








Annotated Resource Set

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| Title/Content Area | Bent's Old Fort |
| Developed by | CH/TPS |
| Grade Level | 4–8 |
| Essential Question | Explain the ways in which Bent's Old Fort served as a cultural crossroads in the 19th century. |
| Contextual Paragraph | <p>In the late 1820s the Bent brothers arrived in the area along the Arkansas River and north of the Purgatoire River in what would become southeastern Colorado.</p> <p>They partnered with Ceran St. Vrain in establishing Fort William, or as it came to be known, Bent's Fort. Located on the Santa Fé Trail, it became an important stop for trader, trappers, American Indian groups and travelers.</p> <p>The old fort was destroyed in 1849. William Bent moved to a new area in the "Big Timbers" section of the Arkansas River and in 1853 began a new trading post known as Bent's New Fort.</p> |







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| Bent's New Fort, c. 1859 | Bent's Old Fort, La Junta, Otero County, CO, c. 2015 | Bent's Old Fort, La Junta, Otero County, CO, c. 2015 | Bent's Old Fort, La Junta, Otero County, CO | William Bent | Prowers House, Boggsville, CO, c. 2009 |
| Drawing shows Bent's New Fort on a plateau above the Arkansas River in eastern Colorado, near present-day Prowers. | Occasionally referred to as Fort William, the fort is a 1976 reconstruction of an 1833 fort built by William and Charles Bent, along with Ceran St. Vrain. | View that would have been seen as people approached Bent's Old Fort from a distance. | Located on the US side of the Arkansas River, this walled adobe building housed personnel and provided shelter, trading, and repair facilities to travelers, trappers, and Indians. | Head and shoulders portrait of William Bent founder of Bent's Fort on the Santa Fé Trail. Portrait was made sometime in the decade before his death in 1869. | View of the Prowers House on the Boggsville historic site in Bent County, Colorado. |
| William Bent erected a new establishment on the Arkansas in 1853. This fort was about thirty miles east of Bent's Old Fort, by then in ruins. | The post for trading with trappers and Southern Cheyenne and Arapaho Plains Indians for buffalo robes. | This view emphasizes the starkness of the plains and the welcoming presence of an oasis of civilization in the region. | Historic American Building Survey plans for the frontier-era trading post/fort built by the Bent brothers and Ceran St. Vrain on the Santa Fé Trail. | Donated in the 1930s to Historic Colorado. | Two-story territorial style building that was the home of John W. Prowers, a teamster who worked for William Bent and Ceran St. Vrain. |
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| http://loc.gov/pictures/source/cph.3c28890 | http://www.loc.gov/item/2015632784/ | http://www.loc.gov/item/2015632783/ | http://www.loc.gov/item/co0001/ | http://digital.denverlibrary.org/cdm/singleitem/collection/p15330coll21/id/3577/43d/1 | http://digital.denverlibrary.org/cdm/singleitem/collection/p15330coll14/id/1218/rec/4 |

