



TRADE STORE

I. GOAL:

Students will experience firsthand purchasing store items of the 1840s.

II. OBJECTIVES:

- A. Students will be assigned a certain time to visit the Trade Store:
 1. As a regular station; or
 2. Combined with another station (such as the Trapper Station); or
 3. Special times to be open to the entire class.
- B. Using their own "Sutter Bucks", the students will have the opportunity to buy store items that they can afford.
- C. The students will compare and contrast their money, as well as the items of the 1840s, with present-day practices.
- D. A silent auction (bids) can be part of the Trade Store experience.

III. THE PEOPLE:

The Sutter's Fort Trade Store was used by both emigrants and Native Americans. The emigrants bartered or used credit to purchase goods. Sutter's Native American workers were paid with a tin coin that was redeemable only at the Fort's Trade Store. This prevented the natives from being cheated by other merchants and ensured a steady clientele for Sutter.

IV. THE PLACE:

The Trade Store can be setup on a blanket on the ground if the weather permits, or on period tables to be placed under the small canopy in the West yard of the Fort. Some schools choose to set up their trade stores on the dining table in the Central Building.

Sutter's Fort was more of a factory than a fun place to trade. Sutter grew wheat, cotton, grapes and hemp (for rope). He had two brew masters (corn whiskey and brandy). He also established a blanket factory.

In the 1840s, a gallon of whiskey cost 25 cents. In St. Louis, calico cost 5 cents a yard while in California calico cost \$1.35 to \$1.75 a yard! In 1846, U.S. banks issued notes. This practice continued through the 19th Century, where at one time there were more than 5,000 different types of bank notes issued by various commercial banks in the U.S. Only the notes issued by the largest, most creditworthy banks were widely accepted. The script of smaller, lesser known institutions circulated locally. Farther from home it bank issued notes were only accepted at a discounted rate, if they were accepted at all. The proliferation of types of money went hand in hand with a multiplication in the number of financial institutions (from Wikipedia 8/08).



V. SETTING UP YOUR TRADE STORE:

A. Materials List:

1. Blanket or table cloths
2. Money box
3. Extra money (Sutter Bucks or gold nuggets) to give out as a "bonuses" during ELP stay
4. Baskets and/or glass jars to put food in
5. Waxed paper or plain brown paper (for wrapping purchases)

B. Trade Store Items:

1. **Food*** - fresh or dried fruit, crackers, candy (lemon drops, horehound, licorice ropes), hardtack, beef jerky, cookies, pickles ***Note:** No modern plastic wrap
2. **Toys** - marbles (no cats' eyes), leather balls, willow whistles, singing "buttons", ring and pin, wooden tops, bull-roarers, cloth dolls, clothespin dolls, cornhusk dolls, applehead dolls, jacks, Jacob's ladders, checkers and board, string for cat's cradle.
3. **Clothes** - bonnets, mop caps, bandanas, fingerless gloves, cloth bags, leather pouches, necklaces, bracelets, earrings.
4. **Other** - beads, sinew, animal skins (from Tandy Leather), small mirrors, tin cups, shells, bones (cleaned turkey neck bones are great for necklaces).
5. **Reminder** - Some students will want to buy things for parents or siblings, so try to have a variety of many items.

C. Money

1. In your Trade Store, you may accept gold nuggets (pebbles painted gold), Sutter Bucks (paper notes printed from samples in Teacher's Binder), trade beads, etc. Please do not use real money – not even pennies.
2. Generally the money students use to purchase items in the Trade Store is handed out by the teacher before the ELP trip based on points earned in class.
3. Always bring extra money to ELP to give out as rewards for good behavior, skits, participation, etc.

D. Storekeeper

1. Be sure to have enough items so that all your students can buy several things.
2. Always have an adult oversee the Trade Store at all times when the Fort is open to the public – 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
 - Visitors to the Fort may want to buy your items too, but they are for your own group only!
 - Make sure other children visiting the Fort do not take things from your store.
3. Please remind students that wax paper and other wrappers/ sticks, etc. are to be thrown in the garbage when finished, not on the ground; musical instruments or other noise-making toys that are sold must stay in the children's possible bags until the end of the day.



E. Silent Auction

1. If you choose to hold a silent auction, consider purchasing a few larger items such as a candle lantern or a "flintlock gun."
2. Students can put their bids in as soon as they know how much money they have.
3. The silent auction will be over at the end of the day, perhaps before dinner.
4. The bids should be written and put in a can or box. The highest bid wins.

VI. PRECAUTIONS – SAFETY AND OTHERWISE:

A. Students

1. Make sure you are aware of students who have allergies to food items, and make sure you know the contents of all food items, e.g., do the cookies contain nuts, nut oil, etc.
2. Avoid items in the Trade Store with sharp points or nails.
3. Keep in mind that some children's toys, such as those that are swung, could be dangerous if other people get too close. These types of games should be closely supervised.

B. Fort Visitors

1. Let them know that your Trade Store is for your students only.
2. Do not feed visitors.

C. Weather

1. Be prepared for weather changes.



VII. PRICE LIST:

Quilt	\$15
Prairie Doll	15
Prairie Doll Dress	10
Checkers	15
Tic-Tac-Toe (Wood Pieces)	13
Tic-Tac-Toe (Marbles)	10
Gold Nuggets	5
Large Arrowheads	4
Rock Spearheads	3
Fossil Teeth	2
Abalone Shells	5
Oyster Shells	1
Apple Boxes	10
Wooden Horses	5
Marbles (bag of 10)	3
Shooters	2
Jacks	5
Pick-up Sticks	3
Bookmarks	2
Wooden Dice (2)	1
Large Bags	3
Small Bags	2
Large Feathers	3
Small Feathers	1