

# Fort Laramie

National Historic Site  
US Department of the Interior



## Be a Junior Park Ranger!



Photograph by Chase Swift © Swift Photography

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Here's how to get started:

Begin in the visitor center.



Answer all the questions marked with a cannon.

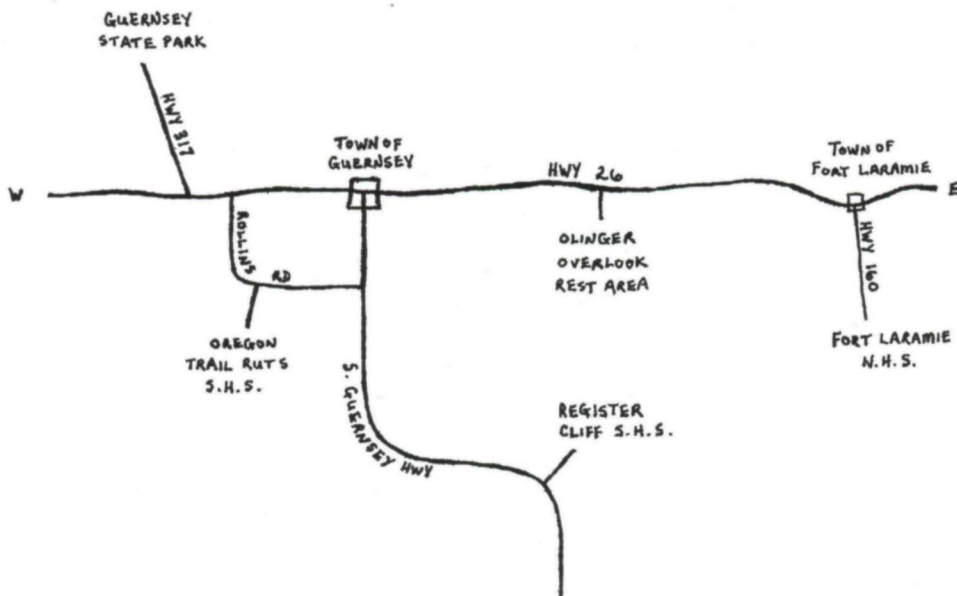


You will need to read signs, look at exhibits, explore historic buildings, make observations and talk to rangers. Use the park map to locate the places you will see at the fort and learn about the stories they have to tell.

Return your completed Fort Laramie booklet to the visitor center to receive your **Junior Ranger Badge!**

You may also earn a special award by completing the sections at Guernsey State Park and Register Cliff and Oregon Trail Ruts State Historic Sites.

The questions can be answered in any order. Use the map below to guide you on the adventure. Please note the map is not to scale.



# Visitor Center/Museum



Fort Laramie is part of the National \_\_\_\_\_

Service. The job of park rangers is to preserve (*save it as it is*) Fort Laramie for the future. Hopefully by the end of your adventure you will understand why this is so important.



Find the picture of the first fort built on this site. It was called Fort \_\_\_\_\_. It was built here in \_\_\_\_\_.



Give one reason why people left their homes to settle in the West.

\_\_\_\_\_



Use the space below to draw a picture of the fort.



Fort Laramie started as a trading post. Trappers and Indians both used the fort as a place to get supplies and to trade. Find the name of the second fort built here in 1841. It was made of adobe (*mud bricks*) and called Fort \_\_\_\_\_.




Wagon trains came to this fort as they traveled on three trails heading west. They were named the 1. \_\_\_\_\_, 2. \_\_\_\_\_ and 3. \_\_\_\_\_ trails. They came here to get food, supplies and to do repairs on their wagons.




What year did the Army come here? 18\_\_\_\_\_. They came to guard the trails and make sure supplies could get to the wagon trains. The Army gave this place the official name Fort Laramie, from the name of the nearby river. (*Now it's time to go outside! Don't forget your park map.*)

## Old Bakery

 Find the Old Bakery (Number 2 on the park map). Soldiers had many jobs here at the fort. One of the jobs was baking bread. Every day as many as 700 loaves a day were baked in the post bakery. How much did one loaf of bread weigh? \_\_\_\_\_




## Parade Ground

 Find the Parade Ground (look for the flagpole). “Dress parade” (*soldiers dressed in their finest uniforms*) was held here once a week on what day? \_\_\_\_\_ The soldiers also practiced marching and other soldier’s skills here. This was called drill. Here on the parade ground, the flag was raised and lowered every day.



## Old Guardhouse

 Find the Old Guardhouse (Number 7 on the park map). This small building was one of the most important at the fort. Here soldiers took turns on “guard duty” (*like being a police officer*). The rooms upstairs were used as a place for guards to live while on duty. Who lived downstairs? \_\_\_\_\_ Go to the cells around the back. Most of the soldiers who were in here did not follow the rules of Army life.

## Captain's Quarters



Find the Captain's Quarters (Number 9 on the park map).

Sometimes families of officers lived at Fort Laramie. Upstairs you will see a child's room. How is it different from your room at home? \_\_\_\_\_

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List two things in this room that you might find in your bedroom.

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## Old Bedlam



Find Old Bedlam (Number 12 on the park map). This is the oldest standing building at Fort Laramie and in the state of Wyoming! It was built in 18 \_\_\_\_\_. This was also the same year that the Army arrived here. This building was used for many different purposes.


