

Homes of the Past

Cliff Dwellings and Ruins in Arizona

Introduction: The early peoples of Arizona have left many clues behind for us to discover and question. Cliff dwellings and ruins can be found throughout the state and in every region. Within these ancient homes are more clues to the culture, diet, lifestyle, religion, and the daily life for early peoples. This lesson will extend on the information found in [Arizona: Nations and Art](#) pages 18 and 20.

Materials- Large poster board is needed for each working group, preferably white. Markers, pencils, and crayons are needed for illustrations and information boxes.

Knowledge- Definitions: Cliff dwellings, pueblo, artifacts, vessel. The students will know that cliff dwellings were made by the ancestors of the modern tribes of Arizona. The students will know that many early peoples have moved or separated as a community to create different tribes.

Understand- The students will understand that communities were created within the walls of the ancient dwellings. Mysteries surround the disappearance or abandonment of many dwellings. Inferences have been made in relation to nature's impact; volcanoes, evidence of drought etc. Agriculture was fostered during the time of the early villages. Artifacts that are discovered in many ruins help to answer questions of Native life. Some dwellings have been misnamed by the people who "discover" them. Modern Native American tribes can trace their ancestors to many of the prehistoric dwellings/ruins. Art, diet, culture, religion, and skills are remnants of the past of modern day tribes.

Do- (Ability groups or individual) Create a poster that offers illustrations of any chosen cliff dwelling/ruin. The students must include 5 facts about the dwelling/ruin drawn. (Information boxes) The students must include at least 3 components of labeling including an explanation for each label. Students must also include the area in which the dwelling/ruin is located on a smaller scale map of Arizona attached to the poster board. Students must offer an explanation of the possible relatives of the ancient people and evidence to verify their answer.

Poster Extras: Examples of various artifacts, location of water sources, evidence of religion.

The following are videos and websites that will provide visual support for students before they begin their posters. Encourage students to note specific dwellings/ruins that interest them. Allow students to refer to their resources during the entire project.

www.nps.gov/az (Allow students to explore this site for various National Parks in Arizona/Southwest)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rsl-tD5c1UQ&feature=related>

<http://www.yourpublicmedia.org/content/cptv/cliff-dwellings-arizona>

<http://video.about.com/phoenix/Phoenix-Pueblo-Grand-Museum.htm>