

The Territory of Arizona (1863-1912)

Directions: Look for the **bolded** words on your map.

Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo (Gwad-ah-lew pay Ee-dahl-go)

The United States fought a war with the country of Mexico in the mid-1800s. The United States won the Mexican War in 1848, and the two countries signed a peace treaty called the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo (Gwad-ah-lew-pay Ee-dahl-go). As a result of this treaty, the United States received land in the western and southwestern parts of the United States. The land included the states of **California, Nevada, Utah, Texas, and parts of Colorado, Arizona and New Mexico.**

New Mexico Territory

Part of the land received in the treaty became the **New Mexico Territory**. **Santa Fe** was its capital. The capital was where the business of government took place. The New Mexico Territory included most of modern-day **New Mexico and Arizona and the southern parts of modern-day Colorado, and Nevada.**

The Gadsden Purchase

In 1853 the United States gained more land from Mexico through the **Gadsden Purchase**. The **Gadsden Purchase** included the **southern part of Arizona**, as well as a small part of **southern New Mexico**. This purchase was important because it would provide a southern railroad route to the Pacific coast.

Many places in Arizona were far from **Santa Fe**. It took a long time for the people in Arizona to get information from the government. Travel was slow. Most of the people living in Arizona lived in the southern part of the territory far from Santa Fe. Arizona wanted its own territory but the government did not believe there were enough people living in Arizona to form a territory.

Arizona Territory

As more people moved west, the population of Arizona grew. New gold and silver strikes and the promise of opportunities to make money began to make Arizona more attractive as a territory of its own. Finally, after many tries, Arizona's request to be a territory was granted. Now a location for the new territorial capital had to be chosen.

Map 1 Worksheet

Name _____

You are one of the new government officials of the Arizona Territory. You will decide where Arizona's first territorial capital will be located.

Find these human and physical features on your map. Put a check (✓) in front of each feature as you find them. Circle with a blue crayon these words on your map. (8 points)

- _____ 1. New Mexico
- _____ 2. Sante Fe [New Mexico's Territorial Capital]
- _____ 3. Rio Grande River
- _____ 4. Colorado River
- _____ 5. Gila River
- _____ 6. Salt River
- _____ 7. Gadsden Purchase
- _____ 8. US-Mexican border (international boundary)

These are towns or military forts in the Arizona Territory. Circle with a yellow crayon these cities or forts on your map. (6 points)

- _____ 9. Tubac
- _____ 10. Tucson
- _____ 11. Fort Yuma
- _____ 12. Ft. Mohave
- _____ 13. Fort Whipple
- _____ 14. La Paz

15. Based on the information shown on this map, I would place our first Arizona territorial capital at this location Circle with a red crayon the city you would pick below. (1 point)

| | |
|-----------|--------------|
| Tubac | Ft. Mohave |
| Tucson | Fort Whipple |
| Fort Yuma | La Paz |

16. Write at least one sentence explaining your decision on where to locate the capital. (1 point)

Issues Affecting the Choice for our Territorial Capital

Did you have trouble deciding where to put the capital? Sometimes we need more information to make a good decision. Map 1 alone did not give you enough information. Let's look at some of the issues facing the people in territorial Arizona.

Geography

As you know, Arizona has three geographic regions; plateau, mountain, and desert. All three areas have natural features that made life difficult for settlers in territorial Arizona. In the 1800s, most of the people living in Arizona lived in the desert region. It was very hot in the desert. There was little rainfall and water was scarce. Rivers were important for travelers and their animals. They were also important for the location of human activities such as towns, mining, and agriculture.

The plateau region was also a dry area with little rainfall and few rivers. It was a region of high mesas and deep canyons which made travel very difficult.

The mountain region had high peaks covered with pine trees. This region had more rainfall but could be very cold and snowy in the winter. Having to cross these mountains made travel difficult in this region, especially in the winter. However, in some of these mountains, miners found gold and silver. This discovery brought more people to Arizona and created new towns.

Transportation

There were two major trails crossing Arizona into California and early travelers used them. Most travelers followed the **Gila Trail from Santa Fe to Fort Yuma**. It was a long, dangerous trail, especially during the summer months when water was scarce, and the temperatures were high. Few travelers used a trail across northern Arizona. It was also a difficult journey, with little water and deep canyons to cross.

Later travelers could cross northern Arizona on **Beale's Wagon Road** while most entered Arizona in the south on the **Butterfield Overland Stage Route**. It was still a hot, dusty trip. Another way to travel to Arizona was on a riverboat that came up the Colorado River to Fort Yuma and La Paz.

