



## *The Outlaws of Canyon Diablo*

### *Educator Guide*

#### **Welcome to *The Outlaws of Canyon Diablo!***

This guide was developed to help you maximize the learning opportunities *Outlaws* presents. The Guide provides information about the town of Canyon Diablo and the articles contained within the publication as well as suggestions on how you might use the publication.

#### **What is *The Outlaws of Canyon Diablo*?**

*The Outlaws of Canyon Diablo* is a publication with the look and journalistic style of an 1880's newspaper - developed for students in grades 5 and up. A work of historical fiction, *Outlaws* presents many issues and events that took place in the town of Canyon Diablo and throughout the Arizona Territory and beyond. Article topics were selected from those found in a variety of newspapers published in 1882 as well as other events that took place during that time. The format, journalistic style and vernacular is based upon historic newspapers but simplified for easier reading.

#### **Was there really a town of Canyon Diablo?**

In 1881, a town sprang up at Canyon Diablo, located approximately 30 miles east of Flagstaff, Arizona. Before that time it was desolate region with only a train depot and maintenance yard. While the A&P railroad worked on building a bridge over the canyon, large quantities of cargo left at the end of the rail brought two types of individuals to the canyon - those who came to protect the commerce and those who came to steal. They were quickly followed by the businesses required to supply a small town's needs for dry goods, dance halls, gambling houses and saloons. It was rumored to be more treacherous than Tombstone with little to no law enforcement and daily robberies and murders. In its heyday, the town of Canyon Diablo had approximately 2,000 residents. After the bridge was completed and the train went through, there was no longer an economic structure to support the town and almost all of its residents moved on within days.

### **Suggestions on how to use *Outlaws***

The Outlaws website, [www.theoutlawsofcanyondiablo.com](http://www.theoutlawsofcanyondiablo.com), provides free lessons, maps, photographs and other resources. Lessons were developed specifically for use with *Outlaws* and are articulated to Arizona and national geography standards for grades 5-8. Lessons provide step-by-step instructions for engaging classroom activities, discussions and explorations. There are also a variety of other ways you can use the publication:

- Have your students read the entire publication and then put them into teams. Have each team select a specific article to research and then present to the class.
- Select a topic and have students research both sides of the issue. Then hold a student debate.
- Have students write a story about what life was like in Canyon Diablo using the characters, events and businesses mentioned in the newspaper.
- Before sharing the fate of the town with your students, have them write a story about what they personally think happened to the town and why.
- Have students draw a poster of what they think the town looked like.
- Have students research what wages are today for similar jobs and compare against wages in 1882.
- Have students compare what life was like in 1882 versus what it is today. They can make a chart for each area, i.e., transportation, technology, law enforcement, etc.

### ***Outlaws* is a work of historical fiction. Which articles are based on historical fact?**

This section addresses articles found in the publication.

#### ***Opinion***

The opinion piece tells the story of the town of Canyon Diablo. It demonstrates how an area completely devoid of resources gave birth to a town.

#### ***Local News***

All of the stories in the local news column are fictional but reflect the types of stories that were written in 1882.

#### ***Mining Notes***

This story is based on fact. During this time Arizona began to realize its destiny was in copper mining as opposed to silver or gold mining. Arizona was one of the leading producers of copper for many decades.

#### ***Winslow Hospital***

This article is fictional and was written to demonstrate just how dangerous and fragile life was in the town of Canyon Diablo.

#### ***Intentions for Business***

According to the Sharlott Hall Museum in Prescott, Arizona: “In most parts of 19th-century America women lost their independent civil identities upon marriage, and could not own property or transact business. However, according to

an 1865 act of the Territorial Legislature "On the Rights of Married Women," women in Arizona could recover their economic citizenship by announcing their intentions in the newspaper.”

### ***Strange Ore***

The town of Canyon Diablo was only about a dozen miles from Arizona’s Meteor Crater. People have been finding significant pieces of the meteorite for years - some of which are on display at the museum.

### ***New Marshall Needed***

This fictional article again demonstrates the lawlessness of the town, however more than one historian listed this story as factual.

### ***Bridge Highest Railway***

Several sources reported the new bridge was the highest railway in the world.

### ***Wyatt Earp Wanted***

This article is based in fact - Wyatt Earp was actually wanted for murder at this time.

### ***Jesse James Killed***

This article is based in fact - the event took place near this time.

### ***Apaches Jump Off Reservation***

This story is based on historical fact. There are two areas of interest in this story: the history of the Apache people and the unique nature of the Buffalo Soldiers.

### ***No Trespassing***

This story is fictional and serves to highlight how the main resource in the town of Canyon Diablo, freight from the train, was either something people wanted to protect or steal.

### ***Flagstaff Lumber Mill***

This story was written to illustrate the actual process the Reardon brothers used to cut timber around this time period.

### ***Democratic Territorial Convention***

The Democratic Territorial Convention did take place in Phoenix in 1882. As you can see from the number of delegates, the counties that Tucson and Tombstone belonged to had considerably larger populations than the county where Phoenix lies.

### ***1880 Census***

A census did take place in 1880 and these are the actual numbers reported in the census.

### ***Franklin Jameson, John Davis and Joe Washboard***

These are all fictional characters and stories, designed to illustrate life in the town.

### ***Wanted and For Sale***

These advertisements are also fictional; however, they mimic the style and subjects of real advertisements.

### ***Feud Continues***

This feud was reported by more than one source as actually having taken place.

### ***Women's Suffrage***

There was an actual congressional committee that was chartered during this time to study the issue of women's suffrage. The article also introduces the plight of the single man living in this area where men outnumbered women by more than 2:1.

### ***Advertisements***

All of the advertisements in *Outlaws* are fictitious but styled after those found in 1882 newspapers. However, prices and wages in these ads were based upon those found in real ads. John "Doc" Wellington's Healing Tonic ad is a compilation of numerous advertisements for cures. This one ad in particular can be used to demonstrate the need for the Food and Drug Administration.

### ***Telegraphic News***

All of these stories are based on fact and did occur in 1882. These articles demonstrate that the issues of 1882 are still discussed today including labor unions and wages, problems in the Middle East, transportation safety, outbreaks of disease, safety in the workplace, the war on drugs, new technologies and the criminal justice system.