

# NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURES: SOUTHWEST

Research some defining characteristics of Native American cultures in the Southwest region.

## Environment

*Where is the Southwest region?  
Describe its physical features.*

It is an area that includes the present-day U.S. states New Mexico, Texas, Colorado, Arizona, Nevada, and Utah. It has dry deserts and mountainous areas with few trees or rivers.

## Nations

*List some examples of the Native American nations in the Southwest.*

The Ancestral Pueblo (the Anasazi, Mogollon, and Hohokam) Hopi, Navajo, Apache, are some of the Native American nations from this region.

## Food

*What did Native American peoples in the Southwest region eat?*

Corn, squash, beans, deer, rabbit, nuts, and cactus fruit berries were some of the foods eaten in this region.

## Technology

*Research some of the tools and technology common to the Southwest region.*

Irrigation ditches, adobe bricks, grinding stones, and pottery vessels were some of the tools and technological innovations used in the southwest.

## Housing

*Look at this example of an Ancestral Puebloan dwelling. Research why Ancestral Puebloans chose this type of home and what materials they used to build it.*



This is an adobe house. It is made of clay and straw baked into hard bricks called adobes. Adobe houses were durable structures with multiple levels and enough space for many families. Ancestral Pueblo used mud, straw, and stones to build large adobe complexes.

## Culture

*How did living near the desert influence art and lifestyle in the Southwest?  
Research some examples.*

- The Mogollon used the natural resources around them to make pottery. They wound coils of clay into shapes and marked the clay with lines to create a corrugated texture.
- The Anasazi refined the pottery-making techniques first developed by the Mogollon. Both used black-on-white geometric designs inspired by the sharp angles of the mountains around them.
- The Navajo wove textiles, such as handwoven blankets used as cloaks and saddle pads, that were useful as protection from desert sand and wind.
- Many Pueblo nations made representations of Kokopelli, a hunchbacked flute player seen as the spirit of music. His flute playing was believed to chase away winter and bring an early spring.