

Indians of the Southwest

- This map shows the extent of the Anasazi culture in comparison to other prehistoric cultures. Anasazi is a Navajo term meaning “ancient enemy.”
- This illustration is from *Annie and the Old One* by Miska Miles. You can see the Navajo lifestyle on sheep raising. Because they needed land to raise their sheep, the Navajo did not live in close communities.
- The storyteller is an important person in the Pueblo cultures. Without a written language, they depended on the storyteller to gather the children and pass on their culture. Puebloans are characterized by their lifestyle of farming and living in close communities. The Hopi are one group of Puebloan Indians.
- This is a corrugated jar found in Canyon de Chelly. These unpainted, everyday pots were used for cooking by the Anasazi. The corrugations were made by pinching the coils of clay. Archaeologists date this pottery piece to the Pueblo I (AD 900-1150) or the Pueblo II (AD 1150-1350) time periods.
- In this scene from *Arrow to the Sun* by Gerald McDermott, you can see the kachinas and the Puebloan housing. Pueblo Indians, unlike the Navajo, lived in close communities.
- This traditional Navajo home, made of logs and earth is called a hogan. Sacred ceremonies were performed in the hogans.
- This map shows the Navajo and Hopi reservations within the Colorado Plateau.
- Navajo women are renowned for the rugs they weave. Before weaving, the wool needs to be sheared from the sheep. Roots from the yucca plant were used to wash the wool. Then, twigs or burr were removed with carding combs. The cleaned wool then was spun into yarn. Various plants were used to dye the wool. Much work went into creating a Navajo rug.
- Located in Chaco Canyon in New Mexico, these are the remains of a thriving community built by the Anasazi almost 1000 years ago.
- This Navajo rug is woven in a storm pattern. Its design depicts a thunderstorm.
- The kachinas are an important part of the Hopi culture. This kachina carries a warning to the Hopi that misfortune will follow if you do not respect traditions.
- This Hopi potter is using techniques passed on from mother to daughter since ancient times. The different Puebloan groups have unique styles of pottery.