Reading Handout 1 - It’s Where?

The Territory of Arizona (1863-1912)

Background Information

Directions: Look for the bolded words on your map.

Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo
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 Heh-dahl-go). As a result of this treaty, the United States received land in the western and southwestern parts of the United States, and Mexico was paid $15 million. 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 of Guadalupe Hidalgo in the Southwest 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 government paid $10 Million for this land. The Gadsden Purchase included the southern part of Arizona, as well as a small part of southern New Mexico. The land purchased was south of the Gila River in Arizona, and west of the Rio Grande River and south to the current U.S. - Mexican border in New Mexico. This purchase was important because it would provide a future route for a southern railroad 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 and they felt separated from the people and government of northern New Mexico. Several times representatives from Arizona asked the U.S. Government to have its own territory, but the U.S. Government kept saying no. Federal officials did not believe there were enough people living in Arizona to form a territory.
Arizona Territory
As more people moved west, the population in Arizona grew. New gold and silver strikes and the promise of more wealth to be found 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. A new territorial government would be formed. Now a location for the new territorial capital had to be chosen.
Map 1 Worksheet – It’s Where?   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.

Look at Arizona Territorial Capital - Map 1. (2 points) Where would you locate the territorial capital? Write at least one sentence explaining your decision on where to locate the capital.

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

_____ 1. New Mexico Territory
_____ 2. Sante Fe, New Mexico [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)

Towns/Forts in Arizona Territory (6 points) Circle these cities on your map.

_____10. Tucson       _____13. Fort Whipple
_____11. Fort Yuma     _____14. La Paz

15. Based on the information shown on this map, I would place our first Arizona Territorial Capital at this location (Circle the city you 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 your capital? Sometimes we need more information to make a good decision. Map 1 alone did not give you enough information. Different issues helped to influence where our new capital was placed. 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. In addition, the Colorado River had carved the Grand Canyon, making travel due north to Utah nearly impossible for early settlers.

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. Some of these mountains were also the location of natural resources such as gold and silver. The discovery of these resources brought more people to Arizona and created new towns. The gold and silver wealth also made Arizona very important to the rest of the country.

**Transportation**
There were two major trails crossing Arizona into California and early travelers used them as early as 1849 to reach the California gold fields. Most of them 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. Fewer 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. However, once in Arizona and for people living in Arizona, travel between towns was very difficult and often dangerous. 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 future location of a cross-country railroad. There were two possible routes across Arizona – almost the same as the two major trails (Gila and the northern trail) that had taken gold seekers to California in 1849. If you recall from the earlier reading, getting land for a future railroad route was a main reason for the Gadsden Purchase.

Safety
Conflicts between Indians and 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. In order for the gold and silver to be mined, for more settlers to come, and the new territory to grow, Arizonans had to be safe.

Civil War and Politics in Arizona

When the Civil War began, the United States government had to recall all of its army troops back east to fight in the war. This left the citizens of New Mexico Territory (including Arizonans) without any protection. Indian attacks happened more often than before. The Butterfield Stage line stopped running during the War because it was not safe. Mines such as the ones at Tubac had to shut down when the soldiers left the nearby forts. The people in southern New Mexico Territory wanted help and protection from the government.

While the North (the Union) pulled their troops out to fight in the east, the South (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. 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 southern territory. A
boundary line was created along the 34° parallel line. This was the northern border of the Confederate Territory of Arizona with its capital at Mesilla. Tucson (the largest town in Arizona) was in this area. The Confederate Territory was short-lived as Union troops from California drove the Confederates out of Tucson after only a few months.

At the same time, new gold strikes were made in western and northern Arizona. When the news reached Washington, D.C., the government feared that the gold and silver wealth of Arizona would fall into Southern hands. As a result, the United States government passed the Organic Act to let Arizona become a separate territory. It was signed by President Lincoln in 1863.

Some of the earlier requests for an Arizona Territory had called for dividing New Mexico Territory along the 34° N latitude, which is the same as the Confederate Territory of Arizona. Because the North did not want a new territory that favored the South, the Organic Act made the eastern border of Arizona at “a line running due south from the point where the southwest corner of the Territory of Colorado joins the northern boundary of the Territory of New Mexico, to the southern boundary line of said Territory of New Mexico,” which is at about 109° W. This is the north-south line that goes between Arizona and New Mexico. Now those who preferred the South would be split into two different territories.

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 South 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. There were few people living in the Grand Canyon area. Fort Yuma, La Paz, and Ft. Mojave were along the Colorado River and were controlled by the Union. Fort Whipple was also controlled by the Union and it had mining nearby.

It is important to have enough information to make a good decision. As you can see, 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. As a result, it may be easier to narrow your choices for the capital site. 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.
Map 2 Worksheet – It’s Where?

Name______________________________

Locate these human and physical features on the Arizona Territorial Capital – Map 2. Put a check (√) in front of each feature as you find them. (Circle them 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

Reading Handout 2 said that the people living in Arizona had to deal with many problems – the harsh land, the lack of water, transportation issues, and the Indian attacks. 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 new knowledge, I would place our 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)

11. Did Map 2 give you more information than Map 1 to make a better decision for your new territorial capital location? YES  NO (circle one) (1 point)
Arizona’s First Capital

Our first "temporary" 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 newly-built 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 reached statehood and still is at that location today.

Capital Location Timeline:
1863 - Fort Whipple (temporary)
1864 - Prescott
1867 - Tucson
1877 - Prescott
1889 - Phoenix
The First Territorial Capital of Arizona - It’s Where?

Multiple-Choice Assessment (10 pts. each)

1. The United States purchased land from the country of Mexico with the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. The land is now located in the:
   a. northern part of the United States
   b. eastern part of the United States
   c. southwestern part of the United States
   d. northwestern part of the United States

2. Most of the land in the Gadsden Purchase was south of what river?
   a. Gila River
   b. Colorado River
   c. Rio Grande River
   d. Mississippi River

3. Two mining areas in the Arizona Territory on your map were:
   a. Tubac and Fort Yuma
   b. Tucson and La Paz
   c. Tubac and Fort Whipple
   d. Fort Yuma and Ft. Mohave

4. Travelers to Arizona had to pass through a dangerous area in the Chiricahua Mountains called the
   a. Cochise Pass
   b. Apache Pass
   c. Chiricahua Pass
   d. Gila River Pass

5. One important stage line that passed through southern Arizona was the:
   a. Gila Trail Stage Line
   b. Colorado Stage Line
   c. Butterfield Overland Stage Line
   d. Beale Stage Line
6. The location of the first Arizona Territorial Capital was affected a great deal by:
   a. Indian attacks
   b. the Civil War
   c. water supplies
   d. ranching

7. The Organic Act (1863) was signed by Abraham Lincoln and it made:
   a. Arizona a separate territory
   b. the capital at Phoenix
   c. the Gila River the northern border of Arizona
   d. Arizona a state in the Confederacy

8. One reason the capital was not located in Tucson was because it:
   a. had too many people that favored the Confederacy (the South)
   b. was on the Gila Trail
   c. was too far north of the Mexican border
   d. had too many Indian attacks

9. The location of the first “temporary” Arizona territorial capital was:
   a. Fort Whipple
   b. Phoenix
   c. Tucson
   d. Tubac

10. Fort Whipple was selected as the first capital because it was located near:
   a. a fort for protection
   b. mines where people worked
   c. forests for building materials
   d. all of these
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