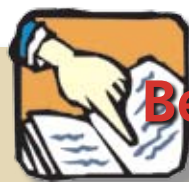


BASKETMAKERS and PUEBLO DWELLERS

On December 18, 1888, two ranchers were looking for stray cattle. Richard Wetherill and Charlie Mason followed cattle tracks to the top of a mesa. At the top, Wetherill got off his horse and walked to the edge of

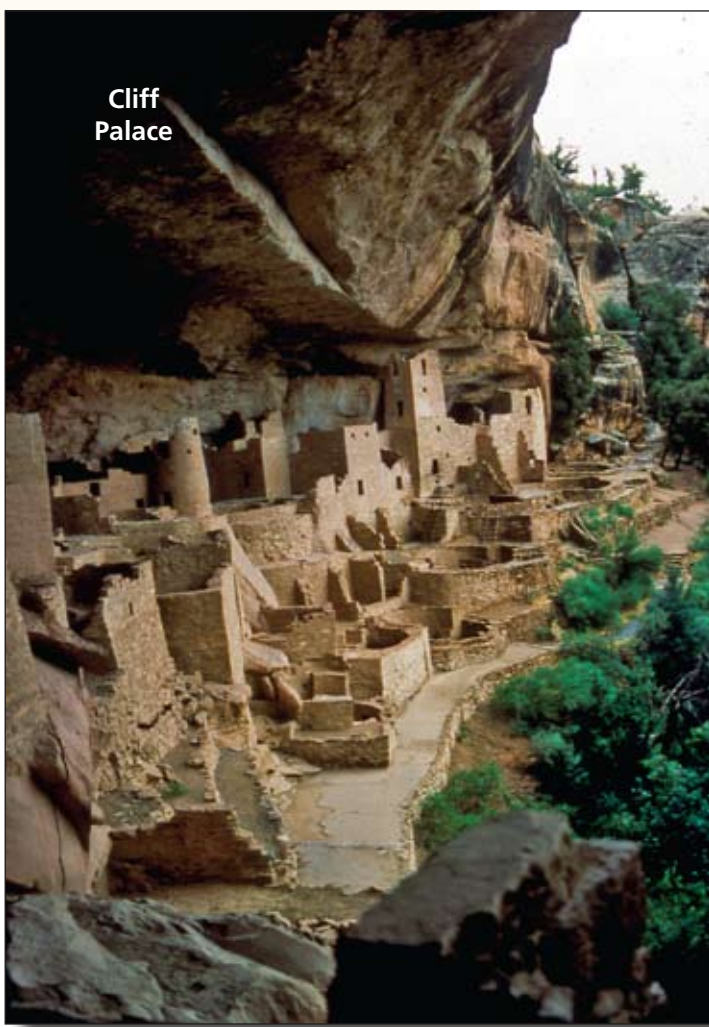


Before You Read

Scan this chapter, paying attention to section headings, bold print, photos, captions, and drawings. Then, draw a concept map in your notebook with the main topic (Basketmakers and Pueblo Dwellers) in the center circle. Brainstorm words and ideas you think are related to this topic, and arrange them on lines connected to the circle. Talk with a partner or in a small group about why you have chosen these words and ideas.

a cliff. He looked out across the canyon. On the canyon wall across from him, he saw a wide opening. Inside it were the ruins of a cliff dwelling.

