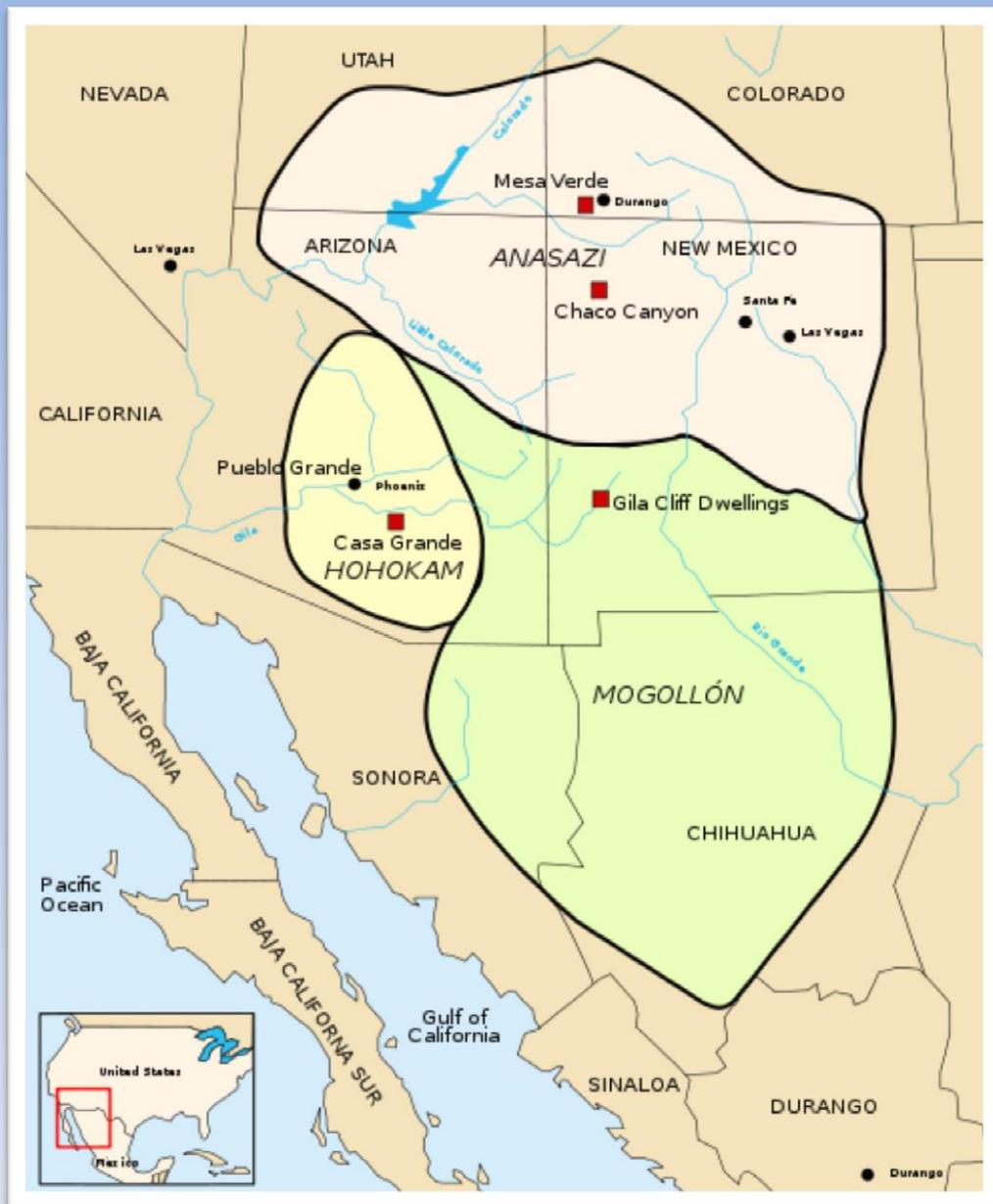




Ancient Cultures of North America



Three groups dominate the oldest period of North American prehistory:

The Hohokam

The Anasazi

The Mound Builders

- *the Adena
- *the Hopewell
- *the Mississippians

Mogollon Culture: Who were they?

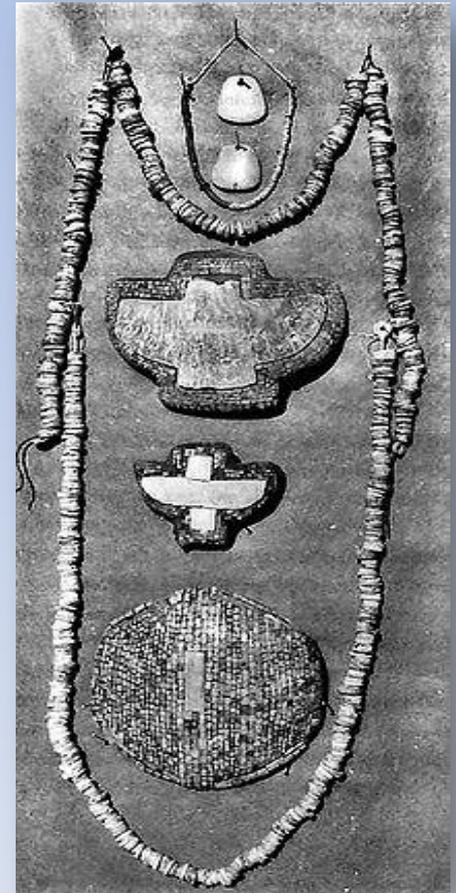
Farmers who lived in rocky cliffs or villages on high plateaus where their crops could be observed.

