



NATIVE LIVING AND OUR HERITAGE

Right off our beautiful Foothills and Ocotillo Loop Trails bedrock mortar can be found left by the natives that lived here long before caverns were discovered. If you have seen it, you have probably wondered why anyone would even want to live in the desert in the first place. Let's go back in time and see if we can understand why, and as we do, try comparing how we live today with how they would have lived back then.



National Park Service (12/14/18) The Chiricahua Apache. Fort Bowie. nps.gov/fobo/learn/historyculture/the-chiricahua-apache





TRADING IN THE SOUTHWESTERN UNITED STATES



This map shows some of the trade routes established by natives long before European colonization. Trade was one of the main reasons why the San Pedro River Valley had people along it. The river allowed tribes in the northern parts of the U.S. to trade with different tribes all the way down to Central America.

Why trade?

Activity- Think of an item that your friend or sibling has that you think you would enjoy. Now, is there something you own that you would give that friend or sibling in return for that item?

Use the following page to print out, color, and cut out the objects the Native Americans would have traded. Pretend you are natives trading for things of value.

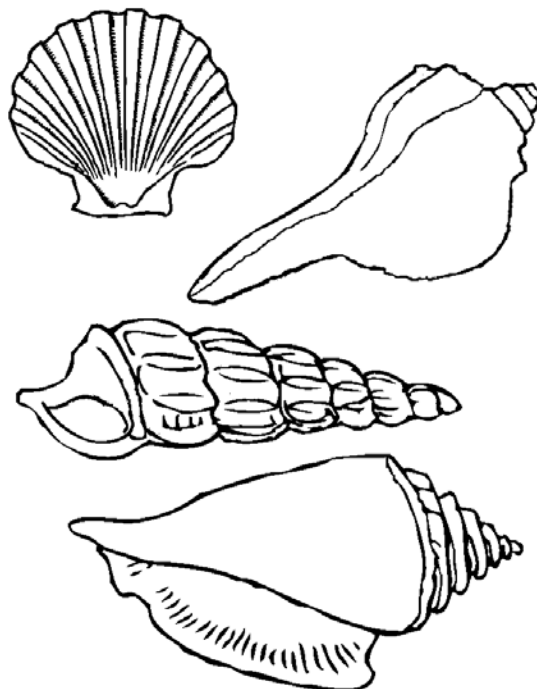
Mexicolore (5/13/18) The Mesoamerican Connection: Central American diffusion into the North American Southwest. Aztecs at Mexicolore. mexicolore.co.uk/aztecs/you-contribute/mesoamerica-and-the-north-american-southwest





TRADING IN THE SOUTHWESTERN UNITED STATES

As you color the items for trade, try to make them worth trading. Ex. The feathers would probably be worth more if they are VERY colorful...



You might be wondering why there is a parrot, seashells, and feathers included in the trading pictures. Archaeologists found evidence that ALL of these were traded from Central and South Americas to this region!



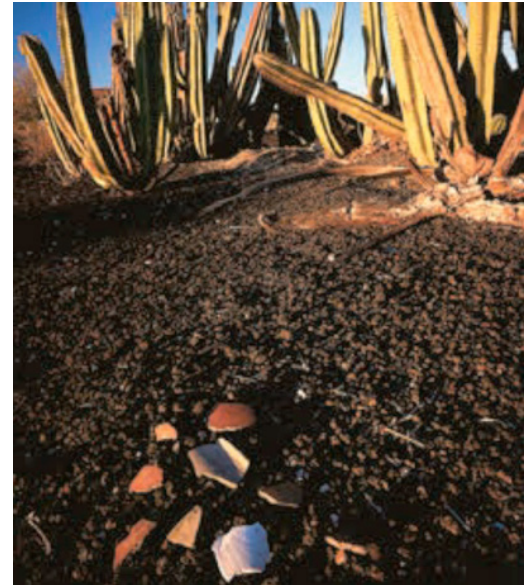
TRADING IN THE SOUTHWESTERN UNITED STATES

Some sites were able to find shells that were indigenous to areas as far away as the Philippine Islands. These trading items were used like currency. One person wants something pretty, while in return the other person may want something more practical, like cooking ware, baskets, or even food. Native Apaches would usually trade their beautiful baskets and pottery.



Repanshek, K. 3/26/18). The Scarlet Macaw's Connection to the Southwest. National Parks Traveler. nationalparkstraveler.org/2018/03/scarlet-macaws-connection-southwest

Tuzigoot National Monument has found feathers and other remains.



Childs, Craig. (2003). Ancient Seashell Traders of the Desert. *Arizona Highways*. 79. (8). pg. 7-15

Seashells from all over the world were found just outside Phoenix, AZ.