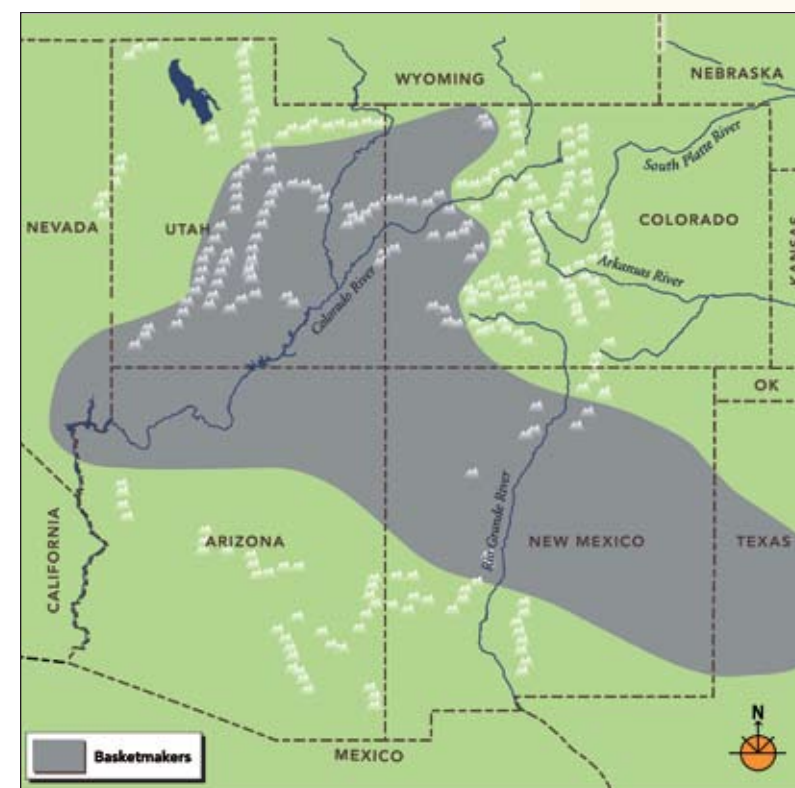
Wetherill had seen cliff dwellings before. But he had never seen one this large. It had dozens of rooms. Many of



Cliff Palace

them were stacked one on top of another. Near the center was a tower that rose three stories high. It was as big as a palace. Wetherill named it Cliff Palace.

The two men rode to the other side of the canyon. Then they climbed down into the ruins. On the floor of the huge cave, they found pottery bowls, mugs, water jars, and a stone axe. The people who lived there hundreds of years before had left most of what they owned. In the weeks to come, Wetherill and Mason found other cliff dwellings like Cliff Palace.



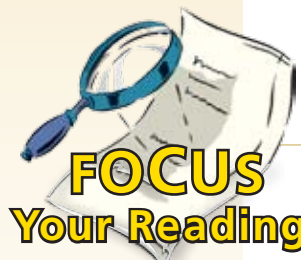
This map shows where the Basketmakers lived. This later became part of the four states of Colorado, Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico.

- Key Words**
- Anasazi
 - Ancestors
 - Pueblo
 - Snares
 - Sinew
 - Pithouse
 - Kiva
 - Cradleboards
 - Reservoir
 - Descendants
 - Native culture



Ancient People of the Four Corners

The cliff dwellings are located in the Four Corners area. The corners of four states—Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Arizona—meet there. The mesa that the men rode up is called Mesa Verde.



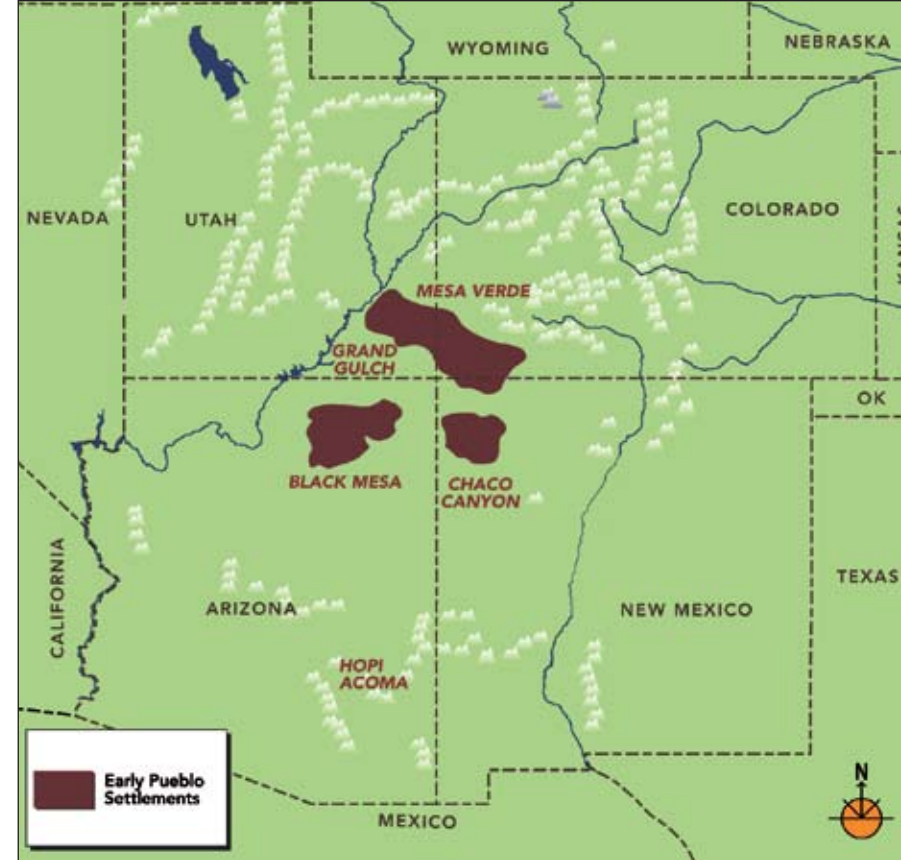
FOCUS Your Reading:

