

FOCUS QUESTION

What led to the Hohokam and Pueblo becoming civilizations?

VOCABULARY

irrigation
canal
pueblo
dry farming
adobe
kiva

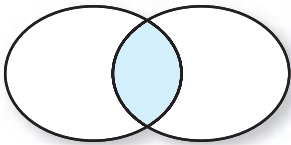
VOCABULARY STRATEGY

SUFFIXES Think of other words that end in the suffix **-ation** that are action words, such as **irrigation** and **civilization**.

READING STRATEGY

Compare and Contrast

Use the chart below to compare the similarities and differences between the Hohokam and the Pueblo.



Hohokam and Pueblo Peoples



Start with Your

CALIFORNIA STANDARDS

5.1 Students describe the major Pre-Columbian settlements, including the cliff dwellers and Pueblo people of the desert Southwest, the American Indians of the Pacific Northwest, the nomadic nations of the Great Plains, and the woodland peoples east of the Mississippi River.

5.1.1 Describe how geography and climate influenced the way various nations lived and adjusted to the natural environment, including locations of villages, the distinct structures that they built, and how they obtained food, clothing, tools, and utensils.

Meet the Hohokam and Pueblo peoples and find out how they learned to farm the dry land of what is today the North American Southwest. (Begins on page 63)

5.1.2 Describe their varied customs and folklore traditions.

Discover how the Hohokam carved figures of desert animals into shells and how Pueblo beliefs centered around the natural world. (page 63)

5.1.3 Explain their varied economies and systems of government.

Find out how the Pueblo trading network spread through the North American Southwest into Central America. (page 64)

◀ Model of Pueblo village at Mesa Verde National Park Museum

A.D. 200

A.D. 400

A.D. 600

A.D. 800

circa A.D. 300
Hohokam build
irrigation systems

circa A.D. 700
Ancestral Pueblo
culture appears

Jack Swilling came to the Salt River Valley, Arizona, in 1867 and grew pumpkins. However, what really fascinated him was the network of old canals. The Hohokam people, who built the canals over 1,600 years earlier, had called the area Valley of the Sun. Jack Swilling called it Pumpkinville. Later, the name was changed to Phoenix.



The Hohokam 5.1.1 5.1.3

At around A.D. 300 a group known as the Hohokam moved out of the Sonoran Desert in northern Mexico. They settled in present-day Arizona, between the Salt and Gila rivers. At that time, the area received only about 5 inches of rain a year. Few plants and animals could survive in such a hot, dry land. Yet the settlers discovered ways to turn the desert into fields of corn, beans, squash, and cotton.

Watering the Desert

The Hohokam owed their success to their **irrigation** system. Irrigation is a way of moving water from one place to another using ditches or pipes. Using only sharpened sticks and stone blades, Hohokam engineers created shallow **canals**, or human-built waterways, that stretched for hundreds of miles. Farmers used fans and small gates to direct water into different fields as needed. The Hohokam irrigation canals were built so well that some of them are still used today.

Hohokam Life

In addition to farming, the Hohokam trapped rabbits, foxes, and birds for food. Hohokam homes were thatched with straw and were partly underground.

The Hohokam made pottery, baskets, cotton clothing, and jewelry. Their jewelry was made with turquoise mined from the desert and shells they received through trading with groups living on the Gulf of California coast. The Hohokam also learned to carve patterns into shells using cactus juice.

Hohokam Civilization Ends

By 1500 the Hohokam culture had faded away. Scientists think wars and crowding probably forced them to move in search of more land. In order to survive, the Hohokam broke up into smaller groups. Today many of their ceremonies are practiced by the Pima and Tohono O'odham peoples of Arizona.

REVIEW Compare the arts of the Hohokam with the arts of the Maya.

Compare and Contrast