Schaefer, E. (2015, April 30). Apache Arts and Crafts. American Indian Film Gallery. scalar.usc.edu/works/american-indian-film-archive/apache-arts-and-crafts



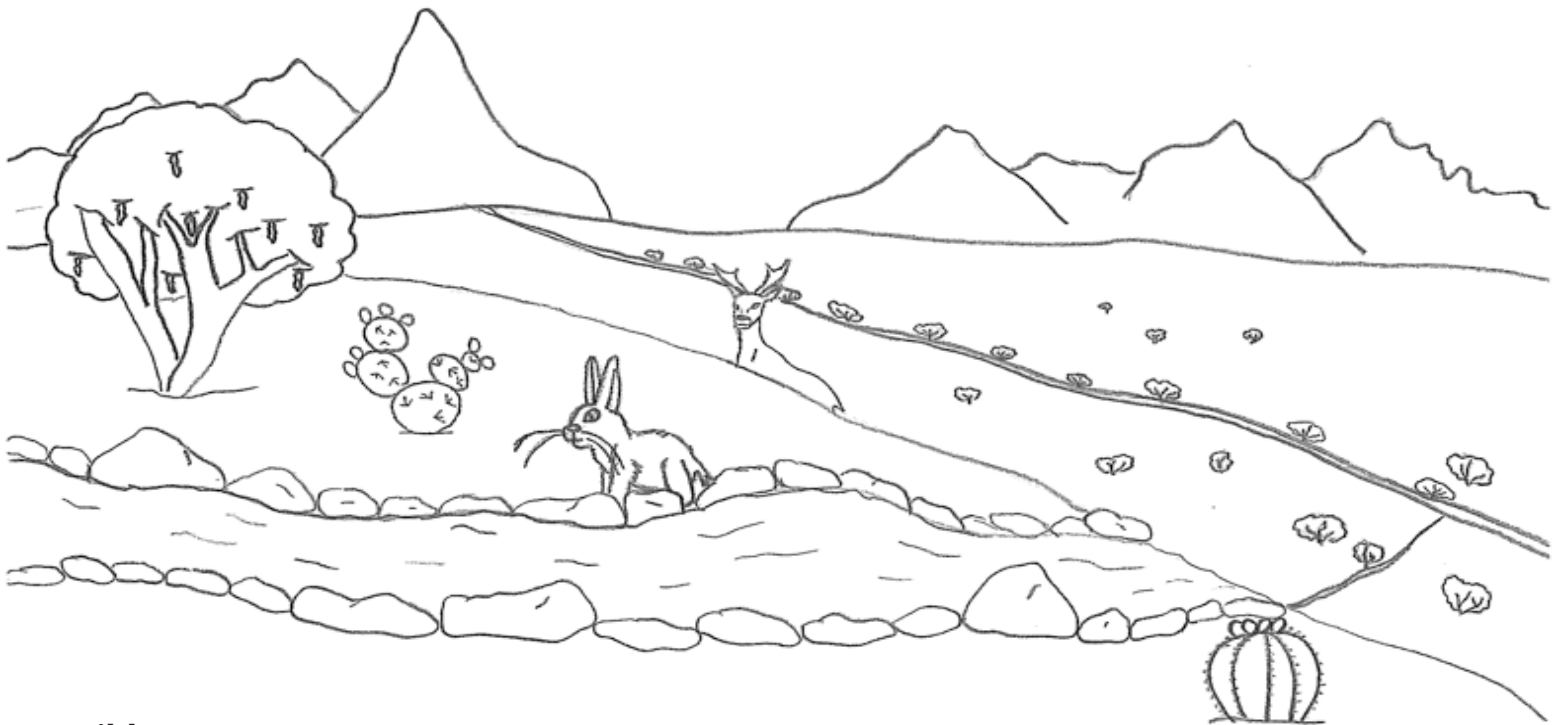
CHOOSING WHERE TO LIVE

The next thing is choosing a site to build your house. The San Pedro Valley was ideal with the river running through it, but there were some issues with living right at the river's edge, including things like flooding during the rainy season and blocking the view of incoming travelers.

Activity: In the picture below try to find the reasons why natives would have chosen the hillside depicted.

Ages 6 and under: Circle the things you can find that would make it easier to live on that site, then color the picture to make it look similar to the beautiful scenery around Kartchner Caverns.

Ages 7 and older: Color the picture, then make a list of the reasons why the site is ideal for living, including a brief explanation on why those items are helpful to natives.



Possible answers:

Mesquite Tree - Mesquite trees produce beans that can be ground down to powder as a flour. The wood would also provide means for fires to cook food or bake pottery.

Wash - The wash means there is most likely groundwater provided most of the year, if not longer.

Jack Rabbit - The water from the wash would bring game, which means food.

Deer - Larger game would also bring materials for clothing and other crafts.

Prickly Pear - After removing the thorns the plant itself as well as its fruits can be eaten.

Rocks - The rocks themselves would be good for using as tools. The rounded rocks from the wash would make them easier to handle.

Barrel Cactus - Barrel cacti have a sweet yellow fruit that grow on top.

View Of Valley Below - The location being on the hill meant they could see if travelers such as traders, passing tribes, or intruders were nearby.