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| Governor Charles Bent, March 1847 | Christopher Carson, c. 1880–1910 | Ceran St. Vrain | Susan Shelby Magoffin | Owl Woman (Mistanta), 1828–1847 | Entrance to Bent's Old Fort |
|--|--|--|--|--|---|
| <p>Head and shoulders portrait of Charles Bent, who served as governor of the New Mexico Territory taken in the Mexican American War, until he lost his life in an 1847 battle.</p> | <p>Christopher "Kit" Carson, half-length seated studio portrait, wearing suit jacket, vest, and tie; photograph of a portrait.</p> | <p>Head and shoulders portrait of Ceran St. Vrain, fur trader from Colorado. He wears a white shirt and collar, with a dark jacket and cravat.</p> | <p>One of the first Anglo women to travel on the Santa Fé Trail. Her diary is one of the major sources about 1840s life in the American Southwest.</p> | <p>First wife of William Bent.</p> | <p>"Gate" or main entrance for those coming to Bent's Old Fort.</p> |
| <p>Eldest of the Bent brothers who founded Bent's Fort along the Santa Fé Trail.</p> | <p>Carson was one of the well-known frontiersmen who spent time at Bent's Old Fort.</p> | <p>St. Vrain was one of the founders of Bent's Old Fort.</p> | <p>Magoffin, pregnant at the time of her journey, took ill at Bent's Old Fort and suffered a miscarriage there.</p> | <p>Tried to improve relations between whites and Indians throughout her life.</p> | <p>Gate with watchtower above it speaks to the security measures in place at Bent's Old Fort.</p> |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <p>http://digital.denverlibrary.org/cdm/singleitem/collection/p15330coll22/id/10774/rec/3</p> | <p>http://cdm16079.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/singleitem/collection/p15330coll22/id/68674/rec/37</p> | <p>http://digital.denverlibrary.org/cdm/singleitem/collection/p15330coll21/id/3582/rec/6</p> | <p>http://www.legendsofamerica.com/photos-oldwest/Susan_Shelby_Magoffin.jpg</p> | <p>http://www.cogreatwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/own-woman.jpg</p> | <p>http://www.loc.gov/item/2015632517/</p> |

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| Warehouse | Magoffin Room | Laborers Quarters | Billiard Room | Living Quarters | St. Vrain's Room |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| <p>These warehouses were used as storage areas for the goods awaiting transport to St. Louis, Missouri.</p> | <p>Susan Magoffin recuperated in the doctor's quarters after suffering a miscarriage as she traveled the Santa Fé Trail.</p> | <p>Sleeping and eating quarters for laborers, employees, and travelers from the states and Mexican workers who made adobe for the fort.</p> | <p>Billiards helped travelers and employees cope with boredom, idleness, and loneliness. Many games were played to ease the long hours.</p> | <p>Trappers employed by Bent and St. Vrain and living at the fort included Kit Carson, "Old Bill" Williams, "Peg-Leg" Smith, and "Uncle Dick" Wootton.</p> | <p>Highly respected in Santa Fé, St. Vrain's relationships in New Mexico were invaluable to the Bents. This served as his quarters at the fort.</p> |
| <p>Four warehouses in all, contained barrels, bags and bundles of trade goods. One served as a "bank vault."</p> | <p>First known as the quarters of Dr. Hempstead, resident physician. He was reported to have had a well-stocked library.</p> | <p>These rooms reflect the customs and beliefs of Mexicans hired to build the fort.</p> | <p>An 1839 ledger shows a diverse assortment of drinks that were served. Lt. James Albert also used it as an art studio</p> | <p>Three living quarters illustrate the conditions for military, fort employees, and fur trappers.</p> | <p>While away, St. Vrain's room was used as a guest room. Its most notable occupant was Lt. James Albert.</p> |
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| <p>https://www.nps.gov/common/uploads/photogallery/imr/park/beol/59FD1352-155D-451F-67244ED29B37F697/59FD1352-155D-451F-67244ED29B37F697-large.jpg</p> | <p>https://www.nps.gov/common/uploads/photogallery/imr/park/beol/59FE90EF-155D-451F-67FF2A3ABA2D0AAD/59FE90EF-155D-451F-67FF2A3ABA2D0AAD-large.jpg</p> | <p>https://www.nps.gov/common/uploads/photogallery/imr/park/beol/59FDB17A-155D-451F-677274DB4F8B6B8B/59FDB17A-155D-451F-677274DB4F8B6B8B-large.jpg</p> | <p>https://www.nps.gov/common/uploads/photogallery/imr/park/beol/5A0081D1-155D-451F-67DB2EB166BC57C3/5A0081D1-155D-451F-67DB2EB166BC57C3-large.jpg</p> | <p>https://www.nps.gov/common/uploads/photogallery/imr/park/beol/59FF77AB-155D-451F-673E18AC634174D3/59FF77AB-155D-451F-673E18AC634174D3-large.jpg</p> | <p>https://www.nps.gov/common/uploads/photogallery/imr/park/beol/5A019A18-155D-451F-67D60122E66E7E74/5A019A18-155D-451F-67D60122E66E7E74-large.jpg</p> |

