



▲ The Navajo are skilled weavers.



▲ The Navajo are known for the beautiful jewelry they make.



◀ A Navajo woman weaves on a loom.

The Navajo 5.1.1 5.1.2

The Navajo (NAH vah hoh), or Diné, are the largest group of non-Pueblo people in the Southwest. The Spanish took the word “Navajo” from a Pueblo word. However, the Navajo call themselves Diné, which means “the people.”

Thousands of years ago, the Navajo were hunter-gatherers in present-day Canada and Alaska. The Navajo began to **migrate**, or move, to northern New Mexico in the late 1200s. Today many Navajo live in the Four Corners area, where the states of Utah, Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico meet.

The Navajo borrowed some ideas from their Pueblo neighbors. They used irrigation to grow crops in the dry land. They also wore cotton shirts and made richly dyed blankets. They made fine sandals, jewelry, and pottery.

The Navajo lived in **hogans**. Hogans are dome-shaped homes for one family. They are set far apart and are made

with log or stick frames covered with mud or sod. Traditional hogans have six or eight sides and face east.

Master Shepherds

The Navajo captured sheep from the Spaniards in the 1600s. Sheep became very important to the Navajo. They used every part of the animal. The meat provided food. Weavers made wool into clothes and blankets. Sheepskins were sewn into leather blankets.

“Walking in Beauty”

The Navajo believed in a balance to the Earth that they called *hozho*, or “walking in beauty.” To maintain hozho, the Navajo sing songs or chants. The Navajo song, “JóAshíla,” on the next page, is about balance. It is sung as part of a ceremony to restore balance at home.

REVIEW What kinds of things did the Navajo learn from the Pueblo? *Summarize*

Jó Ashilá

Navajo Song

Navajo: Hee yée' yaa' a', hee yée' yaa' a', Jó a-shí-lá,

jó a-shí-lá, jó a-shí-lá, hee yée' yaa' a',

T'óo-gá ni-zhó-ní-go baa hó-zhó lá, hee ya hée hee ya,

Jó a-shí-lá, jó a-shí-lá, jó a-shí-lá,

Hee yée' yaa' ya', T'óo-gá ni-zhó-ní-go

híí' gá N-dáá' gi béézh ní-áázh lá, hee ya hée hee ya,

T'óo-gá ni-zhó-ní-go N-dáá' gi híí' gá béézh ní-áázh lá,

hee ya hée hee ya', Jó a-shí-lá, jó a-shí-lá,

jó a-shí-lá, hee yée' ya wei yaa' ya'.

Translation: "Jó-Ashilá"

Traveling together, Happy about beauty. It is beautiful that they both came on a horse at the Enemyway.

What makes the singer of Jó Ashilá happy?