- ? Where is Cliff Palace located?
- ? How long have people lived in that area?
- ? What are the people who once lived there called?

The cliff dwellers are known by different names. The Navajo Indians called them the **Anasazi**. That Navajo word means “ancient enemies.” Perhaps the two groups of people were enemies long ago. Archaeologists today call them the Ancestral Puebloans. That means that they are the **ancestors** of the modern-day **Pueblo** Indians of New Mexico and Arizona. They also are called Basketmakers and Pueblo Dwellers. The word pueblo means town in Spanish. The dwellings in which these people lived were like small towns.

The Basketmakers and Pueblo Dwellers lived in the Four Corners area for nearly 1,300 years. Their way of life changed over this long period of time. To help describe these changes, archaeologist Frank H. H. Roberts, Jr. divided this time into four periods. The first is the Basketmaker Period. Next comes the Modified Basketmaker Period. It is followed by the Developmental Pueblo Period. The last is called the Grand Pueblo Period. In this chapter, we will look at each period.

Balcony House

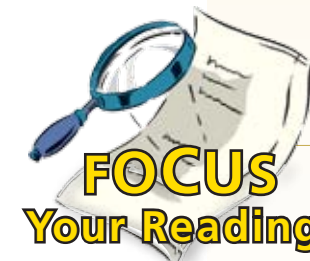


This map shows the locations of the early Pueblo villages.



Basketmaker Period

(2,000 to 1,000 Years Ago)



FOCUS Your Reading:

- ? How did the Basketmakers use baskets?
- ? What kind of clothing did they wear?
- ? What kind of shelters did they build?

In 1893, Richard Wetherill made another discovery. Digging under the floor of a pueblo, he found ancient bodies buried deep in pits. They did not look like other bodies he had found at Mesa Verde. The people were taller than the Pueblo Dwellers. These people also had worn sandals that were notched in front. The Pueblo Dwellers wore rounded sandals.

Beside the bodies, Wetherill found things that the people had used every day. They included baskets made of willow and yucca fibers. These people stored and cooked their food in baskets instead of in pottery jars and bowls. Wetherill named these people the “basket people.” Archaeologists today call them the Basketmakers.



A Basketmaker cave

The Basketmakers had arrived in the Mesa Verde area at least 2,000 years ago. They were the ancestors of the people who lived at Cliff Palace.

The Basketmakers spent much of the year hunting animals and gathering food. They hunted deer with spears hurled by atlatls. They caught rabbits and other small game with **snares** made of animal **sinew**. Their food included seeds, nuts, and berries.



Storage basket

The Basketmakers found many uses for baskets. Seeds were gathered and stored in baskets. To carry heavy loads, the Basketmakers filled up large baskets and slung them over their back. Baskets lined with pitch from pine trees made good waterproof containers. They used these to store water and for cooking. To cook food, they boiled water by dropping hot stones into cooking baskets.

While You Read:



Decide with your partner how you will read this section about Basketmakers (chorally, trade-off, or silently) and where your stopping points will be. When you reach a stopping point, each partner needs to ask a question or state a thought or opinion about the reading.

How Mesa Verde Got Its Name

“Mesa” is the Spanish word for “table.” “Verde” is the Spanish word for “green.” Mesas are high areas that are flat on top. The mesa where Cliff Palace is located was called Mesa Verde because it was covered with green juniper trees and shrubs.