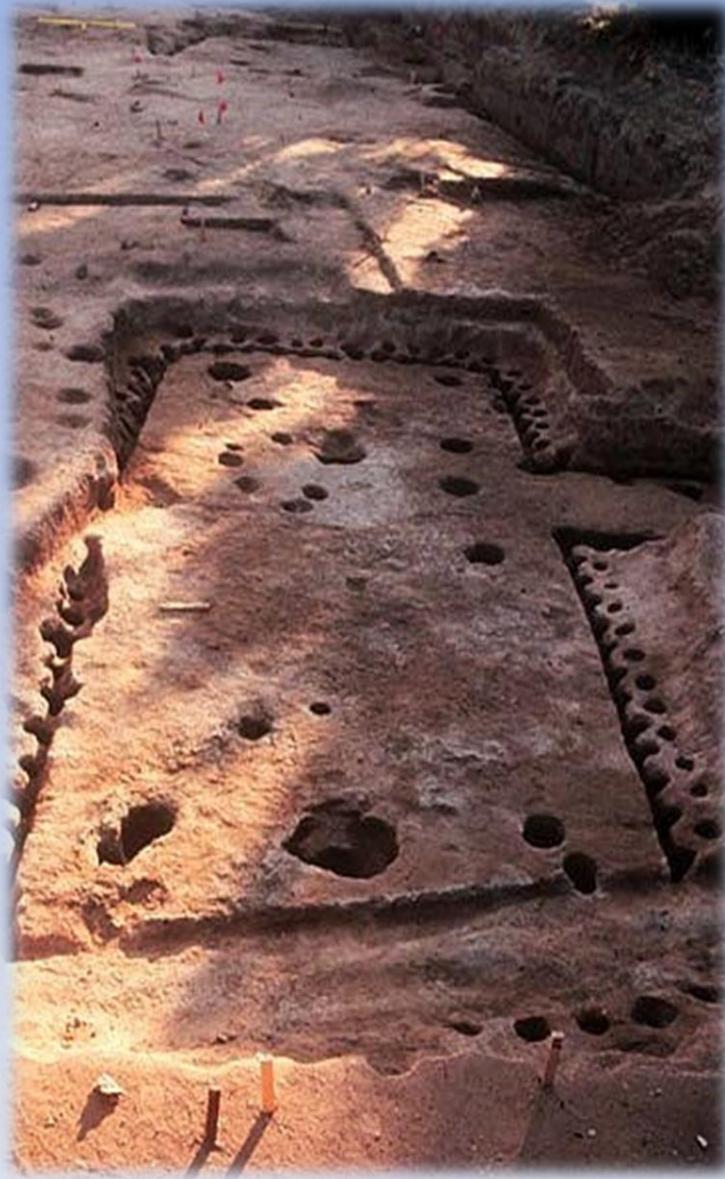
They added products of their hunting and fruit gathering to their crops.

Their culture show some similarities with cultures known as Honokam and Anasazi who lived in the same area almost during the same period.

The Hohokam

- ❑ Possibly originally from Mexico, they built dense sets of adobe houses.
- ❑ They are distinguished by the shape of the public buildings of the largest sites.
- ❑ The evidence of ball games and the platforms they constructed are proof of their unique beliefs and communal hohokam rituals.





The Hohokam were expert farmers of the desert.



With simple tools they developed a system of irrigation canals that stretched between the Gila and Salt rivers, supplying water to their many crops in the arid desert.





Casa Grande is an example of architecture of the largest Hohokam community in the midst of the Gila River Valley.

The most abundant remains of the ancient hohokam are fragments of cream or brown ceramic, with red paint designs, carved stones and snail and shells worked with acid...