It was the fort's headquarters (*like the principal's office at school*) and bachelor (*men who are unmarried*) officer's quarters. Go inside. How many stoves and fireplaces are there in this



building? \_\_\_\_\_ Why do you think every room has a fireplace and stove? \_\_\_\_\_

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## Lieutenant Colonel's Quarters

 Find the Lt. Colonel's Quarters or "Burt House" (Number 16 on the park map). This is one of the newest buildings at the fort. An officer named Andrew Burt lived here in the 1880s. He commanded soldiers of the 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry. His son, named Reynolds, lived here as a boy. In Reynolds' room, there is a toy fort. What is the name on the fort? \_\_\_\_\_




Lt. Colonel  
Andrew Burt



Reynolds Burt

## Bats

 Do you know that bats live here at the fort? Do you see any bats today? \_\_\_\_\_ This house has many bats in the summer. They live in the attic and sleep during the day. Bats are nocturnal (*active at night*). How might they be helpful to us at the fort? Hint: Think about what they eat. \_\_\_\_\_



## Post Trader's Store



Find the Post Trader's Store (Number 17 on the park map). This store had things to sell to soldiers, emigrants, civilians and Indians who came to trade. Look inside. What do you think a soldier might want to buy? \_\_\_\_\_ An emigrant? \_\_\_\_\_ An officer's wife? \_\_\_\_\_



## Post Office

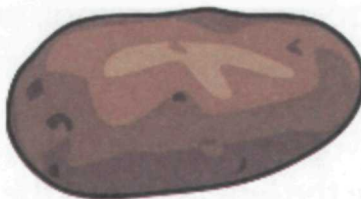


Find the Post Office. Fort Laramie had the first post office in Wyoming! Just think how happy you would be to get a letter from home! The Pony Express passed through the fort. Find the monument outside. The Pony Express ran from 18 \_\_\_\_\_ to 18 \_\_\_\_\_. The Pony Express lasted a short time before being replaced by the telegraph.

# Cavalry Barracks



Find the Cavalry Barracks (Number 19 on the park map). This is where many soldiers lived. Downstairs is a room with large tables, called the mess room (*like your school lunchroom*). The food the soldiers ate was very simple. Circle the items that you think they might have eaten.



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Go upstairs. Count the number of beds that you find. \_\_\_\_\_ This is the number of soldiers in Company K, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry that lived here in 1876.

## Bonus Question



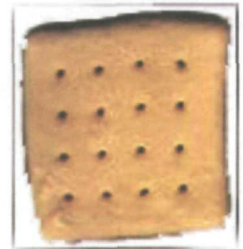
Soldiers often shared their beds with an insect. This pesky creature lived in the straw that filled the soldier's mattresses and came out and bit them at night. What do you think they were called? \_\_\_\_\_

These soldiers that lived here were cavalymen. Circle the cavalry symbol.

Hint: Look at the front of a forage cap (*soldier's hat*) on the shelves above the beds



One type of food that soldiers took with them when they traveled was called hardtack. What kind of food do you eat today that looks like hardtack. Unscramble the letters to find the answer.



R K A E C C R

### Bonus Question

There is a checkerboard on the table upstairs in the barracks. The checkers and checkerboard were made by the soldiers. What did they use to make the checkers? \_\_\_\_\_



# Trash and Artifacts



What is the difference between trash and artifacts? \_\_\_\_\_

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Circle the items below that are artifacts.



## Take Nothing but Pictures and Memories

During your visit at Fort Laramie, you will see many small pieces of broken glass or rusted nails. They may seem unimportant, but these items help tell the story of the fort and the people who lived here. Please help us protect these artifacts by leaving them lay on the ground so that other people can discover and enjoy looking at them as well.



Trash is something very different from artifacts. Please encourage your friends and relatives to put trash in its proper place. Help keep Fort Laramie clean for others to enjoy!

# People from the Past



During the summer months you might find people dressed as individuals from the past, or you might see a park ranger, sales clerk, or maintenance worker that will answer the following questions for you.



Write in the answers and have the park staff you asked initial to the right.

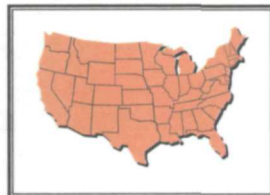
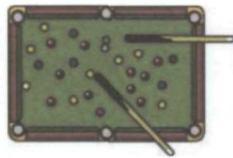
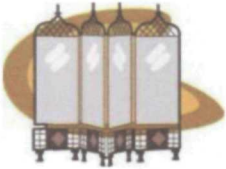
Initial  
Here

1. Was Fort Laramie ever attacked by Indians? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Were there ever any walls around the military fort? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Who came to the fort besides soldiers? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Was the Army always fighting Indians? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Circle the names of the tribes below that traded at the fort. \_\_\_\_\_

Lakota   Cheyenne   Arapahoe   Crow   Shoshone



**Scavenger Hunt Bingo!** Watch for these artifacts on your journey through Fort Laramie NHS. Mark the ones you see with an X. Try to get four in a row!



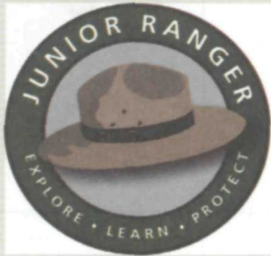
## Junior Ranger Pledge

I promise to discover all I can about  
my National and State Parks  
and to share my discoveries with others .

I pledge to preserve and protect  
my National and State Parks  
for the enjoyment of future generations.

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*(print your name here)*



Fort Laramie National Historic Site  
Official Seal

Guernsey State Park  
Official Seal



Cut along dotted line