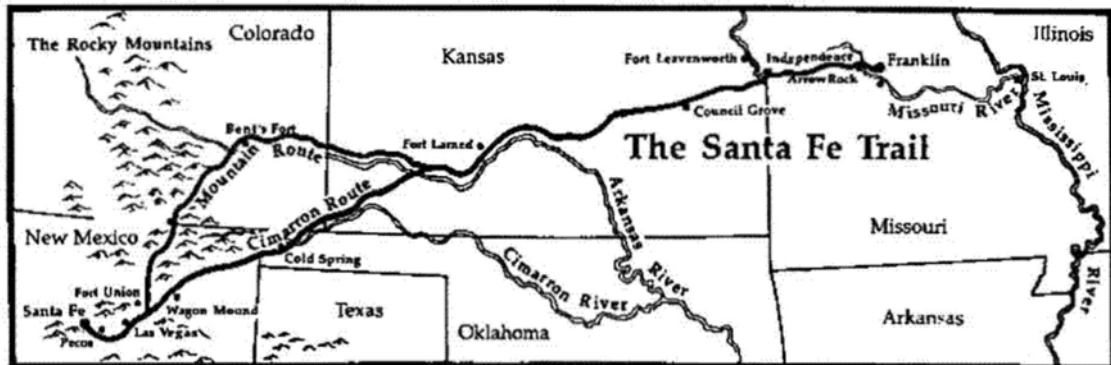


Forts Along the Trail



1. The first military fort established near the Santa Fe Trail was Ft. Leavenworth in 1827. Soldiers protected travelers on both the Oregon Trail and the Santa Fe Trail. The first military escort provided by the government (1829) was four companies of infantry led by Major Bennett Riley. They carried their supplies in wagons pulled by oxen, marking the first time oxen were used to haul freight on the Trail. The soldiers walked with the traders to the Mexican-American border where they had to stop as the traders continued on the Cimarron Route. Circle Ft. Leavenworth on the map. Put an X where the infantry had to stop.

2. In 1851 Ft. Union was established near the western end of the Trail. It was important as the military supply depot and became the largest military post in the Southwest. The fort was also active during the Civil War. Circle Ft. Union on the map.

3. In 1859, Ft. Larned was established near the mid-point of the Santa Fe Trail; its purpose was to protect traders on the Trail from attacks by tribal peoples. Circle Ft. Larned.

4. Bent's Fort was not a military post, it was a trading post established by the William and Charles Bent and Ceran St. Vrah in 1833. This trading post was a meeting place for three cultures: tribal peoples, Mexicans, and Angles who could purchase or trade for supplies and exchange news with others. Draw a square around Bent's Fort.