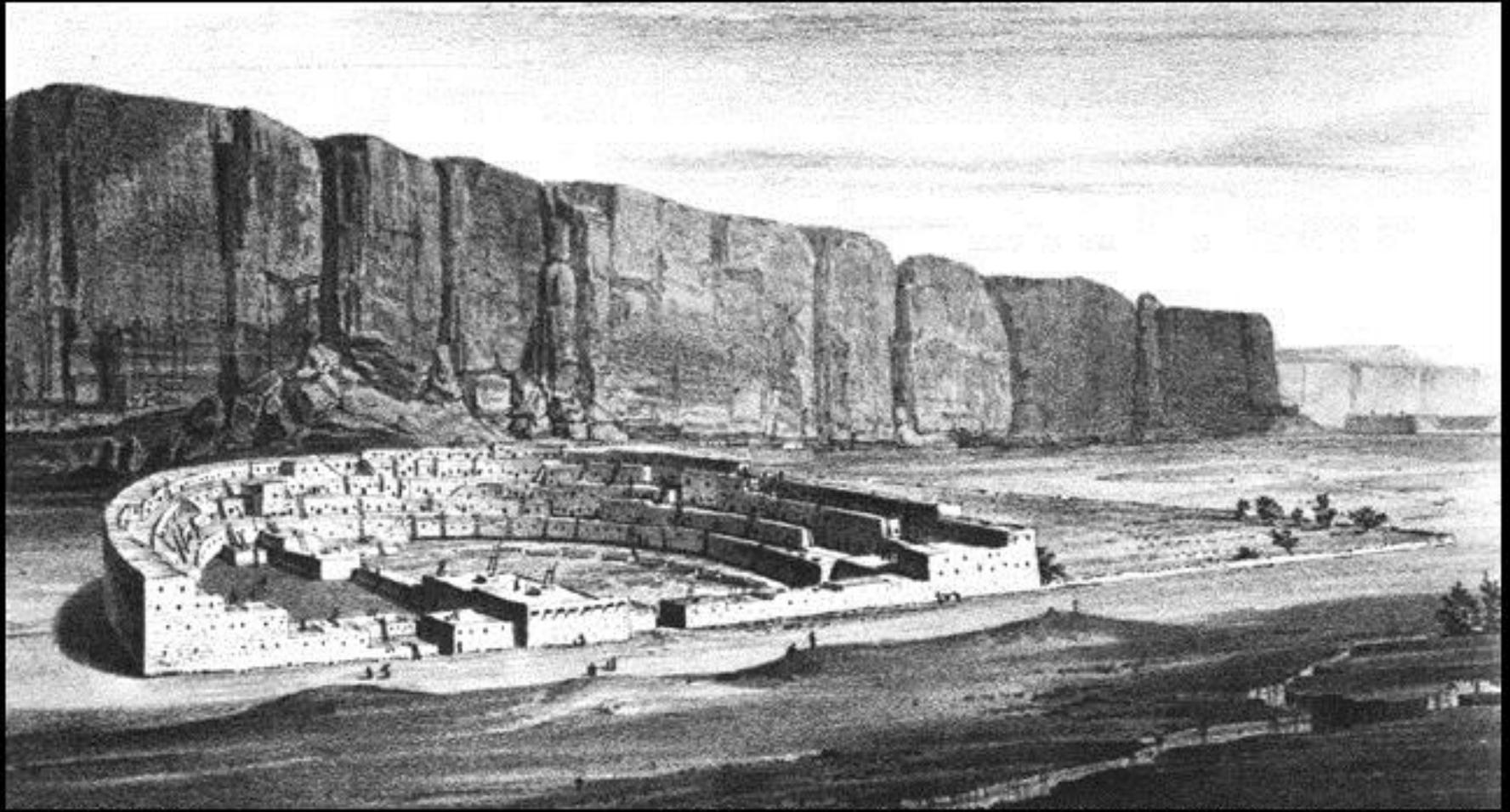


The Anazazi

- ❑ They lived in the region called "**Four Corners**", by the confluence of four States: **Arizona, Utah, Colorado and New Mexico**.
- ❑ Anasazi means "**ancient**" in Navajo.
- ❑ They constructed buildings without support of up to five stories high, containing kivas or ceremonial or burial chambers inside.
- ❑ One of the structures in the archaeological site called **Pueblo Bonito, in the National Park of the Chacos in New Mexico**, contains **800 rooms**.



Pueblo Bonito in Nuevo México



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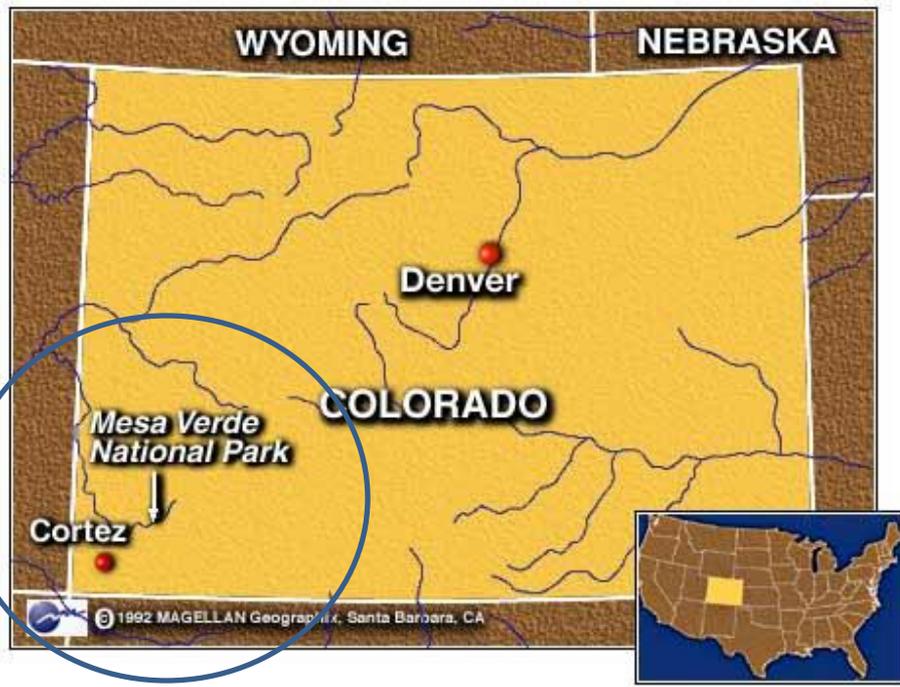
Sketch. Smithsonian Institution National Anthropological Archives.



