

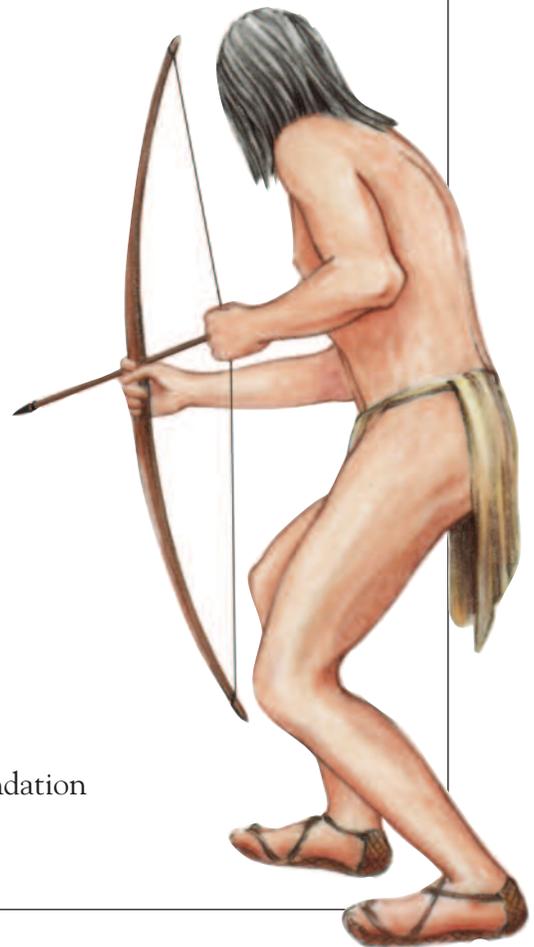


# SUBSISTENCE STRATEGIES

IN MIDDLE TO LATE  
PRECONTACT ARIZONA

Lesson Plan for Grades 4-7

**Teacher's Materials**  
Vocabulary



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# VOCABULARY

**agave**—a plant that grows in dry environments, it has long, spiny, sword-shaped leaves and grows a tall flowering stem. Native peoples gather agave, cut off the sharp leaves and cook the center “heart” of the plant for food. The fiber from the leaves is used for weaving and making twine and thread.

**agriculture**—the cultivation of domesticated plants such as corn, beans, and squash, as primary sources of food; agriculture refers to the practice of cultivating soil, producing crops; farming.

**amaranth**—a plant that produces small seeds that look like poppy seeds, high in protein.

**Anasazi**—an archaeological term for the people living in the Four Corners region of the Southwestern United States; the term Ancestral Puebloan or Ancestral Pueblo People is now considered more appropriate and used instead of the term Anasazi.

**ancestor**—a person from whom one is descended; a past relative who is no longer alive.

**Ancestral Puebloan**—people living in the Four Corners region of the Southwestern United States during the Formative time period; also called the Anasazi.

**archaeologist**—a scientist who studies past people.

**archaeology**—the method for studying past human cultures based on the materials they left behind.

**Archaic (time) period**—the time period after the Paleoindian time period and before the Formative time period; from approximately 8,000 years ago until about 2,000 years ago.

**artifact**—an object that has been made, or used, by humans.

**bargaining**—making the best price or trade.

**basic needs**—food, water, and shelter; the three things that human beings need to survive.

**bison**—buffalo; *Bison antiquus* was a large ancient type of bison that is now extinct.

**bosque**—a small wooded area along a river or marsh.

**chronology**—an arrangement of events in time; a record of events in the order in which they occurred.

**Colorado Plateau**—the geographic area covering an area of the Southwestern United States in southwestern Colorado, northern Arizona, northwest New Mexico and southeastern Utah.

**cultivated**—grown by people; with regard to farming, cultivated preparation of soil in order to successfully grow plants.

**culture**—the set of learned beliefs, values, styles, and behaviors generally shared by members of a human society or group.