Basketmakers found shelter in caves and under rock overhangs. For winter shelters, they built huts underneath the overhangs. The most common Basketmaker huts were one-room **pithouses**. First, they dug a pit two or three feet deep. Over it they built domelike shelters made of logs. With a fire built inside, the pithouse would stay warm even in the coldest weather.

Basketmakers wore sturdy sandals made from the tough fiber of yucca plants. These may have been their most important item of clothing. They needed good footwear to hunt and gather food in the rocky plateau country of western Colorado. Men wore a breechcloth in summer. Women wore a small apron. In winter, everyone wore blankets made of turkey feathers or rabbit fur.



An example of a pithouse

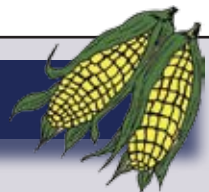


Modified Basketmaker Period

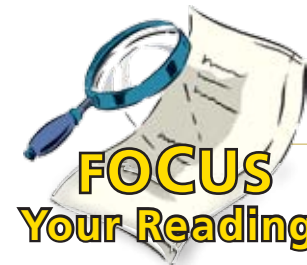
(1,550 to 1,250 Years Ago)

About 1,550 years ago, the Basketmakers' way of life began to change. That is why the next 300 years are called the Modified Basketmaker Period. The people began building pithouses with a larger and more comfortable living space. The main room had a bench that curved around the wall. The walls were made of upright poles that were plastered over with dried mud on the outside. The plastered walls helped keep the pithouses cool in summer and warm in winter. The new-style pithouses also had a room used as an entryway and storage area.




Seeds of Change



Corn came to the Four Corners area from Mexico. People there had raised corn for thousands of years. The Basketmakers may have acquired corn through trade. Perhaps newcomers from the south taught the Basketmakers how to grow it. However they got it, corn changed their way of life.



FOCUS Your Reading:

-  Why is this period called the Modified Basketmaker Period?
-  How did pithouses change during this time?
-  What clues indicate that farming became more important?

The people of this period probably spent more time raising crops and less time hunting. The improved pithouses are one indication of this. Farmers spend more time living in houses in one place than hunters and gatherers. Archaeologists have found a large number of grinding stones in these dwellings. The people used the stones to grind corn into cornmeal.

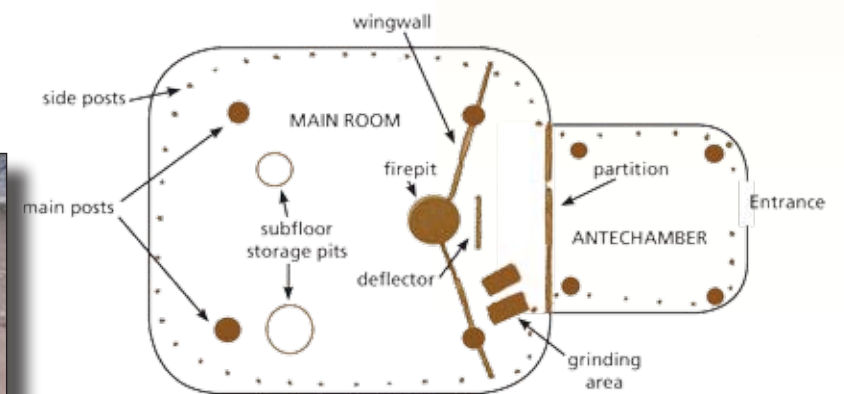


Basketmakers making pottery and weaving baskets



While You Read:

What clues helped archaeologists know about the changes in the Basketmakers' way of life? Write these clues in your notebooks.