Foundations Annotations**Curriculum Connections**

History

Geography

Curriculum Standards**4th Grade**

CO State History Standard 1: Organize and sequence events to understand the concepts of chronology and cause and effect in the history of Colorado

- c. Explain the cause-and-effect relationships in the interactions among people and cultures that have lived in or migrated to Colorado

CO State History Standard 2: The historical eras, individuals, groups, ideas and themes in Colorado history and their relationships to key events in the United States

- b. Describe interactions among people and cultures that have lived in Colorado

CO State Geography Standard 2: Connections within and across human and physical systems are developed

- a. Describe how the physical environment provides opportunities for and places constraints on human activities
- d. Describe how places in Colorado are connected by movement of goods and services and technology

8th Grade

CO State History Standard 2: The historical eras, individuals, groups, ideas and themes from the origins of the American Revolution through

Reconstruction and their relationships with one another

d. Evaluate the impact of different factors – of age, ethnicity and class – on groups and individuals in this time period and the impact of these group and individuals on the events of this time period

CO State Geography Standard 1: Use geographic tools to analyze patterns in human and physical systems

c. Recognize the patterns and networks of economic interdependence

CO State Geography Standard 2: Conflict and cooperation occur over space and resources

a. Analyze how economic, political, cultural, and social processes interact to shape patterns of human population, interdependence, cooperation and conflict

c. Interpret from a geographic perspective the expansion of the United States by addressing issues of land, security, and sovereignty

Content and Thinking Objectives

Students will be able to:

1. Analyze and question primary sources.
2. Describe life in another historical era, e.g., the 19th century on the Santa Fé Trail.

Inquiry Questions, Activities and Strategies

In small groups, using the Library of Congress' Photo Analysis Sheet, analyze the images related to Bent's Old Fort and share the questions raised with classmates.

Research the lives of the Bent brothers, Kit Carson, Ceran St. Vrain, and others associated with Bent's Old Fort. Assume the identity of the person studied and as that person, present an account of "your" life to classmates.

Assessment Strategies

Depending upon how one uses the resources and which standards are chosen, assessment can take many forms. For example:

4th Grade

CO State Geography Standard 2: (d) Using the images of the inside of Old Bent's Fort, describe how the fort affected the movement of goods along the Santa Fé Trail.

CO State History Standard 2: (b) Give examples that demonstrate the interactions among those visiting Old Bent's Fort.

8th Grade

CO State Geography Standard 1: (c) Explain the patterns and networks of economic interdependence that existed at Old Bent's Fort and along the Santa Fé Trail.

CO State History Standard 2: (d) Evaluate the impact of ethnicity and class as it pertained to Bent's Fort (Old and New) from 1820-1867.

Other Resources**Web Resources**

<http://www.cogreatwomen.org>

<https://www.nps.gov/beol/index.htm>

<http://www.legendsofamerica.com/co-bentsfort.html>

http://exhibits.historycolorado.org/bentsfort/bents_home.html

Secondary Sources

William Bent: Frontiersman by Cheryl Beckwith. Great Lives in Colorado History. Filter Press, Bilingual Edition, 2010. For students and teachers.

Bent's Fort by David Lavender. University of Nebraska Press, 1954. For teachers.

"Bent's Fort," *Colorado Experience*, Rocky Mountain PBS. <http://video.rmpbs.org/video/2365021102/>

Bent's Fort Exhibit, Colorado Stories at History Colorado.

Preservation Connection

The reconstruction of Bent's Old Fort based on historical sources written and drawn allows for better understanding life in another era. The ability to experience life at the fort provides visitors with a tactile connection to the past. Those who have had such an experience become avid historic preservation proponents as they understand the value of such an endeavor.

Working together to tell the story of our state!

Developers



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