Ruins of Pueblo Bonito in Nuevo México



Kivas (underground burial chambers) in Pueblo Bonito, Nuevo México.



The buildings and artifacts found are evidence of an advanced civilization that for unknown reasons disappeared.

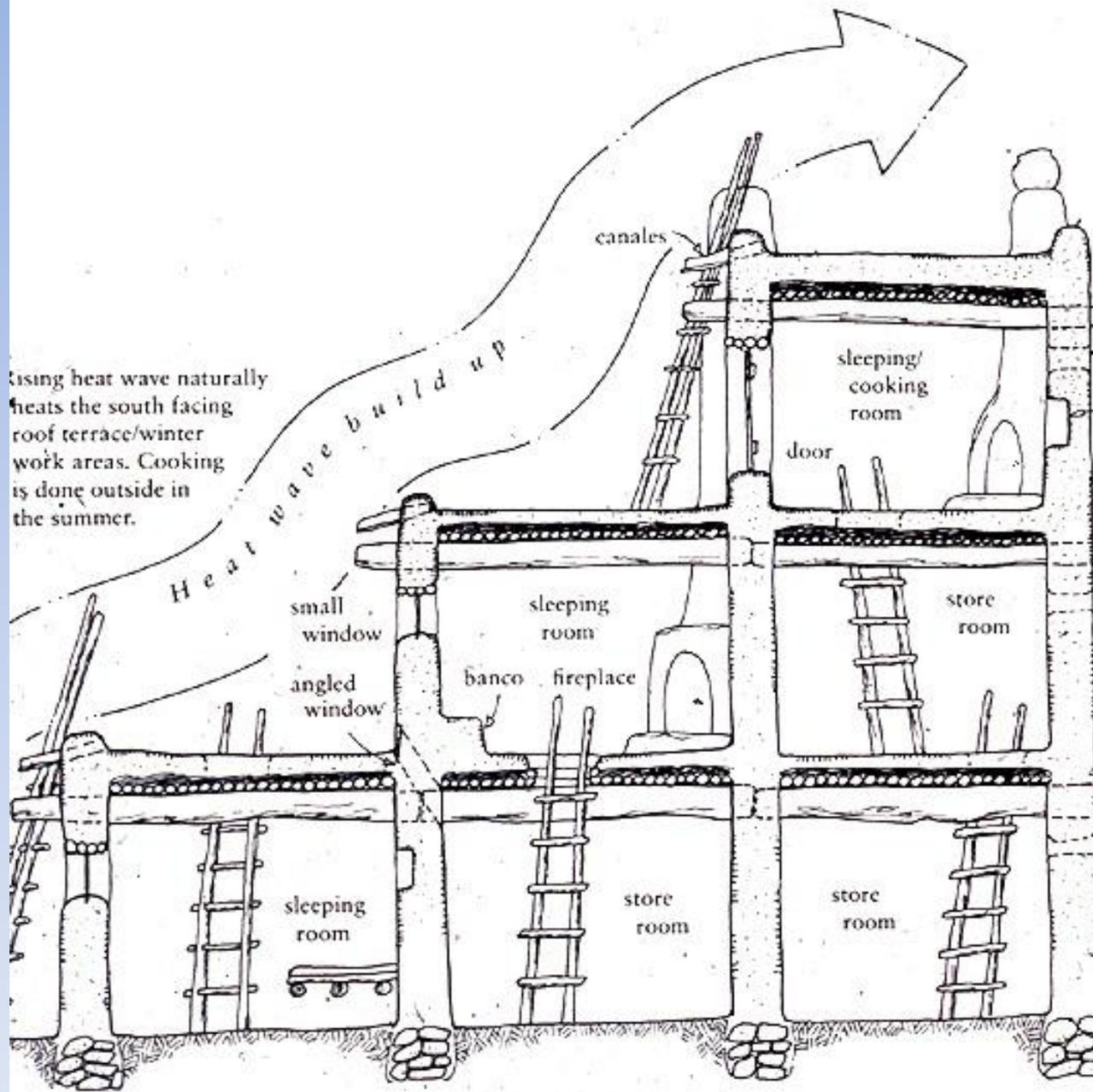
They also built on the canyon walls of the plateaus, as in **Mesa Verde** in **Colorado**.