**data**—information, especially information organized for analysis.

**devil's claw**—a plant that grows a black pod, the fiber from the pod is used for weaving.

**domesticated**—plants or animals trained or adapted to live in a human environment and to be of use to humans.

**drought**—a lack of rain over a long period of time.

**Euroamerican**—people whose family or ancestors came to America from Europe.

**extinct**—no longer existing, no longer alive.

**foraging**—the act of gathering food and other resources.

**Formative (time) period**—the time period when a major commitment to agriculture (farming) , combined with the use of pottery containers and sedentary living co-occurred and persisted; from approximately 2,000 years ago to the present.

**game**—wild animals hunted by people.

**geographic**—of or relating to the science of geography; concerning the earth's landforms and its physical characteristics.

**grinding stone**—usually a flat stone (“metate”) on which grains or grasses are crushed and ground with a hand stone (“mano”).

**gourd**—a fruit that grows on a vine; it has a tough rind, is not edible, but when dried the hard outside rind can be used as a container.

**hearth**—a fire pit.

**Hohokam**—an O'odham word meaning “those who have gone” used by archaeologists to refer to the people who lived in the Sonoran Desert area of southern Arizona between approximately A.D. 1–1400.

**hunter-gatherers**—people who hunt wild game and gather wild plants for their food. Most hunter-gatherers are nomadic. Some hunter-gatherers follow a seasonal pattern to hunt and gather foods and other resources that they need to survive.

**irrigation agriculture**—a type of farming that requires a deliberate application of water from rivers, springs, or wells.

**knowledge**—an understanding of a topic or thing.

**lifeways**—ways of living that are typical to a culture.

**mammoth**—extinct elephant-like animal that once roamed the North American continent.

**mano**—a hand stone that is used on a metate for grinding.

**manta**—a type of sleeveless dress worn by Pueblo women, usually draped over one shoulder only.

**metate**—a grinding stone that forms the base, used with a hand stone or mano for grinding grains, grasses, or paints.

**migration**—movement from one place to another place, changing locations.

**Mogollon**—an archaeological term for the people who lived in the mountainous area of eastern Arizona and west and southern New Mexico between approximately A.D. 1–1400.

**Native American**—another term for American Indian.

**nomadic**—people who move with the seasons in search of food and resources.

**olla**—a big pottery jar used to hold water or to store food.

**Paleoindians**—the first peoples who lived on the continents now called North and South America.

**Paleoindian (time) period**—the time period when people first lived on the continents now called North and South America; from at least 12,000 years ago until about 8,000 years ago.

**Patayan**—an archaeological term for a nomadic hunting and gathering people who lived in the western desert areas of Arizona between approximately A.D. 1–1400.

**pit house**—a house that is built by digging an oval or rectangular hole in the ground somewhat larger than the size of a room; has wooden posts, beams, and brush covered by mud. Some pit houses have ladders through the roof to enter, others have doors on the side of the house.

**porridge**—a soft cooked cereal made from grain.

**precontact**—the period of human experience prior to written records; see prehistoric.

**prehistoric**—the period of human experience prior to written records; in the Americas, prehistory refers to the period before Europeans and their writing systems arrived.

**pueblo**—apartment-style houses used by precontact people on the Colorado Plateau and by Pueblo peoples today; small village or place of residence.

**ramada**—an outdoor covered patio; a sun-shade.

**relationship**—a connection between peoples.

**sacred**—special or religious.

**sedentary**—remaining in one place.

**Sinagua**—a word meaning, “without water” and the archaeological term for the early agricultural people who lived in the Verde Valley and the area near Flagstaff between approximately A.D. 1–1400.

**site**—a place where human activities took place and material evidence of these activities was left behind.

**subsistence**—way of life based on how people get food, water, and shelter.

**territory**—an area of land under the control of, or traditionally used by, a people or person.

**timeline**—a visual representation of events in chronological order.

**tumpline**—a woven cloth or animal hide strap that is used to help support heavy loads on a person’s back, the tumpline is worn across the forehead.

**yucca**—a desert plant that has long sword-like sharp-edged pointy leaves. The fibers in the leaves are used for weaving. Some varieties have fruit and flowers that can be eaten. The root of the yucca contains a soapy material that was used as a shampoo by many Native Americans in the past.