Basketmaker pithouse

The inside of an underground kiva used for ceremonies by the pueblo dwellers



Different ways the Pueblo people made pottery



A Developmental Period pueblo

Developmental Pueblo Period (1,250 to 900 Years Ago)

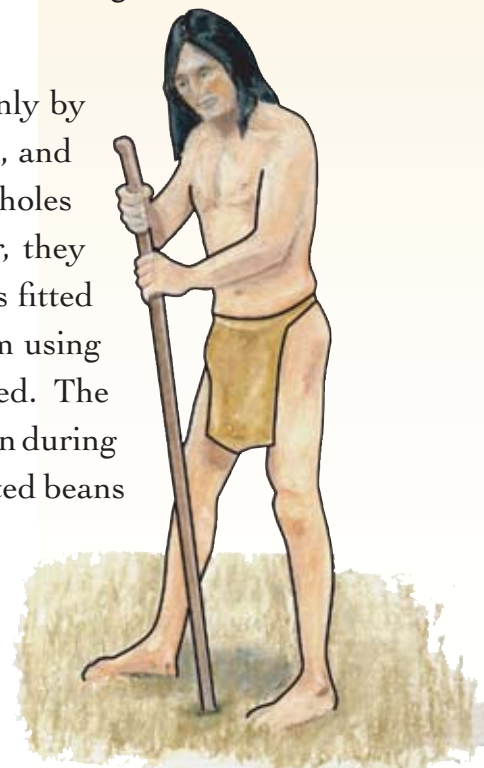
During this period, the people of the Four Corners began to build **pueblos**. They left their pithouses and moved into stone dwellings built at ground level. The new dwellings had rooms lined up in a row or in a semicircle. Six or seven families could live in these stone apartments. These one-story apartment houses were the earliest pueblos. That is why this period is called the Developmental Pueblo Period.



Some Mesa Verde pottery

They entered the kiva by climbing down a ladder through a hole in the roof.

The people who built the pueblos lived mainly by farming. Each spring they planted corn, squash, and beans in their fields. They dropped the seeds in holes made with planting sticks. During the summer, they chopped weeds out of the fields with stone hoes fitted with wooden handles. That kept the weeds from using up moisture that the plants needed. The farmers picked squash and fresh corn during the summer. In the fall, they harvested beans and corn to store for winter.



This drawing shows how men during the Developmental Pueblo Period planted crops with a digging stick.

FOCUS Your Reading:

- Why are these years called the Developmental Pueblo Period?
- How were dwellings of this period different from earlier ones?
- How did people's physical appearance change?

The people used their small apartments mainly for storage and sleeping. Most of the everyday work took place in an open courtyard in front of the pueblo. It also was the center of community life. Women cooked meals there. Men sat around talking and repairing tools.

Each courtyard had at least one underground room called a **kiva**. Mainly, the men of the pueblo used it for religious ceremonies and for social events.

While You Read:

In your notebook, sketch a scene of what a typical pueblo community might have looked like. Pay attention to the details this section gives you about everyday pueblo life. Share your sketch with a partner.

A beautiful example of Mesa Verde pottery



Clothing styles also changed during the Developmental Pueblo Period. A new style of sandal with a square toe became the fashion. Women wore aprons made of cotton cloth instead of yucca fiber. They got the cloth through trade with Mexico and Arizona. People there had discovered how to weave cotton fibers into cloth. The Developmental Pueblo people preferred blankets woven from turkey feathers to rabbit fur blankets. Every pueblo had pens where turkeys were kept, mainly for their feathers.



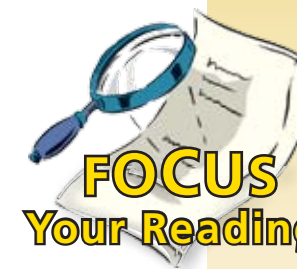
The Great Pueblo Period

(900 to 700 Years Ago)

Beginning about 900 years ago, still other changes took place in the Mesa Verde area. Among them were the larger pueblos built after that date. Instead of one-story row houses, the new pueblos were three or four stories high. They held many more people. Archaeologist Frank H. H. Roberts, Jr. called the next 200 years the Great Pueblo Period.

The people built their first big pueblos on top of the mesas. A good example is the pueblo known as Far View House. It was three stories tall and had about fifty rooms and five kivas. Located high up on Chapin Mesa, it had a stunning view of the plateaus and valleys below. The larger settlement that included Far View House also contained about a dozen smaller pueblos.

The people of the Far View settlement were farmers. They walked to nearby fields, where they grew corn, beans, squash, and melons. To make sure they had enough drinking water, they built a **reservoir** now called Mummy Lake. When



- ? How did the Pueblo way of life change during this period?
- ? What contact did the Pueblo Dwellers have with other people?
- ? What are some possible reasons why the Pueblo people left the Four Corners area?

