

Kids' Activity Pack: The River, the Road and the Fort

For young historians, ages 8-12. From themojavewar.com.

The story in 6 sentences

The Mojave people have lived beside the Colorado River for hundreds of years. They call themselves Aha Macav, the people by the river. In 1858, families in covered wagons reached the river on a new road and cut down cottonwood trees that mattered to the Mojave. On August 30, 1858, there was a fight, and the families turned back. In 1859 the U.S. Army built Fort Mojave, and a Mojave leader named Cairook bravely took his chief's place as a prisoner. The Mojave made peace, and the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe still lives by the river today.

Word match

Write the letter of the right meaning next to each word.

Aha Macav ____	A. a soldiers' camp built to guard an area
Colorado ____	B. a tall river tree the Mojave used for shade and building
Emigrant ____	C. a person held to make the other side keep a promise
Fort ____	D. the people by the river
Hostage ____	E. someone moving to a new place
Cottonwood ____	F. the big river in this story

Two sides of the river: think and talk

- 1 Why were the cottonwood trees so important to the Mojave?
- 2 Imagine you were 12-year-old Sallie Fox, traveling in a wagon. What would you write in your diary?
- 3 Cairook offered to go to prison in his chief's place. Why do you think he did that?
- 4 The Mojave language almost disappeared, and now kids are learning it again. Why does keeping a language alive matter?

Map it!

Follow the directions to make your own map in the box.

Colorado River	Draw a long blue line from the top of the box to the bottom.
Beale's Crossing	Put an X where the wagon road reaches the river.
Fort Mojave	Draw a little flag on a hill just east of the river, near the crossing.
Fort Yuma	Put a star far south, where the Gila River joins the Colorado.
Albuquerque	Put a dot far to the east, where the wagons started.



Bonus: play the drag-and-drop map game at themojavewar.com/kids

Coloring page



Answer key (word match): Aha Macav = the people by the river; Colorado = the big river; Emigrant = moving to a new place; Fort = soldiers' camp; Hostage = held to keep a promise; Cottonwood = tall river tree.

Grown-ups: The novel *When the Birds Go Silent* is written for adult readers. This pack is made for kids. Learn more about the Mojave people today from the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe at mojaveindiantribe.com.