

Hopi Life 5.1.1 5.1.2

In addition to being skilled farmers, the Hopi were and still are excellent builders and potters. Like the Ancestral Pueblo, the Hopi built homes out of adobe. They built the first floor of most pueblos without doors or windows, to keep out invaders. To get in and out of their pueblos, people climbed ladders to doors in the roofs. Most pueblo towns had underground kivas for their religious ceremonies.

Hopi Men and Women

Hopi men and women worked together to build pueblos. For other chores, men and women had different jobs. Hopi men farmed, herded sheep, and hunted deer, pronghorn antelope, and elk. In addition, men spun and wove cotton to make clothing and costumes for their religious ceremonies. They also traded the textiles, or fabrics, they had made.

Hopi women gathered nuts and seeds. They were skilled at basket, jewelry, and pottery making. They decorated their art with traditional designs. Some favorite designs included birds, insects, and rain symbols.

Kachina Ceremonies

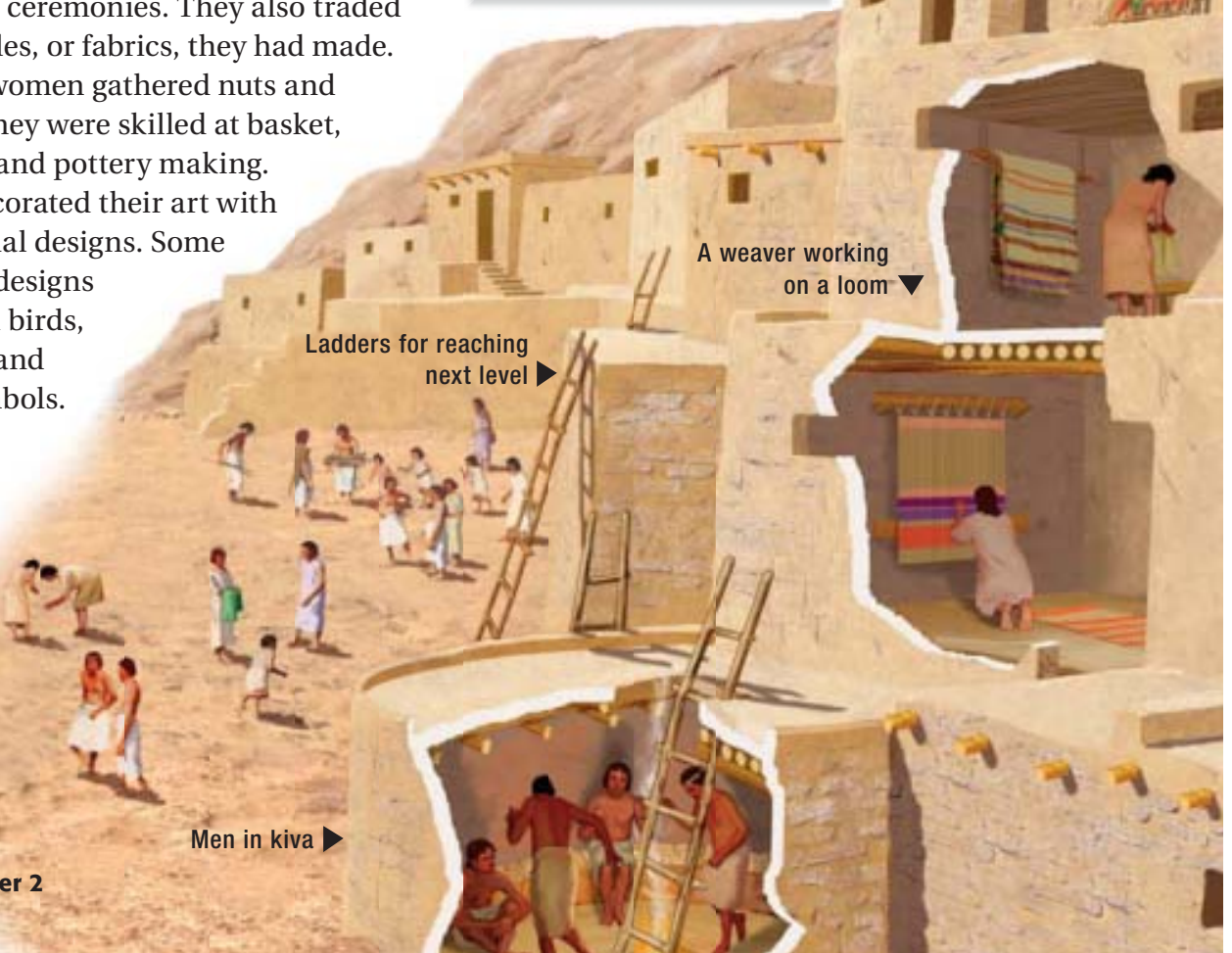
Can a doll be used to teach about important things? The Hopi think so. Adults use different colorful **kachina** (kuh CHEE nuh) dolls to teach Hopi children about their culture, land, and religious beliefs. During the Hopi's famous kachina ceremonies, some kachina dancers give out the colorful wooden dolls to children.

