The Fall of the Ancestral Pueblo

For 600 years the Ancestral Pueblo enjoyed a rich and powerful civilization. However, by 1300 their cities were vacant, and their trading empire had collapsed. There are many ideas about what brought about the end of their civilization. These include drought, wars, disease, and competition among their communities. After leaving their cities, the Ancestral Pueblo settled in other parts of the Southwest. Their descendants are today's Hopi, Zuni, and other Pueblo peoples.

Some Pueblo peoples continue to live in pueblos of the Ancestral style. Acoma Pueblo, thought to be more than 900 years old, is the oldest occupied town in the United States.

REVIEW What are some of the causes that are believed to have brought an end to the Ancestral Pueblo civilization? *Cause and Effect*

This Ancestral ▶ Pueblo figure is about 1,000 years old.

What You Learned

5.1.1 5.1.3 The Hohokam built a system of irrigation canals that made it possible to farm in the desert.

5.1.1 5.1.2 The Ancestral Pueblo developed a rich culture in the Four Corners region and lived in large apartment buildings on top of mesas and along the sides of cliffs.

Lesson Review

1. Focus Question **5.1.3** What led to the Hohokam and Pueblo becoming civilizations?

2. Vocabulary **5.1.1 5.1.3** Write two paragraphs about how the Hohokam and Ancestral Pueblo lived. Use these words in your writing.
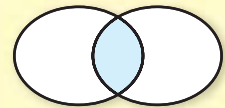
adobe	dry farming
canal	irrigation

3. Culture **5.1.2** What did the Ancestral Pueblo beliefs center around?

4. Critical Thinking **Problem Solving** **5.1.1 5.1.3** How did their dry climate affect how the Hohokam and Ancestral Pueblo farmed?

5. Reading Strategy **Compare** **5.1.1 ELA R2.4 and Contrast** List two ways in which the Maya and the Ancestral Pueblo were similar, and two ways in which they were different.

6. Write about THE BIG IDEA **5.1.1 ELA W1.2** Write about how the Hohokam and Ancestral Pueblo adapted to their environment in order to survive.

7. Link to Language Arts **5.1.2 ELA W1.6** Both the Hohokam and the Ancestral Pueblo adapted to living in their desert environments. Choose a favorite part of the environment where you live and write two descriptive paragraphs or a poem about it. Edit and revise your work. If you wish, illustrate your finished work.

Problem Solving 5.1.1

The first Native Americans faced new problems when they settled in new regions. The Ancestral Pueblo, for example, settled in the dry Southwest. Without enough rain, they could not grow their crops. How could they solve this problem?

VOCABULARY

option
consequence
evaluate

1 Learn It

■ Identify the problem. For the Ancestral Pueblo, the problem was too little water for farming. During the driest summers, crops died, and people faced starvation.

■ Gather information. The Ancestral Pueblo knew that some of their lands had more water than others. They also knew they could bring water from rivers to their fields.

■ Identify the choices. The Ancestral Pueblo had **options** or choices. They could move to a region with more rainfall. They could find ways to water their fields.

■ Think about the options. Every choice, or option, has a **consequence**, or outcome. The Ancestral Pueblo might have been attacked if they moved to new territories. Digging channels to move water to new areas would be difficult.

■ Think about the best solution. The Ancestral Pueblo had to **evaluate**, or judge, each solution. They decided to irrigate their fields. Of all the solutions, this seemed the safest and best choice.

2 Try It

Over time, the Ancestral Pueblo faced a new problem. Enemies began to raid their villages. Use the **Learn It** steps to find a solution.

■ What problem faced the Ancestral Pueblo?

■ What information would have helped them solve the problem?

■ What options might they have had? What might be the consequences of each option?

■ Which option do you think would be the best solution? Explain your choice.

3 Apply It

■ Suppose you want to get people in your community interested in water conservation. What are your options?

■ What are the consequences for each option?

■ Which option do you think will be best? Explain your answer.