



Southwest Culture Map



The **Southwest Culture Area** is centered around the four corners area of Utah, Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico. There are two primary groups represented in the museum: the Navajo and the Pueblo. Today, there are 21 federally-recognized pueblos, mostly in New Mexico. Hopi, San Ildefonso, Acoma, Santo Domingo, and Taos are some of them. The Pueblo people are descendants from the Anasazi, the original people living in the area thousands of years ago. Some of the oldest pieces in the museum are Anasazi pottery artifacts from the Southwest region. Anthropologists believe that the Navajo probably came into the area from the north about 1500 A.D. The Apache, who also live in the area, may have come at about the same time.

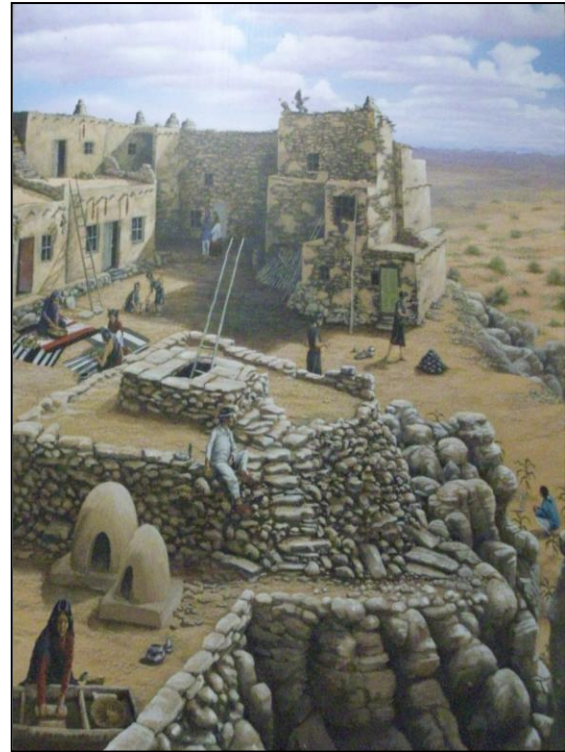


Southwest Culture Murals

Navajo



Pueblo



Using the following learning objectives and activities tied to them, this section explores Plains cultural artifacts to understand both the similarities and differences between tribal nations.

Learning Objective 1: Native people met their fundamental, basic survival needs for food, houses, clothes, and transportation by using the resources available to them in their environment.

Learning Objective 2: When Europeans arrived, new resources from another part of the world became available to Native people and altered their ways of life.



STUDENT WORKSHEET **BEFORE** THE MUSEUM

Learning Objective 1: Native people met their fundamental, basic survival needs for food, houses, clothes, and transportation by using the resources available to them in their environment.

Read: One of the murals on the wall in the Southwest section of the museum shows life in a Pueblo village, where the people used mud to build adobe bricks and created the first apartment buildings thousands of years ago. They connected these buildings together near rivers and streams that gave their food crops necessary moisture. Every village had a *kiva*, or an underground room for religious ceremonies, as well as places outdoors for the women to grind corn, weave clothing and rugs, and prepare food. There are still places in the Southwest where traditional Pueblo people live in the same kinds of houses as their ancestors did before them.

Activity: Look at the Southwest Mural on page 2 and answer the questions below.

1. Look at the environment. How is it different from the environment where you live now?

2. Does it look like it rains often? How do you think these people help their gardens grow?

3. Why are the buildings made from rocks and bricks?

4. What do you think the woman in the bottom left corner is doing?

5. What do you think the pottery was made from?

6. Why are there ladders instead of stairs?

7. What forms of transportation do you see here?



STUDENT WORKSHEET **BEFORE** VISITING THE MUSEUM

Learning Objective 1: Native people met their fundamental, basic survival needs for food, houses, clothes, and transportation by using the resources available to them in their environment.

Pueblo Culture Group

A. This is a picture of the pueblo at Taos, New Mexico today. It has not really changed since 1540 when the Spanish came to the area. The people say that they have been living here for over 1,000 years.



1. What natural resource(s) did the people use to build this pueblo? _____
2. What kind of modern building does the pueblo remind you of? _____

B. **Cooking** The picture below is what the Pueblo people use to bake bread. It is called a beehive oven.

1. What natural resource do you think Pueblo people use to heat this oven? _____
2. What would you use to bake bread at your house? _____
3. What kind of energy does your home appliance use to make heat? _____

C. **Clothes** Pueblo people learned about many things from Spanish conquistadors who first came into the Southwest in the last part of the 1500s. The Hopi dress below is made from cloth brought by traders.



