

EXPLORE OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM. LEARN INSIDE OUR STATE.

Stone Age to the Iron Age Fort Uncompahgre

Background: Antoine Robidoux, a Santa Fe trader, built Fort Uncompahgre in the late 1820's near the confluence of the Gunnison and Uncompahgre Rivers. It was a hub for trails, including the Old Spanish Trail, and was a center for fur trade in the area.

Antoine had metal knives, pans and pipes to trade for animal furs and pelts with the Ute. Antoine's items were highly sought after by the Utes as their tools and pots were made of natural readily available materials such as animal bone, stone, and clay.

Questions to Ask:

1. Why was it in the interest of both the Native Americans and the traders to trade? *(Trading gave both of the traders and Native Americans items they both wanted and or needed. The traders wanted and needed pelts and other animal hides for trading back in the eastern part of the United States for hat making and other items. The Native Americans would get steel pots, arrow points and other items in return).*
2. Why would the Native Americans and traders trade items? *(The two didn't have a common currency, such as money. Trading back and forth made it possible to get items each other wanted and needed).*

Activity: As you go through the museum look for items of similar use but made of different materials. Complete the chart below by either writing or drawing a picture of the item in the first column. In the second and fourth columns indicate the material the item is made from. For a challenge, record the dates if available.

Item	Material Stone/Bone/Clay	Date	Metal (Brass/Steel/Iron)	Date

Answers will vary.