Fire Hazards



Most of the pithouses that archaeologists have found were destroyed by fire. What made pithouses fire hazards? Heat from the fire pit must have dried out the wooden poles used to build the walls. A spark could easily have set the dry wood on fire. The new pueblo dwellings avoided this danger. They were built mostly of stone.

The shape of people's faces and heads changed during this period. Archaeologists were surprised when they first discovered skeletons with flattened skulls. They wondered if a different people had moved into the area. Then they discovered that Pueblo mothers strapped their babies into unpadded **cradleboards**. The boards flattened the baby's skull, which became permanent. Why did they do this? Perhaps because a flattened skull makes a person's face appear broader. People of this period must have found broad faces attractive.



Far View House at Mesa Verde National Park

filled, the lake could have held half a million gallons of water. That was more than enough for the 400 to 500 people who lived in the community. The farmers also dug ditches to bring water from the spring runoff to their fields.

About 800 years ago, a puzzling thing happened. Hundreds of people left the mesa tops. They built new pueblos in the giant caves that wind and water had carved out of the sandstone cliffs. Some of the new cliff dwellings were larger than the pueblos on the mesa tops. The largest was Cliff Palace. It had 151 rooms and 23 kivas.

Building and living in a cliff-side town was not easy. Workers had to move stones, mortar, and poles for roof supports down the steep sides of the cliffs. The people who moved there also had to climb up and down the cliff every time they worked in their fields on the mesa tops.

Load-Bearing Walls

Building a three- or four-story pueblo presented the people of the Mesa Verde area with a problem. If they built rooms on top of their single-story pueblos, the walls would collapse. They solved this problem by using “rubble-core” construction. That is, they built two walls of stone blocks a foot or so apart. Then they filled the space between the walls with stones and other rubble. This made the lower wall strong enough to bear the heavy weight of the upper stories.



While You Read:

Use these CODES on sticky notes down the side margins as you read this section:

* (I already knew this)

+ (New Information)

!! (Wow!)

?? (I don't understand)

Compare your text coding with your small group, and talk about the parts you do not understand. How will you get your questions answered?

Why did hundreds of people move down from the mesas to homes in the cliffs? Some archaeologists believe the cliff dwellers were trying to protect their food supplies from their hungry neighbors. Food was scarce during dry years. They also may have moved to the cliffs to protect themselves from enemies. The narrow paths that led down to the cliff dwellings would be easy to defend. Still, many people continued to live on the mesa tops. Why some people built cliff dwellings remains a mystery.

The Pueblo Dwellers had links to people outside the Four Corners, mainly through trade. Bands of hunters, gatherers, and part-time farmers called the Fremont people lived to the north. These people collected sunflower seeds, prickly pear cactus, and other plants. Pueblo pottery makers probably traded with them for animal skins and food. At least, archaeologists have found Mesa Verde-style pottery in Fremont ruins.



Cliff Palace had 151 rooms and 23 kivas. It was one of the larger cliff dwellings in the Mesa Verde area.

Trade also linked the Pueblo Dwellers to people farther south. In ruins of cliff dwellings, archaeologists have found polished turquoise stones from Arizona, macaw feathers from Mexico, and abalone shell beads from the Pacific Coast. The Pueblo Dwellers also may have traded with the desert people to the west. They were the ancestors of modern-day Ute Indians.

When Richard Wetherill and Charlie Mason discovered Cliff Palace, it had stood empty for at least 600 years. Why did the Pueblo Dwellers leave? A long period of dry years is part of the explanation. A drought began about 725 years ago. Little rain fell for the next twenty-three years. But Pueblo Dwellers had survived droughts before. What other reasons caused them to leave? They had cut down most of the trees on the mesas for roof poles and firewood. Archaeologists estimate that Pueblo Dwellers had to travel seventy-five miles to get wood for fuel. They also may have fled from an enemy attack. Some of the abandoned pueblos contain the skeletons of people who died violent deaths.