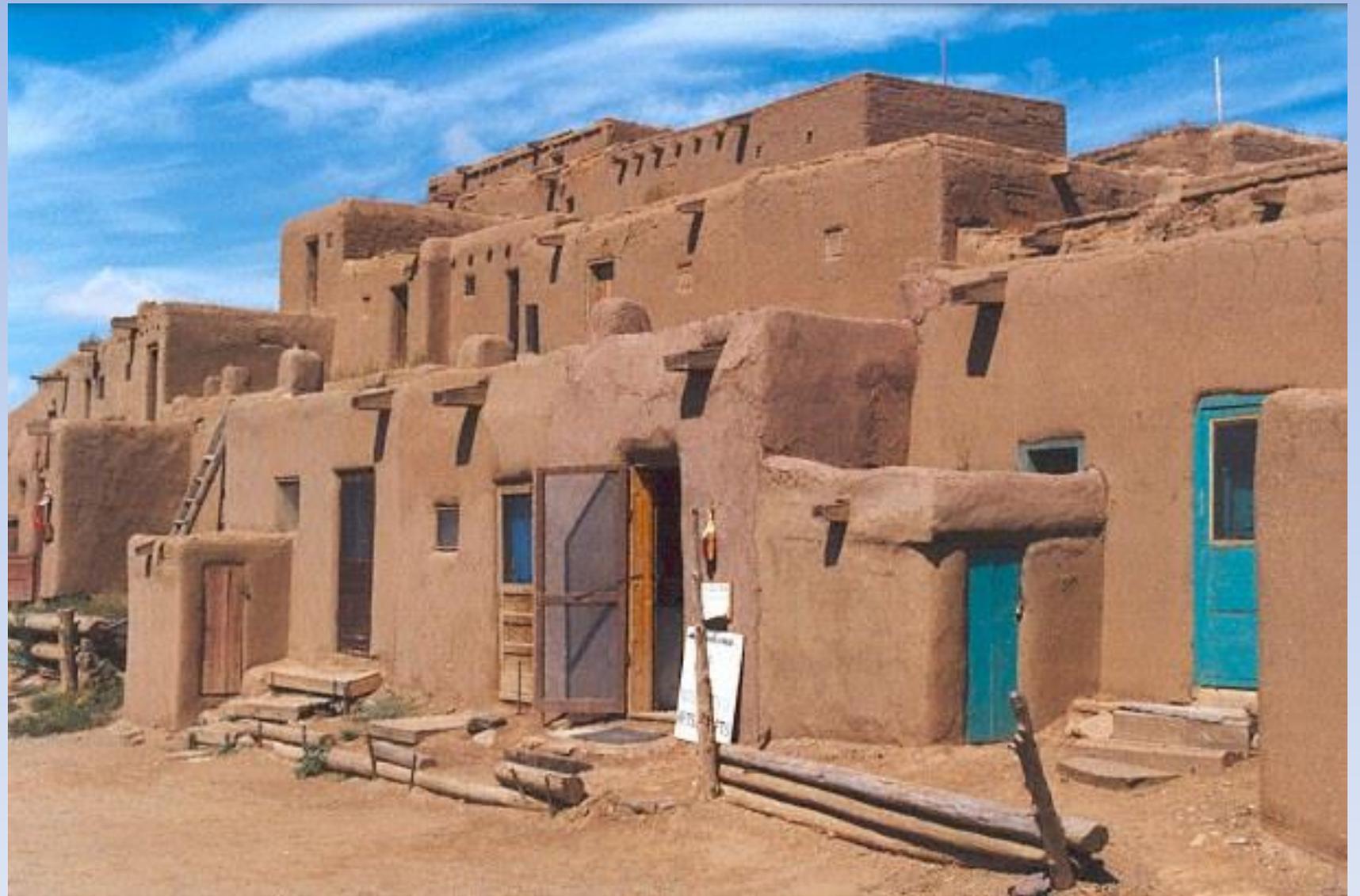


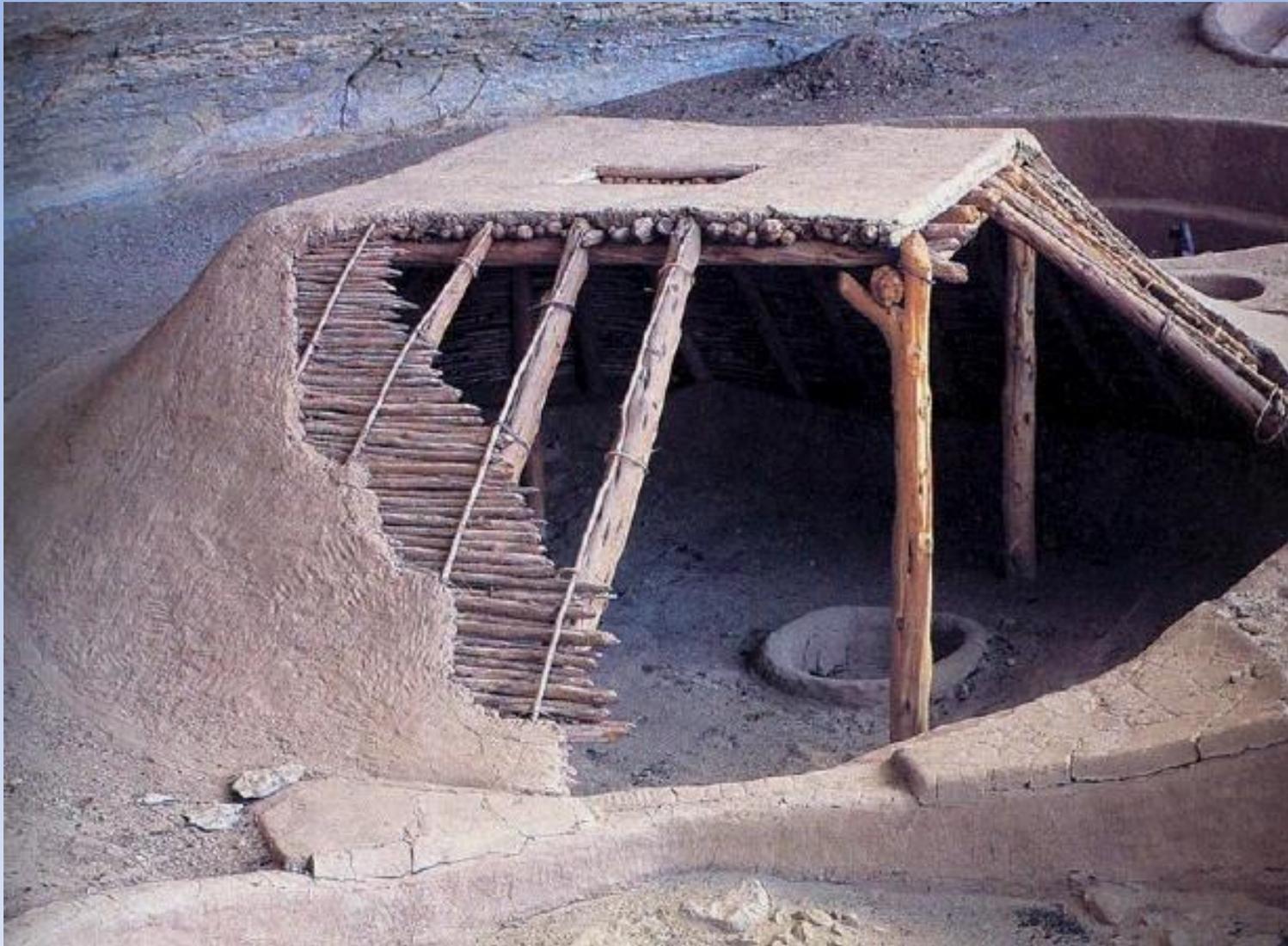
The anasazi built over 600 homes in the canyon walls of Mesa Verde National Park in Colorado. Although small, thousands of people lived in the housing complex.

rising heat wave naturally heats the south facing roof terrace/winter work areas. Cooking is done outside in the summer.