1. Describe this dress _____

D. Katsinam English speakers call figures created by Hopi and other pueblos *katchinas*. The Hopi prefer these terms— *katsina* (singular) and *katsinam* (plural). Katsinam from the Hopi Pueblo in northern Arizona are very famous. They represent figures from Hopi beliefs. These katchinam help children to learn about the supernatural beings that the Hopi believe live in the San Francisco Mountains. These figures, often carved out of cottonwood, are made by other pueblos, too.

Activity: Make sure to look for these two kachinas when you go to the museum.





Mitchell Museum
of the American Indian

E. **Pottery** The Pueblo people are famous for pottery. You can see examples of pots, like the one in the picture, that are more than one thousand years old in the museum. Look for the answers to the question below when you visit the museum.



1. How do you think pots were used? _____
2. How are containers used by Pueblo people different from those used by Plains people?

3. What kinds of containers did the Woodlands people use? _____



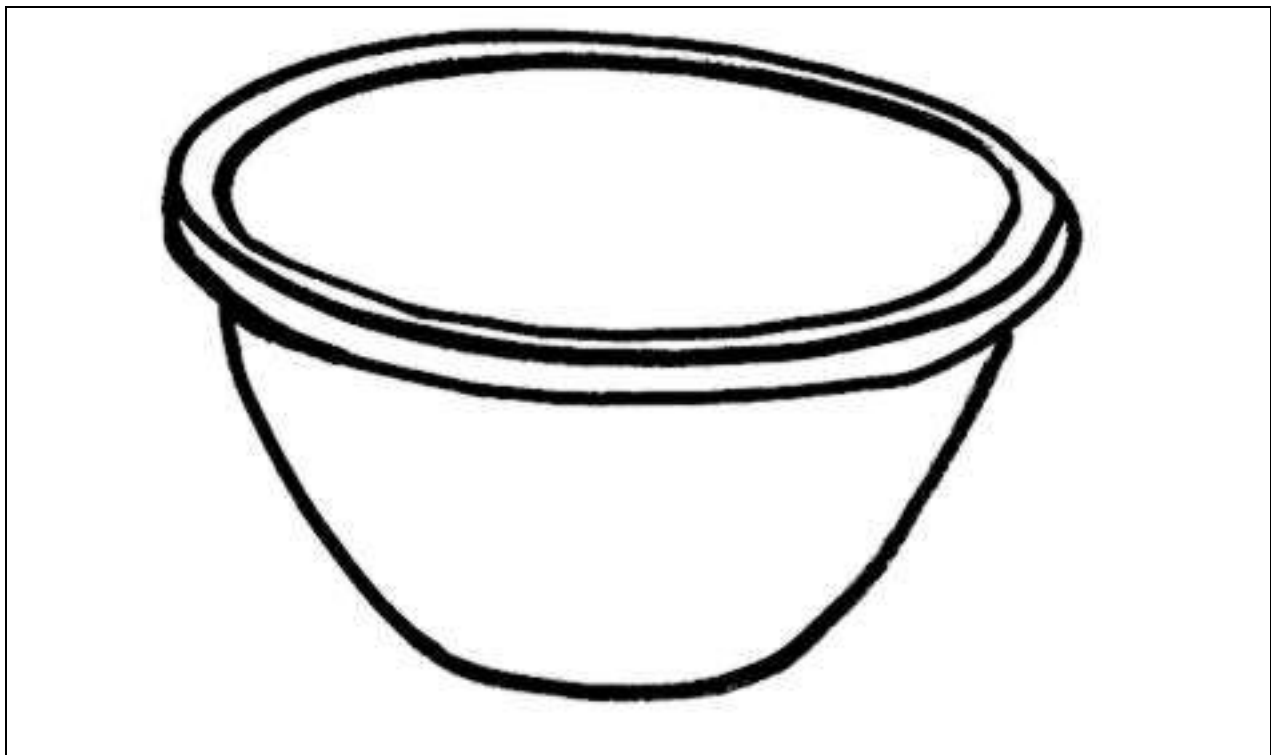
STUDENT WORKSHEET **BEFORE** VISITING THE MUSEUM

Learning Objective 1: Native people met their fundamental, basic survival needs for food, houses, clothes, and transportation by using the resources available to them in their environment.

Here are some examples of pottery from the museum.



Read: Look at the examples of pottery from the museum. The pottery you will see when you visit is made from clay, a fine-grained mineral found in the ground. A potter would clean the clay before shaping it into coils to form bowls, jars, and mugs. When these objects dried, the potter would polish the pieces with a smooth stone. Sometimes, the potter would also paint a design on the surface. The final step was to bake the pieces in a fire to make it harder, stronger, and less waterproof. Each potter developed their own designs—usually geometric shapes, flowers, or animal figures. Although some technology may have changed, making pots today is done basically the same as it was in the past.