CHOOSING WHERE TO LIVE

The next time you hike our Foothills or Ocotillo Trails stop at the Bedrock Mortar site on the East side of the loop, you will notice that the site is on a hill, just down from our cave hill. You might also notice that the ground around the site looks damp, that is from the groundwater that gets soaked up into the



What kind of house to build?

Different tribes of Native Americans had different lifestyles, and with the diverse landscape across Arizona, there were many tribes living across the state. Dwellings they would build varied greatly because of this.

Wickiups, like the one in the picture here were perfect for tribes that were mobile, hunting and differing weather patterns being the main causes for moving.

Ranger Mike Westover - Arizona State Parks & Trails

Pit-houses were used by Hohokam natives that were living in places of high heat, but needed to be more permanent because they depended more on things like farming. These would stay warm in the winter, and stay cool in the summer.



McDonald, J. (11/12/17). Archaeological Parks and Prehistoric Native American Indian Ruins of Central Arizona. ajpl.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Arch-20171114.pdf



CHOOSING

WHERE TO LIVE

This is called a pueblo style house. Once again used by Hohokam natives, showing they were resourceful, making everything with what they could find. The thick walls were used for insulation like the pit-houses, and they were more permanent homes for tribes of farmers.



McDonald, J. (11/12/17). Archaeological Parks and Prehistoric Native American Indian Ruins of Central Arizona. ajpl.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Arch-20171114.pdf



These type of dwellings are called cliff dwellings. They are used by people looking to live in a more permanent home that was safe from intruders and floods. Cliff dwellings are technically two types of homes, adobes, built into cliffs. These villages were used by the Salado, Hopi, Hohokam, Navajo, and other tribes throughout their time. First built by the Salado, they were eventually abandoned, then similar fates came to the numerous tribes that would take them as their residence. The most likely reason for leaving would be droughts, or major weather issues that forced the people to move. Multiple cliff dwellings exist throughout Arizona.

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Bashford. (2018). 6 Native American Ruin to Visit This Summer. Bashford Courts. bashfordcourts.com/native-american-ruins-in-arizona/



Activity: The following pictures are areas in Arizona that natives would have lived. Look at the pictures, and try to decide what kind of home you would have built if you were a native living there. Please note - there are no wrong answers.

1.



Czinar, M. (1/17/19). Arizona Hike: The way back to Tonto Creek is rugged. Azcentral.
azcentral.com/story/travel/arizona/hiking/2019/01/17/arizona-hike-tonto-creek-back-roads/2598160002/

Home type: _____

Reason for that type of home: _____



2.



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Home type: _____

Reason for that type of home: _____



3.



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Home type: _____

Reason for that type of home: _____



CHOOSING

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4.



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[zillow.com/homedetails/0-S-Thornton-Rd-Casa-Grande-AZ-85193/2107033402_zpid/](https://www.zillow.com/homedetails/0-S-Thornton-Rd-Casa-Grande-AZ-85193/2107033402_zpid/)

Home type: _____

Reason for that type of home: _____

5.



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Home type: _____

Reason for that type of home: _____

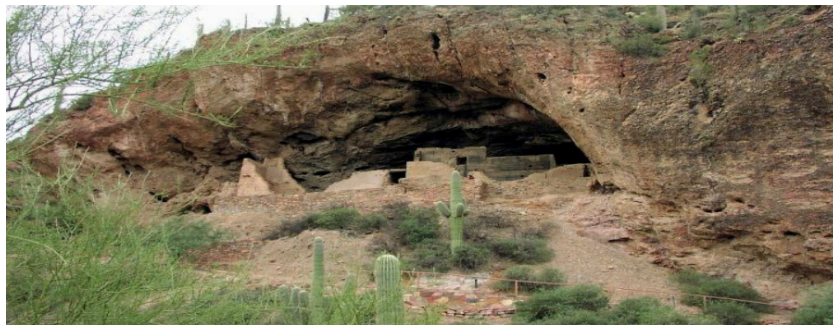


Comparing Answers

1.



This photo is of Tonto Creek, near Tonto National Forest and Monument. This area was home to Hohokam, and Hopi tribes, who made pit-houses and cliff dwellings and farmed throughout the area. It looks similar to areas in the Southern regions of Arizona where Apaches would build wickiups.



2.



This is part of the San Pedro River near Sierra Vista. This area was home to the Apache. When Native Americans lived here, their villages of wickiups spread out all along the valley. This area would have been ideal for farmers, so it would not have been far-fetched to see pit-houses or pueblos in the area.





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3.



This would look familiar if you've driven through Sedona. Sedona was home to Salado, Navajo, Hohokam, Hopi, and many tribes that were farmers. There were numerous cliff dwellings as well as pueblos in the area.



4.



This seemingly desolate piece of land is actually great farming land, which was used by the Hohokam tribes. It is still used for farming today, and you can see all those farms the next time you drive through. This is the Casa Grande area.





CHOOSING

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5.



Hopefully you recognize this as the beautiful Whetstone Mountains behind Kartchner Caverns. This was occupied by the Apache tribes like Cochise's tribe. Since this is the same area as number 2, there would have been similar style homes: wickiups.

