

The Pottery Village Site

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Age: age 5 and up

Objectives: Provides an introduction to cultures, pottery types, and pot sherds.

Materials: pot design handouts; colored markers; blunt-ended scissors; sandwich-sized zip-lock baggies; table; chairs

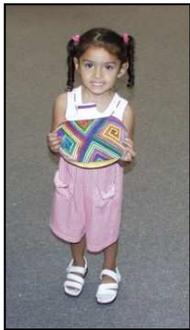


Preparation: Photocopy a sufficient quantity of each of the handouts onto cardstock.

Number of volunteers: 1 volunteer to every 4–6 children

Procedure: Visitors to this station select a handout illustrating one of the pot designs. Children color the designs, coloring book-style, then cut around the outside edge of the pot to remove the excess paper. The information about the pot should be clipped from the corner and inserted into a plastic baggie. The pot should then be cut into pieces. Participants should cut the pot into no more than 10 pieces, to begin with. (The more pieces that are cut, the more difficult the puzzle will be.)

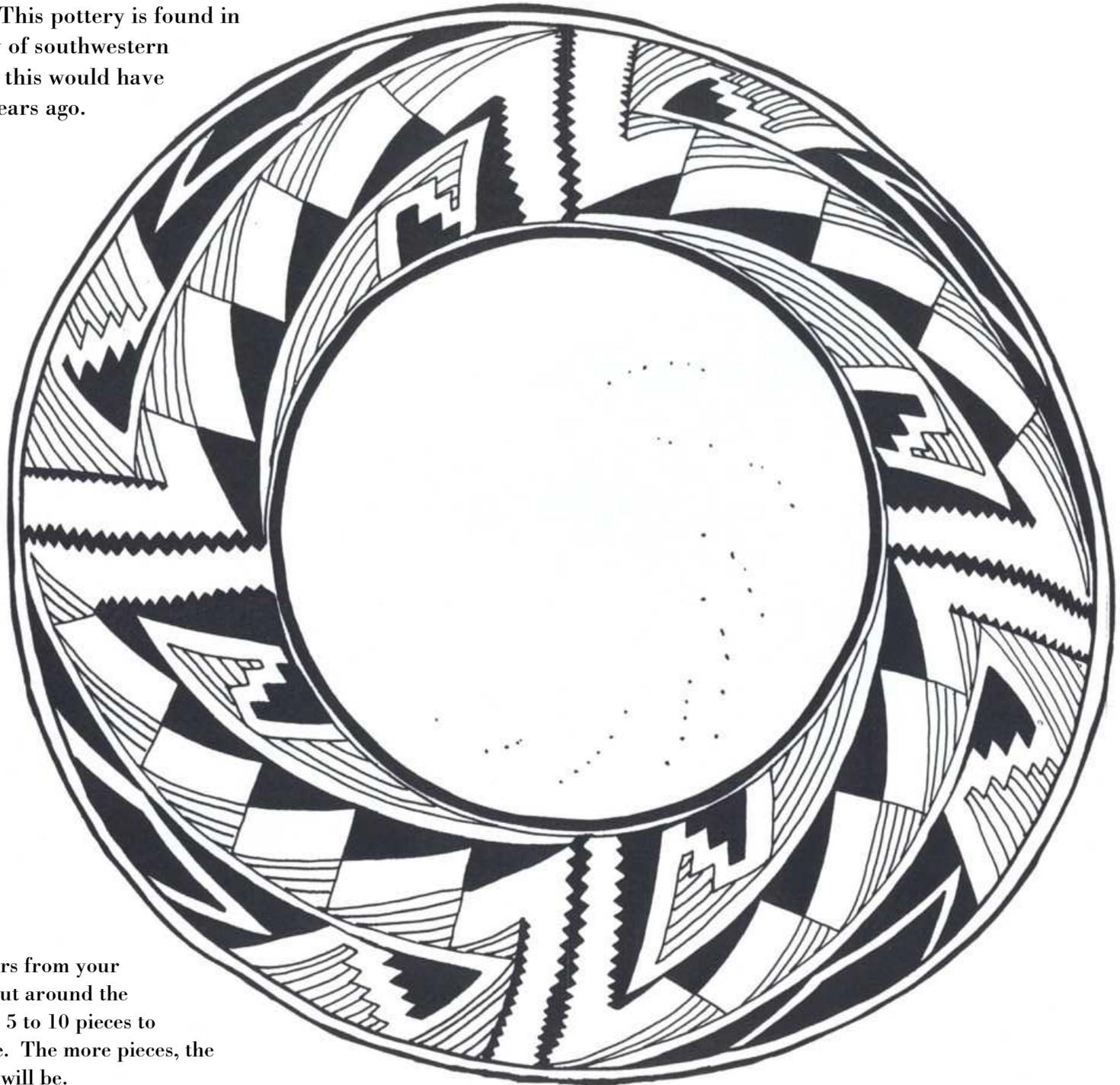
Once the pot is “shattered” into potsherds, participants may exchange pots and try to put someone else’s together. To complicate matters, they can remove one piece before trying to put the pot together.