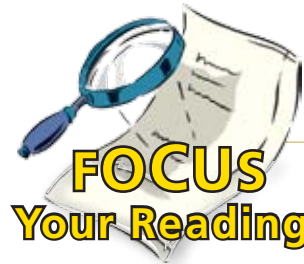
The Pueblo People of Today




Where did the Pueblo Dwellers go? Most moved east toward the Rio Grande River in New Mexico. Their **descendants** are the Pueblo Indians who live in the Rio Grande Valley. Others live farther west at the Acoma and Zuni pueblos, and at the Hopi pueblo in Arizona.

Moving to the Rio Grande Valley brought still more changes to the Pueblo people's way of life. They learned to survive droughts by living closer to a reliable source of water. Spanish settlers, who arrived in New Mexico in the early 1600s, introduced them to new plants, animals, and ways to do things. From the Spanish, the Pueblo people learned to grow wheat, plant fruit trees, and raise horses, goats, and sheep. During the past 200 years, American explorers, traders, settlers, and tourists have introduced the Pueblo people to other new ways to do things. The newcomers, in turn, have learned to appreciate the Pueblo people's way of life.

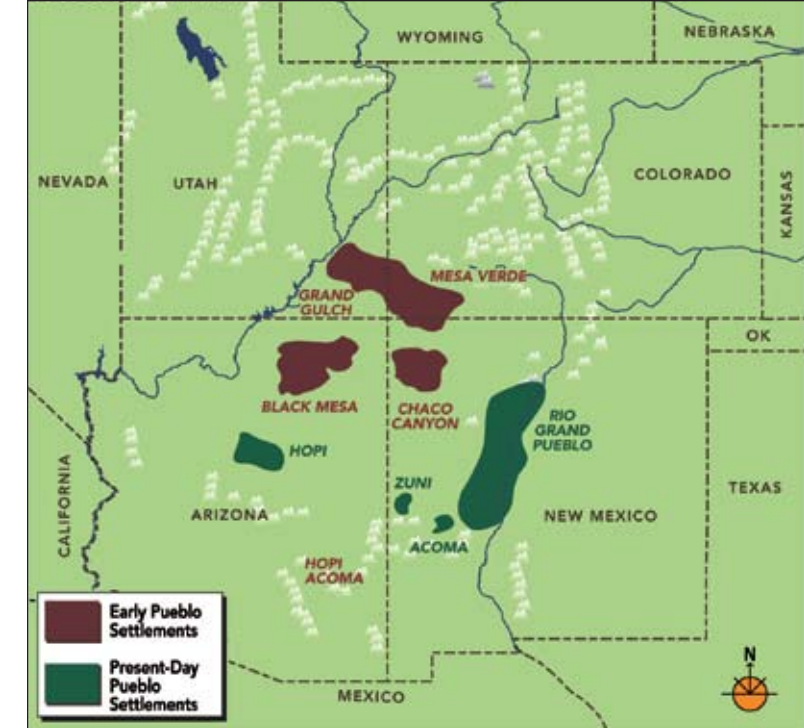


Modern Hopi dancers



-  Where do the Pueblo people live today?
-  How has Pueblo life changed since the Pueblo Dwellers left the Four Corners area?
-  What aspects of Pueblo culture remain unchanged?

This map shows the locations of the early Pueblo villages.



In modern-day pueblos, the new and the old exist side by side. Like Americans everywhere, the Pueblo people watch TV, drive cars and pickup trucks, and buy hamburgers at McDonalds. Pueblo boys and girls attend public schools and wear jeans like students elsewhere. However, the Pueblo people have kept much of their **native culture** alive. Within the pueblos, boys and girls may have an "Indian" name, take part in religious dances, and wear traditional clothes on feast days. Many traditional arts and crafts have survived. Some Pueblo women, for example, still make beautiful pottery. Pueblo pottery, silver jewelry, and other crafts are sold in gift stores throughout the United States.

While You Read:



Read this section with a partner. Take turns making connections to the text by finishing the sentence with, "That reminds me of . . ." As you read, write your connections in your notebook.

After You Read



1. Return to the Basketmakers and Pueblo Dwellers concept map you drew in your notebook. What would you change? What would you add after having read this chapter?
2. Suppose you could interview a Basketmaker or a Pueblo Dweller. What three thoughtful questions would you want answered? Write these questions in your notebook.