Travel between towns was very difficult and often dangerous too. There were few roads in the new territory. People followed dusty and rocky trails to get from place to place.

Arizona Territory was also important in the plans for the building of a railroad. There were two possible routes across Arizona. There was the Gila and the northern trails. The southern (Gila) trail would be the best because it would not be snowy in the winter.

Safety

Conflicts between the Native Americans and the settlers were common in some areas of Arizona. The Apache Indians, under leaders such as Geronimo and Cochise, were known to attack travelers in **southeastern Arizona**. Travelers that followed the **Butterfield Overland Stage Route** had to go through the rough **Chiricahua (Chair-i-kow-ah) Mountains**. At one point the route entered the **Apache Pass**. This was a very dangerous location. The Apache Indians could hide in the tall, rock-filled mountainous pass and attack the travelers as the stage approached. Even the military had trouble protecting these travelers. Ranchers and miners in outlying locations were also in danger from attacks. For people to come to Arizona, Arizona had to be safe.

Civil War and Politics in Arizona

When the Civil War began, the United States government (the Union) used most of its army troops to fight in the war against the rebelling states (the Confederacy). This left Arizona without any soldiers for protection. The Confederacy realized that if they could control the southern part of the United States, they could create a railroad **from Texas, through Arizona, to California**. Then they would also have control of the gold and silver being mined in California.

The Confederacy offered to help protect Arizona and hoped it would become a Confederate territory. They created a boundary line was created along the **34° Latitude line**. This was the northern border of the **Confederate Territory of Arizona** with its capital at **Mesilla (Ma-SEE-yuh)**. **Tucson** (the largest town in Arizona) was in this area. But this Confederate territory did not last long.

The United States government (the Union) passed the Organic Act to create Arizona as its own territory, not part of New Mexico. It was signed by President Lincoln in 1863.

Location of the Capital

The people of Arizona had to decide on the place for the territorial capital. The first draft of the Organic Act had stated that Tucson would be the territorial capital. Since it was now known that there were many who sided with the Confederacy living in Tucson, the government took this part out of the final Act. It would be up to the new territorial government to choose the capital site, and it was very likely that Tucson would not be chosen.

Other locations needed to be considered. Places that were considered were Fort Yuma, La Paz, Fort Whipple, and Ft. Mojave.

Name _____

Map 2 Worksheet

It is important to have enough information to make a good decision. As you learned, Map 1 did not have enough information to make a good decision as to where to locate the new territorial capital. However, Map 2 has more information. Using the additional information about life in Arizona with the information on the map, you will now decide again about a location for the capital site.

Locate these human and physical features on your map. Put a check (✓) in front of each feature as you find them. Circle with a red crayon, these words on the map. (8 points)

- _____ 1. Gila Trail
- _____ 2. Butterfield Overland Stage Route
- _____ 3. Chiricahua Mountains
- _____ 4. Apache Pass
- _____ 5. 34° N Latitude line
- _____ 6. 109° W Longitude line
- _____ 7. Confederate Territory (diagonal lines)
- _____ 8. Beale's Wagon Road

The people living in Arizona had to deal with many problems – the harsh land, the lack of water, transportation issues, and the attacks from Native Americans. But one of the most important facts was that the U.S. Government did not want to locate the capital in an area controlled by the Confederacy.

9. With this in mind, I would place the first Arizona territorial capital at this location. (Circle one below.) (1 point)

| | |
|-----------|--------------|
| Tubac | Ft. Mohave |
| Tucson | Fort Whipple |
| Fort Yuma | La Paz |

10. Write at least one sentence explaining your decision on where to locate the capital. (1 point)

11. Did you choose a different location than in Map 1? YES NO (circle one)
(1 point)

Arizona's First Capital

Our first territorial capital was at Fort Whipple near Prescott in 1863. This location was chosen because of the existence of a fort for protection, the nearby gold mines, the location of forests for building supplies, and water in the streams and rivers.

The following year in 1864, the permanent territorial capital was moved to the new town of Prescott. It remained there until the Civil War ended. Then it moved to Tucson in 1867. Ten years later it moved back to Prescott in 1877 and remained there until 1889. It finally moved to Phoenix where it remained when Arizona was given statehood. Our state capital is at that location today.

Capital Location Timeline:

1863 - Fort Whipple
1864 - Prescott
1867 - Tucson
1877 - Prescott
1889 - Phoenix

Look at the Arizona's Cities, with Compass Rose map and your other two maps. Why would Phoenix be a good choice for the location of the capital of Arizona? Give at least two good reasons.

1.

2.