STUDENT WORKSHEET **BEFORE** VISITING THE MUSEUM

Learning Objective 2: When Europeans arrived, new resources from another part of the world became available to Native people and altered their ways of life.

Navajo Culture Group

A. Houses The Navajo did not live in wigwams or tipis. They lived in houses called hogans like in the picture below. Many Navajo still live in hogans, today.



1. Why do you think that hogans are still used today as houses by the Navajo?

2. What do you think a modern hogan might contain inside?

B. Rugs Look at the picture of a rug that you will see when you come to the museum. Describe the people represented on the rug.



1. _____

C. Jewelry Silver and turquoise were plentiful in Navajo lands. Both the Navajo and the Apache used turquoise for jewelry and as spiritual items. When the Mexicans came into their lands, they taught the Navajo and others in the area how to use silver to make jewelry like in the picture below.



1. How do you think this type of jewelry helps Navajo people earn a living today?



STUDENT WORKSHEET **AFTER** THE MUSEUM

Learning Objective 1: Native people met their fundamental, basic survival needs for food, houses, clothes, and transportation by using the resources available to them in their environment.

Read: Have you ever thought about how the wool on sheep turns into the yarn to make rugs? Southwest native people had to go through many steps to create the rugs that they have now become famous for.

Activity: Cut out the pictures and descriptions. Paste them in order into the chart on the next page.



The wool is cleaned and dyed.



The yarn is woven into a rug.



The Navajo raise a herd of sheep.



The wool is spun into yarn.

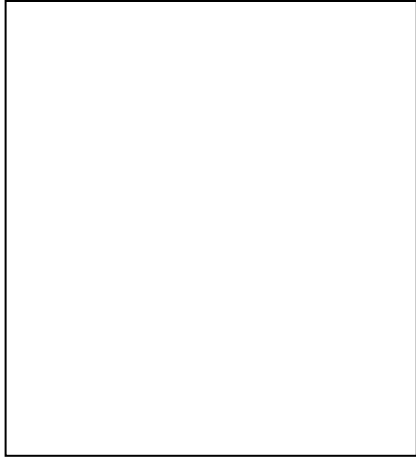


The wool is cut from the sheep.

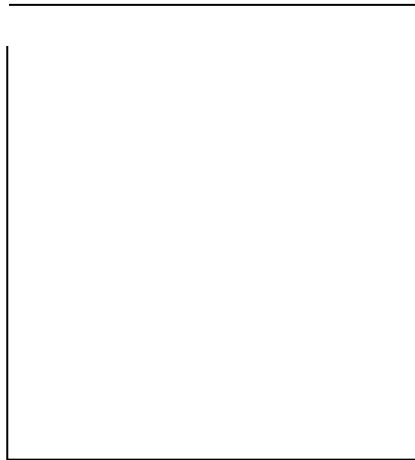


From Wool to Navajo Rugs

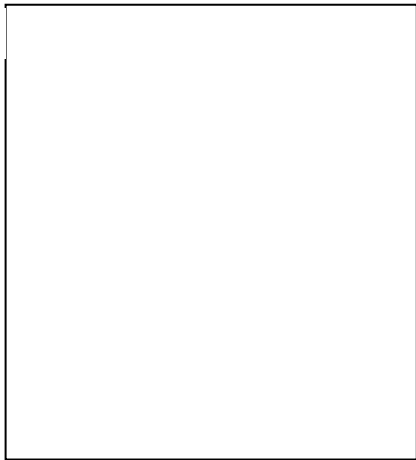
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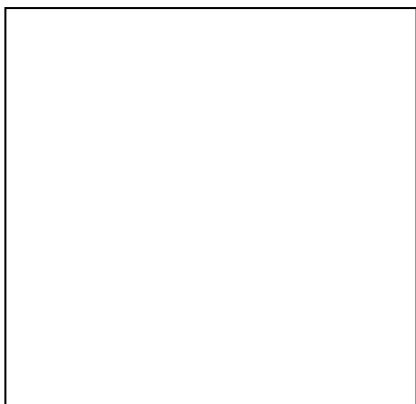
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5.





STUDENT WORKSHEET **AFTER** VISITING THE MUSEUM

Learning Objective 1: Native people met their fundamental, basic survival needs for food, houses, clothes, and transportation by using the resources available to them in their environment.



Read: Today, cliff dwellings like those in the picture above are a popular destination for tourists. They are the remains of the Anasazi or Basketmaker Pueblo culture. No one really knows when this culture began. Some think as early as 1500 B.C. Pueblo people today say that different groups came from different directions and places to establish the communities of today. The Hopi name for the so-called Anasazi is *Hisatsinom*.

