



The Desert Speaks

#905 Ancient Culture
Enduring Architecture
Teacher Information Sheet

Program Description

Come visit the Chaco Culture National Historical Park in northwest New Mexico. Follow along with a professional and amateur archeologist as they take a look at the culture of the ancient inhabitants of this beautiful area through their architecture, rock art and migratory patterns. The native culture of the Chacoan people of this region extended for more than 100 miles, yet how the society vanished is still a mystery to this day. The two archeologists explore various theories for the disappearance of an entire society of people.

Background Information

Chaco Canyon was a major center of Pueblo Indian culture between A.D. 850 and 1250. It is remarkable for its buildings and unique architecture. In this episode of *Desert Speaks* students will view the remains of this culture including the buildings, roads and ancient pictographs and petroglyphs. For more information on this ancient people, visit the related web sites below.

Teaching Tips

1. Discuss vocabulary words
2. Introduce the episode by giving a brief summary of the program and telling students what information you would like for them to gain from viewing the program.
3. Review the information on the viewing sheet prior to watching the episode.
4. Allow time at the conclusion of the program for discussion and the completion of the viewing sheet.
5. Investigate the related web sites listed below.

Vocabulary Words

- archaeologist a scientist who studies historic or prehistoric people and their cultures
- kiva a large chamber in a Pueblo Indian village often wholly or partly underground used for religious ceremonies and other purposes
- excavate to expose or lay bare
- pre-history human history in the period before recorded events, known mainly through archeological discoveries, study or research
- evolve to develop gradually
- pictograph a painting or drawing on a rock wall or cliff made by ancient or prehistoric people
- petroglyph a prehistoric carving or etching on a rock, cliff or boulder

Related Web Sites

Chaco Culture National Historical Park, New Mexico

www.chaco.com/park

Chaco Culture National Historical Park

www.nps.gov/chcu/home.htm

Culture National Historical Park

www.desertusa.com/chaco/chaco_des.html

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Student Viewing Sheet

Fill in the blanks with information provided in the video.

1. Chaco Canyon is located in the _____ Basin.
2. Chacoan culture is a part of the larger _____ culture.
3. Farming people first came to Chaco because they were looking for somewhere that was wet and _____ .
4. The building of _____ allowed the Chacoans to build buildings up to 5 stories high.
5. Chacoan Great Houses were built with a classic _____ shape.
6. The Chacoan ruins show that _____ than one group of people built in the area.
7. Great Houses were built using large wooden _____ .
8. Record keeping was done by creating _____ on the walls.
9. Red and yellow _____ were used to paint the pictographs on the rocks.
10. The Chacoan roads were bordered by _____ and had _____ cut in the center to separate them.
11. By using up all of the wood in the area, the Chicoans created a problem with _____.

Word Bank

One word will be used more than once

* oxide * D * beams * erosion * walls * grooves *
* more * Anisosi * San Juan * pictures *
* warmer *

Vocabulary

Fill in the blanks with words used in *Enduring Architecture* and then search for those words in the Word Find.

- _____ to expose or lay bare
- _____ a prehistoric carving or etching on a rock, cliff or boulder
- _____ a scientist who studies historic or prehistoric people and their cultures
- _____ to develop gradually
- _____ a large chamber in a Pueblo Indian village often wholly or partly underground used for religious ceremonies and other purposes
- _____ a painting or drawing on a rock or cliff made by ancient or prehistoric people
- _____ big boxes with wooden planks upon which the Chicanos danced to make a loud booming noise
- _____ used to create light inside a kiva

Chaco Canyon



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Answer Key

Fill in the Blanks

1. San Juan Basin
2. Anisosi
3. warmer
4. walls
5. D
6. more
7. beams
8. pictures
9. oxide
10. walls; grooves
11. erosion

Vocabulary

1. excavate
2. petroglyph
3. archeologist
4. evolve
5. kiva
6. pictograph
7. foot drum
8. fire box