

Week 4: The Southwest Nations:

Five nations lived in the Southwest region of America. They were proficient farmers, hunters, sheep herders, and weavers. They were (and still are) known for their beautiful pottery, textiles, basketry, and turquoise and silver jewelry. Those nations were predominately Apache, Hopi, Navajo, Pueblo, and Zuni, but it is the largest of these, the Navajo, who will be this week's focus.

Do you live in the Southwest? Can you identify some towns and other landmarks in your area that were named for the Indians who lived there?

This Week's Supplies:

White sand
Assorted food coloring
Several small containers with lids
Craft glue
One artist brush per child

1 8 1/2 "x 11" piece of cardboard per child
Plastic spoons
News paper or a vinyl tablecloth
Small spray bottle

Literature (Family Read-Aloud):

- Finish reading *Sing Down the Moon*.

Geography:

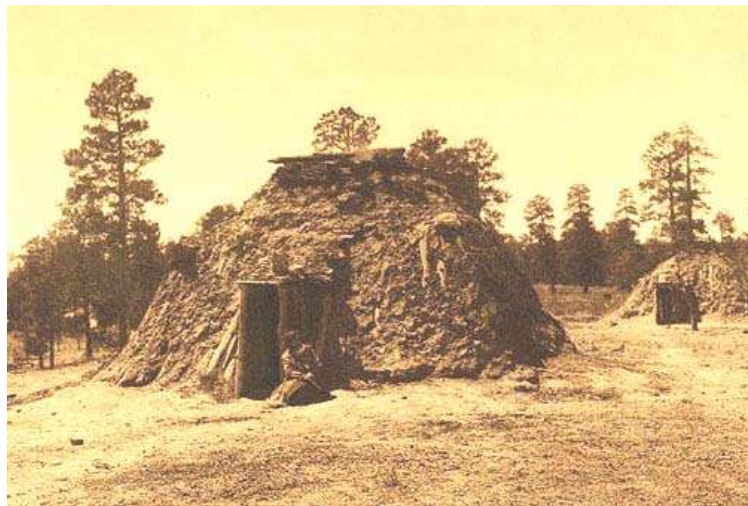
- Color the Southwest region of your map. Cut and glue these nations onto the Southwest region.
- The Navajo lived, as do their descendents, in what is called the "four corners" of the United States. Find out what the [*four corners*](#) are and why the area is called that.

Apache	Hopi	Navajo	Pueblo	Zuni
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Anthropology:

As we have discovered throughout the course of this unit study, Native Americans, like all human beings, built their homes from the natural resources they had available to them.

The Navajo built their dome-shaped homes, known as *hogans*, from the clay and trees around

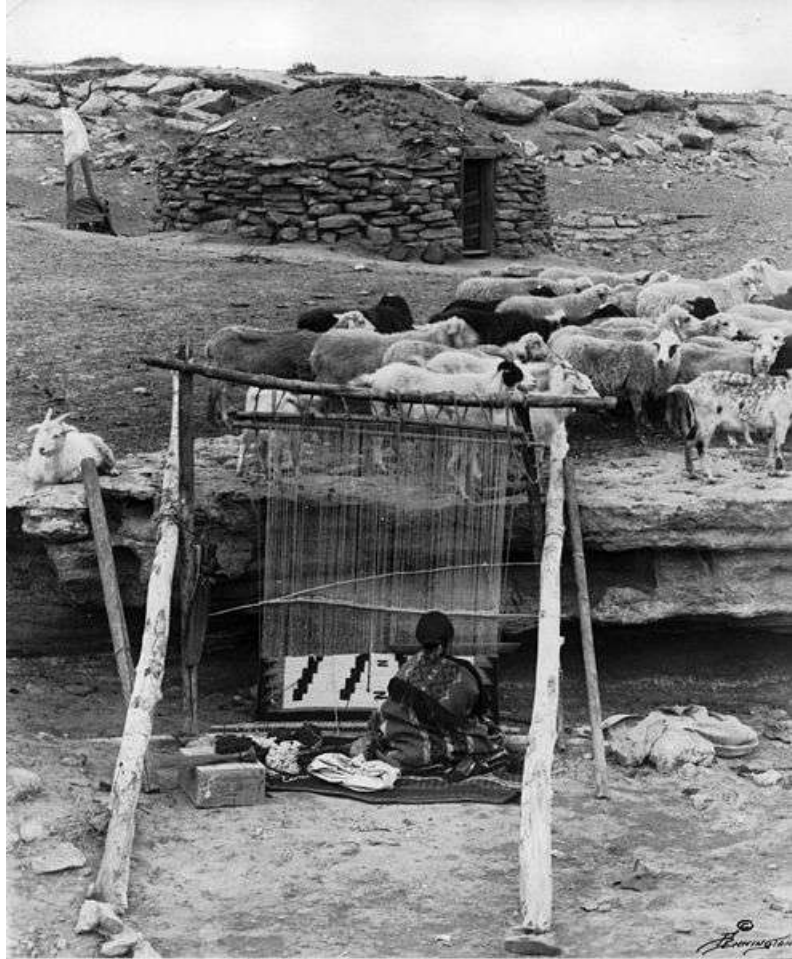


them. *Hogans* were constructed using a circular pole structure which was then covered with a thick mixture of mud, leaves, and branches.

Its doorway always faced East. That in conjunction with its thick mud walls proved effective in keeping out the wind, as well as the heat in summer and cold in winter.

It has been said that “a picture is worth a thousand words.”

- Discuss what you think this saying means.
- What can you determine about the lifestyle and livelihood of this Navajo family from this more modern photograph ?



Arts & Crafts:

- Make a Sand Painting

The Navajo are also known for their beautiful [sand art](#). Today, you will try your hand at some sand art of your own.

- Cover your table with newspaper or a vinyl tablecloth.
- Pour a small amount of sand into several jars. Add different food coloring to each jar. Place the lids on the jars and shake well. Place jars outside in the sun and allow the sand to dry.
- Once dry, trace the thunderbird provided onto a sheet of cardboard. Hand-draw the remaining design. Using an artist brush, paint some glue onto one section of your thunderbird. Using a plastic spoon, gently sprinkle the glue with the colored sand of your choice until it is well covered. Shake off any excess. Continue in this manner until each section is “painted.” Allow to dry. Lightly brush off excess sand.

- To seal your sand art, mix 80% glue with 20% water in a spray bottle. Shake well. Spray your sand painting and allow to dry.

Art Appreciation:

- Discover the beauty of the Navajo arts.

Look at some [Navajo jewelry](#), [textiles](#), [pottery](#), and [baskets](#) on the internet with your parent's supervision.

Did you know?

Remember the Cherokee's infamous Trail of Tears? Well, the Navajo experienced a trail of tears of their own. It is known as the Long Walk.

In 1864, in the midst of the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln ordered thousands of Navajo homes destroyed by the Union army. Eighty-five hundred, now homeless, Navajo men, women, and children were marched three hundred miles to New Mexico. After two long months of harsh winter conditions and inadequate provisions many, like the Cherokee, died. After arriving at Fort Defiance, those who had survived suffered more hardships and were imprisoned for three years. It was not until the Peace Treaty of 1868 was signed that they were allowed to return to a much smaller, federally-provided homeland than the one they had left behind. Add the Long Walk to your history timeline notebook.