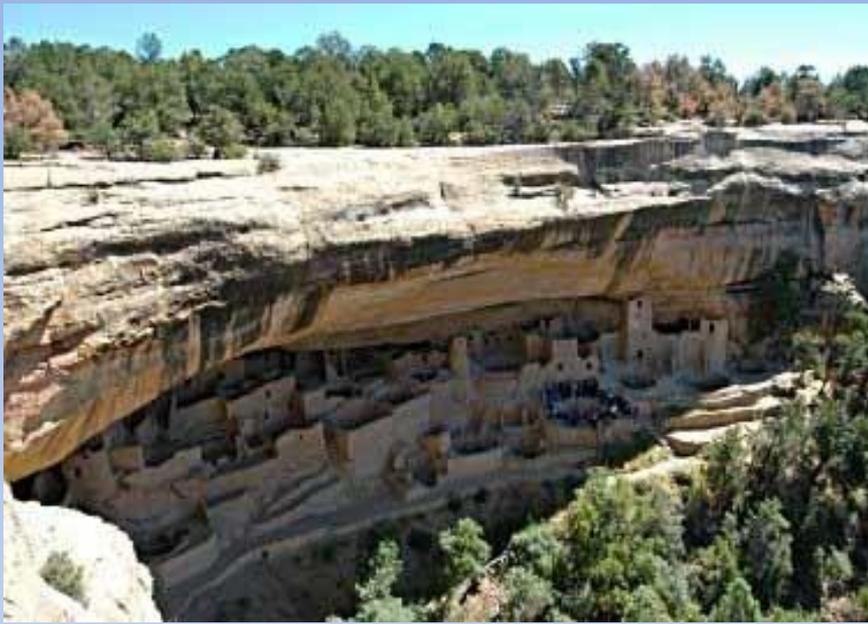


Idealized Pueblo cross section





Reconstruction of a dwelling in Mesa Verde.



Why did the Anasazi disappear?

Rains ceased, and with them the crops that fed them, forcing its people to abandon the complex. The Anasazi abandoned the Chaco Canyon because it did not serve them to survive.