Research suggests there may have been a number of reasons for building these cliff structures. They protected from rain and snow. Their position allowed for shade in the summer and sun in the winter. Springs have been found at the back of some caves allowing the inhabitants access to water. These cliff dwellings may have been built to protect the people from invaders. The inhabitants were safer because of the difficulty of access to these caves.

Archeologists and anthropologists believe that the Anasazi abandoned these dwellings by the early 14th century and moved south and southwest. Modern pueblo people say that these people, their ancestors, did not permanently "abandon" their former homes. They still visit these ancestral village sites, tell stories oral histories about them, and consider them sacred places.

Research Activity: Use the Internet to research the various theories about if and why these cliff dwellings were abandoned by the 14th century. Investigate both archeological and Hopi sources that discuss this issue. Compare and contrast the two points of view and come to a conclusion.



STUDENT WORKSHEET DURING THE MUSEUM

Learning Objective 1: Native people met their fundamental basic survival needs for food, houses, clothes and transportation by using the resources available in their environment.

Read: The tribes of the Southwest Culture area are known for two distinctive styles of architecture, the multi-family style of the Pueblo people and the hogan of the Navajo. See the two murals of this area of the exhibit and the photographs below. Address the following:

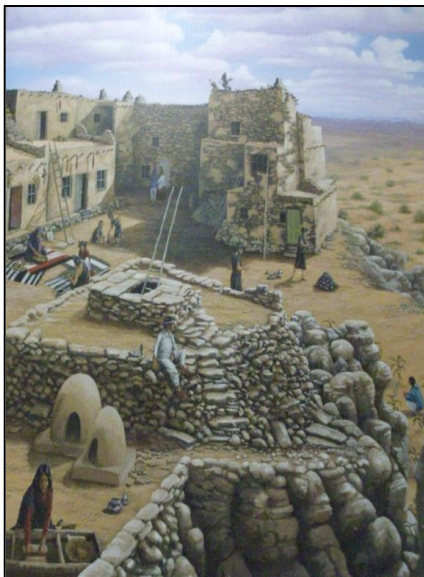
A. What is different about the structure of these two architectural styles? _____

B. What impact can the style of one's housing have on the way that families of the village interacted?

C. Many of the early styles of housing used by native people had only one entrance and it always faced the east. Can you think of any reasons for this practice?

D. What does the vehicle in the right tell you about the people in this picture? _____

Pueblo



Navajo Hogan





STUDENT WORKSHEET **AFTER** VISITING THE MUSEUM

Learning Objective 2: When Europeans arrived, new resources from another part of the world became available to Native people and altered their ways of life.

A. Read: Study the Southwest Map on page 1. This area extends beyond the borders of the United States on the south and is actually a part of Mexico. The people in this cultural area had access to many cultural ideas as well as things from the people that entered their tribal area from the south. Mexico lies to the south of the tribes identified on the map. Mexico's native people experienced their own contact and problems with Europeans.

Activity: Use the Southwest map, the reading above, and what you already know to answer the following questions.

1. From what country did Europeans to Mexico arrive from? _____

2. List at least 3 things that the Mexican people introduced to the tribes in the Southwest.

3. What geographical feature separates Mexico from the tribal nations on the Southwest map?

B. Write a paragraph explaining how this cultural exchange has/is affecting the people of Mexico and the Southwest today.



STUDENT WORKSHEET AFTER VISITING THE MUSEUM

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Learning Objective 2: When Europeans arrived, new resources from another part of the world became available to Native people and altered their ways of life.

A. Think Decide whether to write these words under *Plains Culture* or *Southwest Culture*.

tipi farming buffalo pueblo hunting corn

Plains Culture

Southwest Culture

B. List Write the following words under *Pueblo Culture* or *Navajo Culture*. **Careful:** Some words can be used in both lists. **Words:** *katsina pottery rugs corn silver jewelry clay house hogan*

Pueblo Culture

Navajo Culture

C. What do you think? Some Taos Pueblo people spend time living in the pueblo and part of the year in cities and towns away from it. Many parents bring their kids to the pueblo in summer so they keep in touch with their culture. However, even today, electricity, running water, and indoor plumbing are not allowed in the pueblo. If you went to live in a pueblo for a summer, write down what you think might be some things you would learn and some things you would miss.

I would learn _____

I would miss _____



STUDENT WORKSHEET **AFTER** THE MUSEUM

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Post-Assessment: Write facts about the Southwest in the correct place. Put a question mark if you don't know an answer. Add other information that you remember at the end of the chart.

	Navajo	Pueblo
Location/Climate		
Food		
Houses		
Clothes		
Transportation		
Trade Items		