

A weekly newspaper for young students of Arizona history

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Second Quarter

Week 14

THIS WEEK

Government Explorers

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Government Explorers Visit a Mysterious and Faraway Place: Arizona

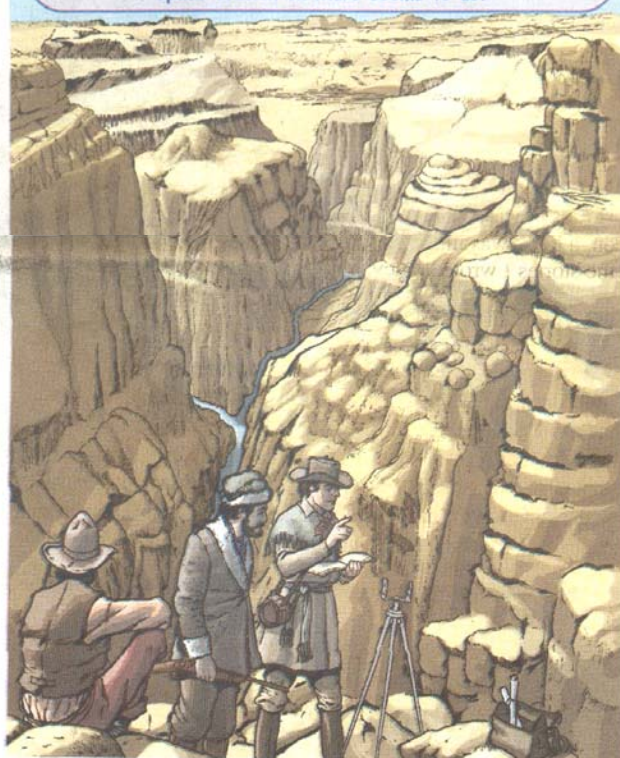
Do you like to explore? Do you ever daydream about adventures where you hike off into the wilderness and discover strange animals or new people? Do you sometimes wish you could fly like an eagle over the Earth and then head for outer space?

Imagine what your town looked like before it had any buildings or people. What do you think Arizona looked like 140 years ago? It must have been exciting for the government explorers who took the job to explore the West. Back then, there were places in Arizona that no American had ever seen. Arizona must have seemed strange and mysterious to them.

Who were these explorers, and why did they come to Arizona? They were explorers paid by the government. Remember, Arizona was not part of the US then. Some explorers were like spies sent to new lands to decide if the land was worth buying or fighting for. Some were

soldiers sent to protect new colonies or to fight foreign soldiers for the land the US government wanted. Sometimes, they were scientists paid by the government to learn about the land. It was important to know how much rain falls in an area, what kinds of plants and animals live there, and what kinds of natural resources (like water and minerals) could be found there. Some explorers were sent to make maps of new lands, so that people who came later would know which way to go. Most explorers were strong and brave men and women looking for adventure. If you're ready for some adventure, too, then turn the page and let's explore Arizona!

Building large cities in Arizona in 1869 probably seemed as difficult to those first explorers as building a space station on Mars seems to us.



Connections



Although Sam's favorite subject is history, he also enjoys playing saxophone in the jazz band at his school.

Meet Sam Maslow

There are still lots of people who love to explore and learn new things. Sam Maslow is one of them.

Sam is part historian, part explorer, and part student. He lives and goes to school in Brooklyn, New York. His favorite subject is history, and he loves to visit National Parks and Historic Sites. In 2007, *National Geographic* magazine printed a letter he wrote to the editor. He wrote the letter to encourage kids to visit national parks. He hopes kids will try out the Junior Ranger program many parks offer.

Sam has completed more than 260 Junior Ranger programs. He also created his own

Web site to help other kids find out more about being a Junior Ranger. The Web site includes pictures of all the badges, pins, and patches he's collected. He gets his National Park Passport stamped at every park, and he collected more than 100 stamps just in 2006. Sam has traveled to many places, but some of his Junior Ranger awards came in the mail. Some parks will send out booklets for kids. When you return the booklet with all of the activities finished, you'll get a badge (or a pin or a patch) in the mail. Sam's Web site will tell you what you need to do. Check it out at juniorranger.info. How many badges will you collect?