

Pueblo Grande Museum and Archaeological Park

Hohokam

Discovery guide

The Ancient Hohokam

The Hohokam were a farming people who lived in central and southern Arizona and northern Mexico from approximately A.D. 1 to 1450. Their name comes from the Pima Indian (Akimel O'odham) word for "those who have gone." A creative and industrious people, the Hohokam turned the arid desert of the Salt and Gila River valleys and other areas of southern Arizona into lush green farmlands and thriving villages. One of those villages is the site of Pueblo Grande, preserved as a City of Phoenix museum and archaeological park.

Assignment...

This fun guide will help you learn about the Hohokam. You will discover the secrets to surviving in the desert. Explore the ancient mound and ballcourt. Investigate the housing structures and what plants these successful farmers grew!

Name: _____ Date: _____

Have Fun and enjoy Your Visit!

PART A:

Visit the Theater 10 Minutes – Orientation Video

1. Approximately how many people were supported at one time by the canal system constructed by the Hohokam?
2. What kind of items did the Hohokam obtain through trade? Where did they go to get these items?
3. The mound site at Pueblo Grande Museum is believed to have had several functions, both ceremonial and practical, in the Hohokam society. Name and describe one possible function of the mound site.
4. What do you think happened to the Hohokam?

PART B

Viewing the Museum Exhibits

“Landscapes & Lifeways”

THE HOHOKAM CANAL SYSTEM AND MAP

1. Name and describe at least one tool that the Hohokam used to dig the canals.

2. Pueblo Grande was not the only Hohokam site in the Salt River Valley. Find at least one other site on the map that would also have served as an “urban” center for the Hohokam. Why do you think these sites were important for survival? (Hints: location of canals, flow of river, etc.)

TIME LINE: "CENTURIES OF CHANGE"

3. What type of housing was used earliest by the Hohokam?

4. Name one kind of pottery made during the Classic period. Draw or describe some of the differences between the pottery throughout the time line.

PAINTING: THE HOHOKAM MURAL

5. Describe some activities depicted in the mural. What time of year do you think this mural is representing? Why?

6. The Hohokam depended on the water of the Salt River, which once flowed year-round. Describe some of the ways they may have used the river for their survival.

PART C

Main Exhibit Gallery

“The Land And The People”

SONORAN DESERT

1. What are some of the animals the Hohokam may have used for food?

2. What kind of native plants would the Hohokam have used for building shelter and making tools?

DESERT FARMER

3. Name a few plants that the Hohokam grew and used for food or to make clothing.

CANAL BUILDERS

4. What is stratigraphy?

HOHOKAM KITCHEN

5. Describe special tools that would have been used to grind food, cut meat, chop wood, etc.

6. Draw a picture of a pot that would have been used in the kitchen. Pots used for special occasions may have had intricate designs painted on them. Do you think the designs had meaning?

ARTS AND ARTISANS

7. Jewelry may have been used as a symbol of wealth or for ceremonial occasions. Name some materials that would have been used to make jewelry.

8. Not many textile fragments, such as clothing or blankets, are found in archaeological sites. What is one way an archaeologist can determine the patterns that were used in common textiles?

SET IN STONE

9. What are the two types of rock art? Give some possible explanations for why rock art was created.

PART D

Let's go for a walk on the RUIN TRAIL

The Platform Mound Ruin

MOUNDS OF EARTH (Find this sign.)

1. Why do you think the mound was built? How do you think the Hohokam entered this mound site?

THE PUEBLO GRANDE MOUND (Find this sign.)

2. How much fill was needed to build the mound?

SKYGAZING (Find this sign.)

3. Why was skygazing so important to the Hohokam? Do you think that this would have been a fun activity? A sacred activity, perhaps?

PART E

The Hohokam Houses

"Doorways To The Past"

COMPOUND HOUSES

1. What does the word "compound" mean?

2. Do you recognize any native plants that were used to construct this home? How far would you have to go to collect this material?

3. Compare the pithouse and the compound house. What things are similar? What things are different? Why do you think the Hohokam changed the way they built houses?

PITHOUSES

4. Can you guess why this style of home is called a pithouse?

5. How many people do you think lived in a house this size?

6. Look at the house arrangements. Who do you think lived in the other houses? Why were the houses built so close together?

THE BALLCOURT

7. What kind of ball game do you think was played here? Why do you think the Hohokam played this game?

THE GARDEN: NATIVE CROPS

8. Name some of the crops that the Hohokam planted.

9. Cotton was an important trade item for the Hohokam. Why?