Kachina ceremonies are an important part of the Hopi religion. The kachinas are spirits who

▼ Kachina doll



A Southwest Pueblo



A weaver working on a loom ▼

Ladders for reaching next level ▶

Men in kiva ▶

are believed to visit Hopi villages for half of every year. They are thought to bring rain and help crops grow. They also show people how to live and behave. There are hundreds of different kachinas.

Kachina ceremonies are held during the six months the kachinas are said to dwell in the Hopi villages. Kachina dancers are an important part of the ceremonies. Being a dancer is an honor, and each dancer represents one of the hundreds of

different kachinas. One dancer represents the Crow Mother, the mother of all kachinas. Other dancers represent clowns who follow the kachinas and cause mischief.

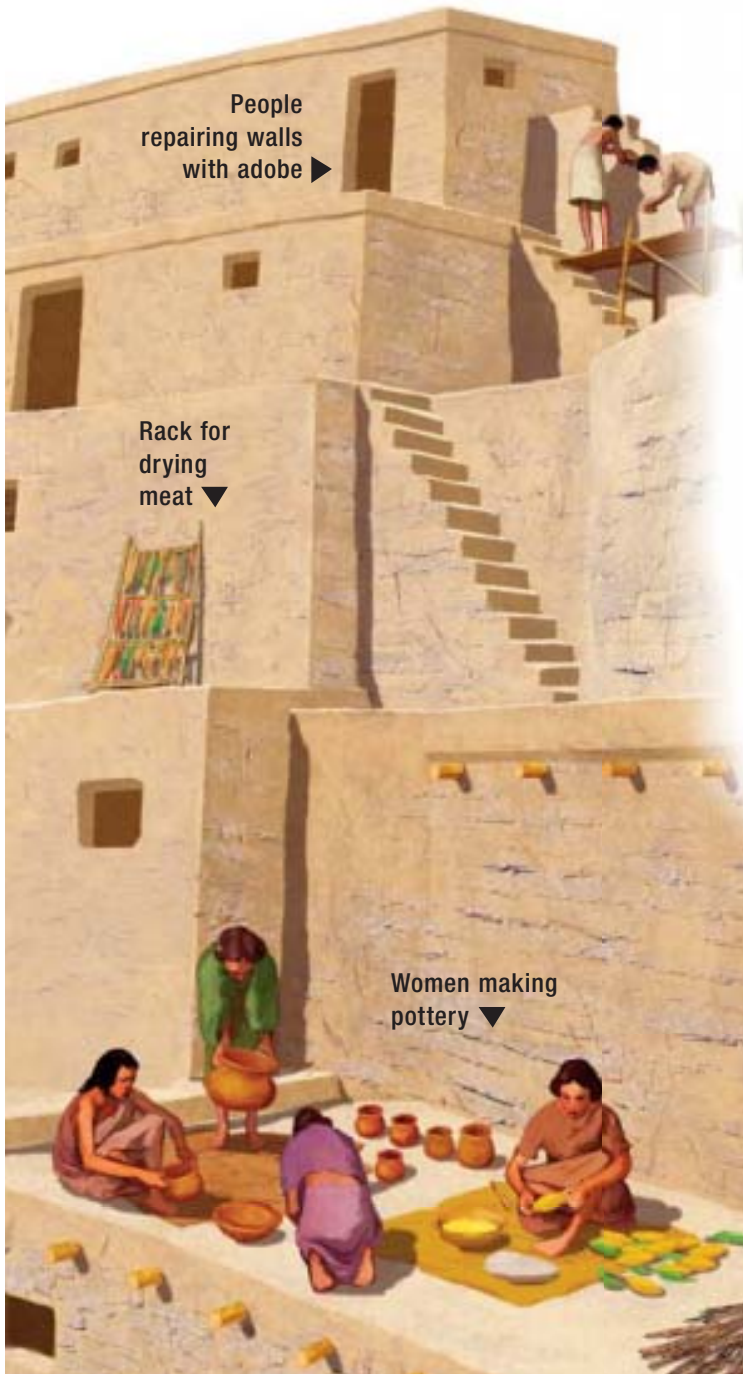
The Pottery of Nampeyo

Art has long been an important part of Hopi daily life. All Pueblo peoples are known for their beautiful pottery. One important Hopi potter was Nampeyo.

As a young girl, Nampeyo watched her grandmother make beautiful pottery. Soon Nampeyo began making her own pottery. In 1895 Nampeyo heard of ancient pottery being uncovered at an archaeological site near her home. When she saw the pottery that had been found there, Nampeyo admired its beauty. She thought the ancient designs were even more beautiful than current designs.

At first, Nampeyo copied the designs she saw. Later, she created her own designs in the ancient style. Determined to spread interest in the traditional Hopi pottery, Nampeyo taught the skill of pottery making to others. Today many Hopi potters carry on Nampeyo's work.

REVIEW Why are kachina ceremonies important to the Hopi people? *Summarize*



People repairing walls with adobe ▶

Rack for drying meat ▼

Women making pottery ▼

Diagram Skill

Why do you think the potters are working outside? **5.1.1**