

THE

OUTLAWS OF



A Special Edition of The Canyon Diablo Press

CANYON DIABLO

June 30, 1882

Canyon Diablo, Yavapi County, Arizona Territory

Opinion

The big news to-day is that the bridge over the canyon is complete, and the first train will cross tomorrow. Some may remember a short time ago when the rail line ended at the edge of the gorge, a desolate region with only a train depot and maintenance yard. The large quantities of cargo left at the end of the rail brought two types of individuals to this spot, those who came to protect the commerce and those who came to steal. They were quickly followed by the businesses required to supply a small town's needs for dry goods, dance halls, gambling house and saloons. Now the town of Canyon Diablo has almost 2,000 individuals. There is much speculation among the locals about the effects the bridge will have on our town and local economy. It is said that the A&P Railroad will continue to operate a depot and maintenance yard at Canyon Diablo, but all freight will now pass directly to Flagstaff. There may be less of a need for wagon and coach services that have provided all of the transportation for materials and travelers heading west of the canyon. Indeed, many of those wagons are already for sale at Smith's Dry Goods. But Western's Stage states that it will continue service for the time being at a greatly reduced fare. Some believe our town will only prosper as a result of this engineering marvel. Canyon Diablo is posed to serve as the gateway to the highest railroad in the nation and is sure to draw many citizens here to gaze upon this wonder. These individuals firmly believe that there will be a great demand for hotels, restaurants and saloons to accommodate the hordes of individuals that may travel to the area to satisfy their curiosity. Some are already planning to open new businesses, while others are not convinced and are looking for opportunities elsewhere in the Territory.

Bridge Highest Railway

June 30 – The Atlantic & Pacific Railroad engineers have informed the public that the bridge has been completed and the first train will cross the gorge tomorrow. The tracks lie at over 250 feet above the canyon floor making this the highest railroad bridge in the nation. The bridge spans 541 feet across and was constructed by over 250 men.



Writing Prompt

If you lived in the times that the bridge was being built over Canyon Diablo, would you want to move to the town of Canyon Diablo? Write an opinion piece using the information from the readings. You should include how you think the town changed after the bridge was built based on how the town was already developing. You should also state whether the changes are good or not for the town.

Scoring Guide for Your Writing

1. Included information from graphic organizer and the readings (30 points)
2. Had an introduction and conclusion (10 points)
3. Used good grammar and correct spelling (10 points)



Reading Worksheet

Name _____

After reading the information provided, answer the following questions.

Describe Canyon Diablo before the bridge construction began.

Why did people begin to settle in Canyon Diablo?

Were the reasons for their relocation similar to those we talked about? Why or why not?

Who arrived after the first groups? Why did they come?

How did the building of the bridge and settlement of Canyon Diablo alter the canyon and surrounding areas?

Reading Worksheet **Answer Key**

Describe Canyon Diablo before the bridge construction began.

Before the construction began, it was just a desolate region approximately 30 miles east of Flagstaff, Arizona.

Why did people begin to settle in Canyon Diablo?

During the initial stages of building the bridge, the A&P brought in prefabricated materials that were not the correct length and could not span the canyon. While they were remaking the materials, A&P had to leave large quantities of cargo at the site. The first individuals to live at Canyon Diablo were men guarding the cargo; they were soon joined by those intent on stealing it.

Were the reasons for their relocation similar to those we talked about? Why or why not?

Based on your class conversation. However, the reasons for relocation in this publication demonstrate objectives set forth in this lesson: Cause and effects of human settlement, the effects of human migration on places and how changes in technology affect the location of economic activities in places

Who arrived after the first groups? Why did they come?

Businessmen (mostly) realized the growing population required dry goods, dance halls, gambling houses and saloons, and arrived to satisfy those needs. At its height, the town of Canyon Diablo had approximately 2,000 residents.

How did the building of the bridge and settlement of Canyon Diablo alter the canyon and surrounding areas?

The canyon and the surrounding natural environment were altered by human activity and building the bridge across Canyon Diablo and other permanent structures. Most of the town, however, consisted of tents and wood shacks.