Mound Builders

- ❑ They lived between Pennsylvania and the Mississippi valley between 1000 B.C. and 600 A.D.
- ❑ They built mounds of stone similar to the Mayan and Aztec pyramids with burial chambers and religious temples.
- ❑ The mounds were built on burial sites and contained many artifacts of the indigenous culture.
- ❑ There were three main groups:
the Adena,
the Hopewell
the Mississippians



The Adena

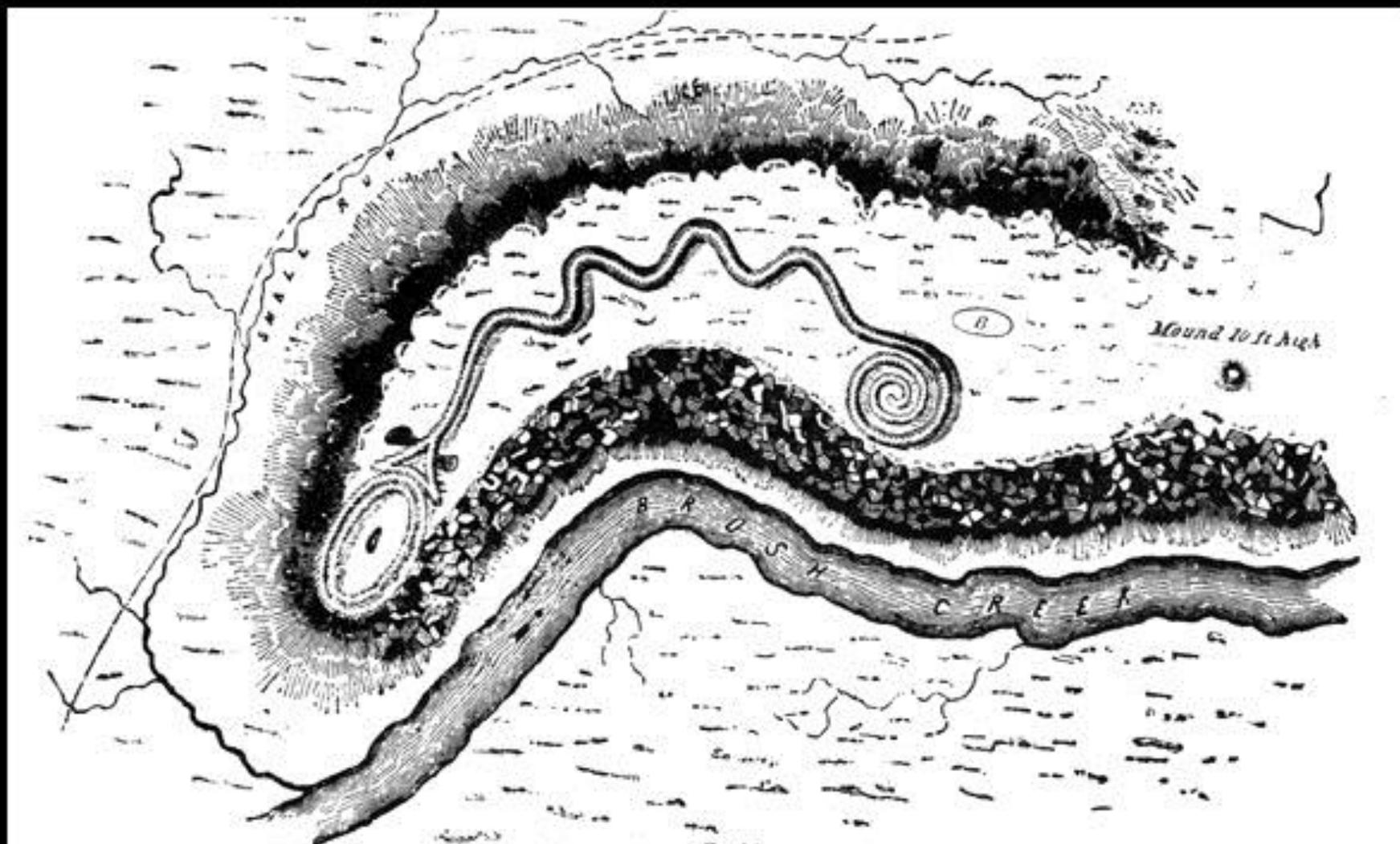
- ❑ They were hunters and gatherers of the region of Ohio and lived between 1000 B.C. and 800 A.D.
- ❑ The population was very tall. There are fossils of women and men measuring nearly seven feet.
- ❑ Mounds were built of mud, without using tools and some measuring 20 to 300 feet in diameter.
- ❑ They lived in smaller societies and built large circular houses.



**Ocmulgee Mound
Adena**



The mounds were monuments that claimed authority over the environment. The most famous is the **Mound of the Great Serpent** that coils and twists along 400 meters at the top of a slope in Ohio.

