, etc.
- Social studies 7.21C, interpret information from maps

Activity: This can be done individually, in pairs, as a whole class activity, or as a learning center activity.

Step 1: See the section "U.S. Army on the Texas Frontier." Scroll down to the interactive map, "U.S. Forts in Texas, 1849-1860."

Step 2: Click on 1849, 1854, and 1860 to see which forts were active in those years.

Step 3: Students answer the questions on the handout, individually or in pairs.

Step 4: Students answer closure questions out loud with the whole class.

Modification: use fewer questions

Student Product: answer sheet

Closure: Students answer the following questions out loud with the whole class.

1. Why did the forts along the border with Mexico remain in operation from 1849 to 1860? (to protect the border – the border did not change)
2. Why did many forts in the middle of the state move west from 1849-1860? (Answers will be similar to these: settlers moved west, new roads and stage coach routes were created, Indians moved further west as settlers came near their homes, Indians fought against settlers making forts necessary for protection of the settlers.)

Assessment or evaluation: completed answer sheet, closure questions

Extension: (optional)

In some cases, small communities grew around the forts. In other cases, forts were located near towns founded long before 1849 in order to protect them. Find the following cities on a Texas highway map and identify the fort that helped them grow. Use the interactive map to find the forts.

Fort Worth
Burnet
Gatesville
Laredo
Rio Grande City

Brownsville
El Paso
San Angelo
Mason
Fort Davis

Fort Stockton
Uvalde
Bracketville
Eagle Pass

**Moving West with the Forts:
Using the Interactive Map**

Student Handout

Look at the web site <http://www.texasbeyondhistory.net/forts/military.html>. Scroll down to the interactive map titled “U.S. Forts in Texas, 1849-1860, “ which is located in the section called “U.S. Army on the Texas Frontier.”

Click on the dates 1849, 1854, and 1860 to see the forts located in Texas during those years.

Write your answers to the following questions:

**Questions about
U.S. Army Forts on the Texas Frontier**

1. Look at the forts that were active in 1849 and 1854. Which forts active in 1849 remained active five years later in 1854?
2. Now compare the forts that were active in 1849 with the forts active in 1860. Which ones remained in 1860?
3. Except for Ft. Inge, what do the forts that remained active from 1849 to 1860 all have in common?
4. Look at the Upper Road (orange line) from San Antonio to El Paso (Ft. Bliss) in 1849. Which fort in central Texas was located on this road?
5. Look at the Upper Road in 1854. Which two new forts were located on this route?
6. By 1860, which fort remained on the Upper Road in central Texas?

7. Look at the Lower Road in 1849. Which two forts are located on it in south central Texas?
8. Which two forts were added on the Lower Road by 1854?
9. Look at the Lower Road in 1860. How many total forts were located on that road?
10. In 1860, which forts were located on the Butterfield Stage Route?

Think About:

1. Why did border forts remain active from 1849 to 1860?
2. Why did interior forts move westward?

Extension:

You will need a Texas highway map for this activity.

In some cases, small communities grew around the forts. In other cases, forts were located near towns that were already established before 1849 to protect them. Find the following cities and towns on a Texas highway map and identify the fort on the interactive map:

Fort Worth
Burnet
Gatesville
Laredo
Rio Grande City

Brownsville
El Paso
San Angelo
Mason
Fort Davis

Fort Stockton
Uvalde
Bracketville
Eagle Pass

**Questions about
U.S. Army Forts on the Texas Frontier**

**Teacher
Answer Sheet**

1. Look at the forts that were active in 1849 and 1854. Which forts active in 1849 remained active five years later in 1854? (Brown, Ringgold Barracks, McIntosh, Duncan, Inge, Bliss)
2. Now compare the forts that were active in 1849 with the forts active in 1860. Which ones remained in 1860? (the same ones: Brown, Ringgold Barracks, McIntosh, Duncan, Inge, Bliss)
3. Except for Ft. Inge, what do the forts that remained active from 1849 to 1860 all have in common? (They are all along the border with Mexico.)
4. Look at the Upper Road (orange line) from San Antonio to El Paso (Ft. Bliss) in 1849. Which fort in central Texas was located on this road? (Ft. Martin Scott)
5. Look at the Upper Road in 1854. Which two new forts were located on this route? (Ft. McKavett and Ft. Mason)
6. By 1860, which fort remained on the Upper Road in central Texas? (Ft. Mason)
7. Look at the Lower Road in 1849. Which two forts are located on it in south central Texas?
(Ft. Inge and Ft. Lincoln)
8. Which two forts were added on the Lower Road by 1854? (Ft. Davis and Ft. Clark)
9. Look at the Lower Road in 1860. How many total forts were located on that road?
(Eight [8]. They were: Bliss, Quitman, Davis, Stockton, Lancaster, Hudson, Clark, Inge)
10. In 1860, which forts were located on the Butterfield Stage Route? (Bliss, Chadbourne, Cooper)

Closure--Think About:

1. Why did border forts remain active from 1849 to 1860? (They protected the border with Mexico; the border did not change.)
2. Why did interior forts move westward? (Answers will vary: settlers moved west, roads and stage routes were established and needed to be guarded, Indians fought fiercely for their homelands, etc.)