What they take away: Each person gets to take their puzzle and the information about the pot and the culture that made it home with them in a zip-lock bag.

Preservation message: Illustrates the loss of information that occurs when people remove an artifact from context.

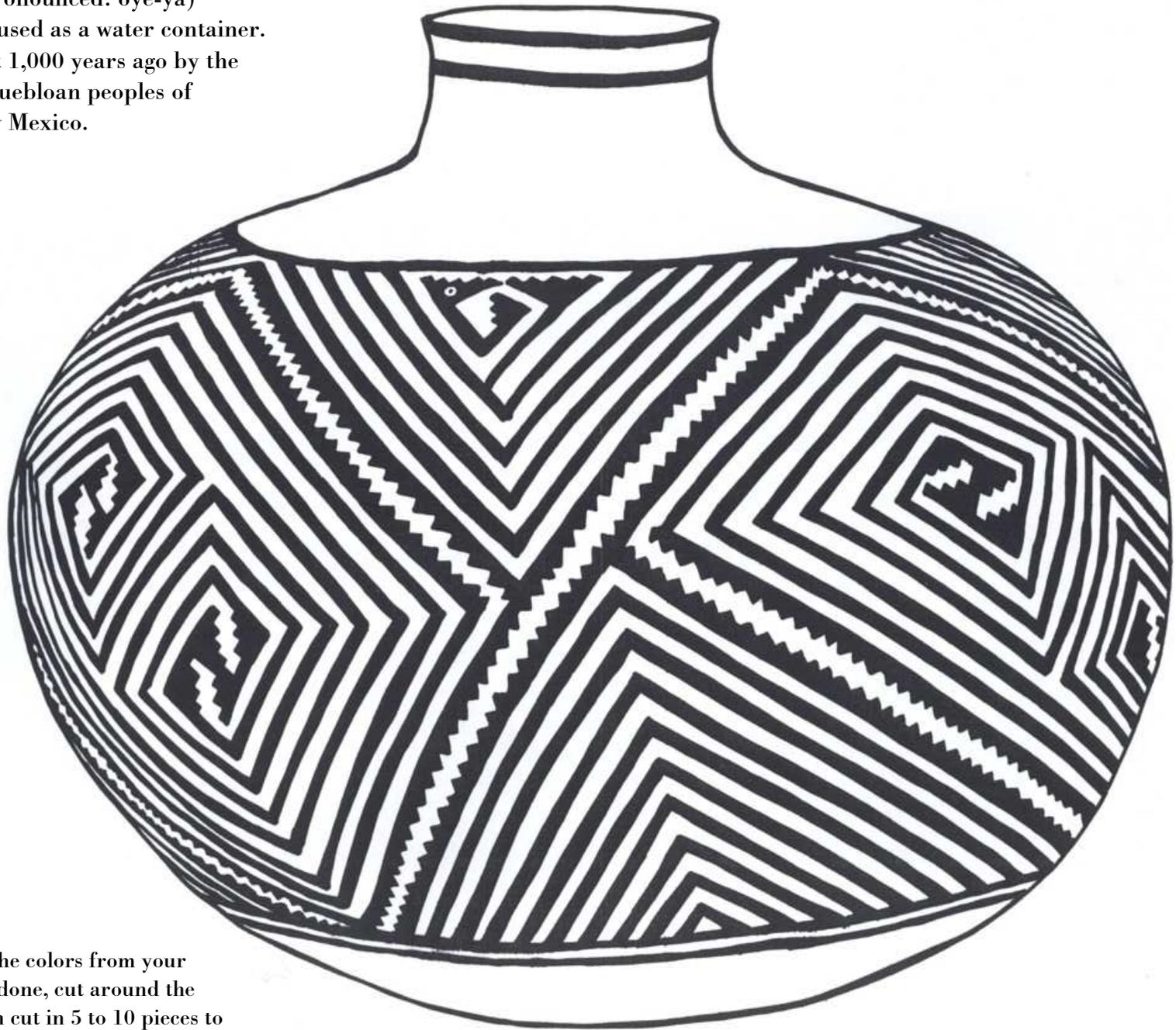
This is a Mimbres bowl. This pottery is found in the Mimbres River valley of southwestern New Mexico. A bowl like this would have been made about 1,000 years ago.



The Pot Puzzle

Color the pot with the colors from your imagination. When done, cut around the edge of the pot, then cut in 5 to 10 pieces to create your own pot puzzle. The more pieces, the more difficult your puzzle will be.

This is an olla. (pronounced: oye-ya)
It may have been used as a water container.
It was made about 1,000 years ago by the
ancestors of the Puebloan peoples of
northwestern New Mexico.



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