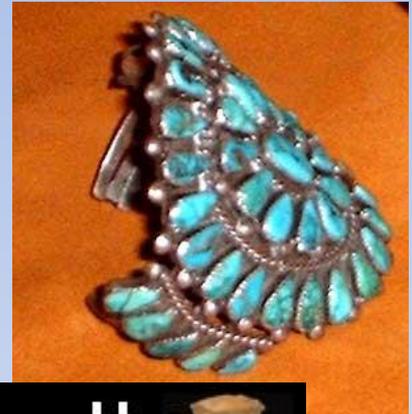


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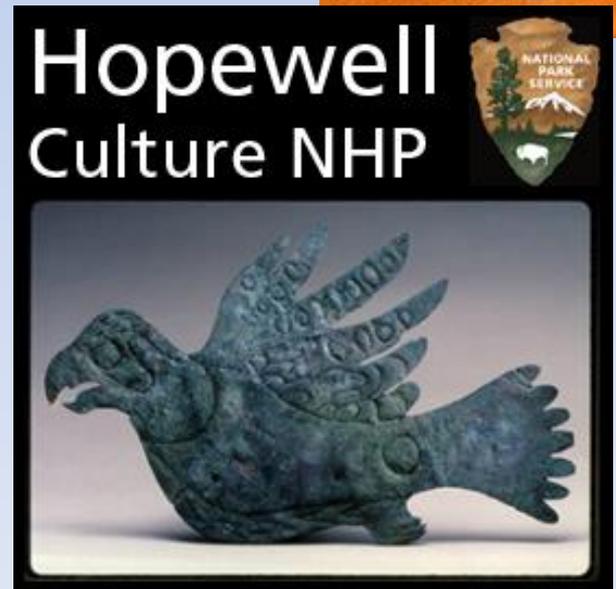
Engraving. Reproduced from Narrative and Crit. Hist. of Amer. by Justin S. Winsor.

They were craftsmen who worked stone, mica, silver, snails, pearls, shark teeth and other materials, which they turned into clothes, necklaces and ceremonial ornaments that were sold to other towns by an extensive road system that they built to link all settlements.

Many decorative pieces and clothing were found in the mounds, which express a high religious sense.



Sculpted mica hand , by the Hopewell Culture.



The Mississippians

Their culture lasted until 1300 A.d.

Its territory stretched from the Mississippi River Valley to Alabama, Georgia and the Florida peninsula.

They built the tallest structure in North America, the **Monk's Mound** in Cahokia, Illinois.



You tube: Pyramids on the Mississippi River (Cahokia state park)



Monk's Mound in Cahokia, Illinois



They built large circles of Cedar poles to make astronomical observations.

They were very skilled bow and arrow hunters.

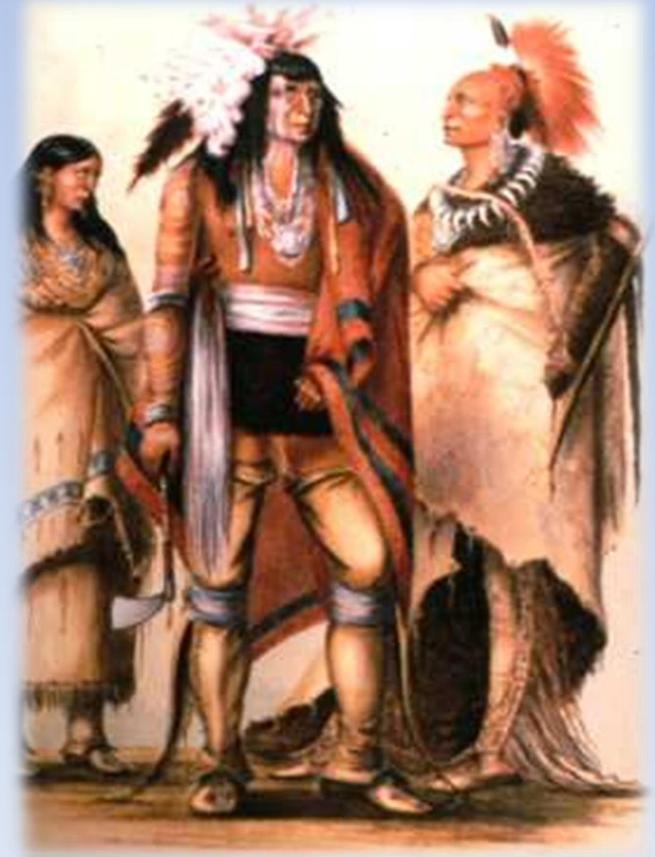
The Falcon and the Jaguar were common symbols in their art, and are related to some cultural groups of Mexico, which they probably copied.



The civilizations of the Hohokam, the Anasazi and the Mounds Builders gradually disappeared. Other cultures appeared in their place that developed lifestyles adapted to their environment.



At the arrival of the first Europeans, North America was home to hundreds of different tribal societies.



HOMELANDS



NORTHWEST COAST

CREATION

INUIT

TRADE

ODAWA

LAKOTA

WAMPANOAG

NEZ PERCE

WOUNDED KNEE

HAUDENOSAUNEE

ATTACK ON CULTURE

CHEYENNE

SHAWNEE

DINE



CAHOKIA

POWHATAN

CHUMASH

ANASAZI

KIOWA

CHEROKEE

APACHE

SOUTHEAST

TAINO

AZTEC

MAYA

LIVING NATIONS

TRIBES OF THE INDIAN NATION

