



Native American Traditions

POTTERY FROM THE PUEBLOS

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CULTURES OF THE PUEBLOS

Paleo-Indian (pre-10,000 to 6500 B.C.).

Small bands hunted large game such as mammoth and bison and gathered wild plants. Population density was very low. Artifacts are scarce, but include distinctive, well-made spear points.

Archaic (6500 to 1500 B.C.).

Hunters and gatherers moved seasonally, using natural shelters and temporary structures. The atlatl and dart were the principal weapons. Woven materials were made, but there is no evidence of pottery during this period.

Basketmaker (1500 B.C. to A.D. 750).

Domesticated plants were added to the hunting and gathering subsistence. Farming (corn, beans, and squash) meant that people began to settle in one place and build more permanent shelters, called pit houses. Elaborate basketry developed, as did plain pottery. The bow and arrow began to be used at the end of the Basketmaker period.

Pueblo I (A.D. 750 to 900).

Large Pueblo I communities formed in some areas, although dispersed settlements continued. Houses had surface blocks of storage and living rooms and deep pit structures with ventilation shafts which may have been used ceremonially. Buildings were constructed of wood and adobe or of crude masonry. Plain and banded gray pottery is abundant, and black-on-white pottery and decorated redware pottery are present.

Pueblo II (A.D. 900 to 1150).

The pueblo peoples aggregated into larger communities, similar to the settlement system of Chaco Canyon. Some pueblos included public architecture, but many residential pueblos still existed. Structures changed from earth and post construction to masonry-lined kivas and surface masonry blocks of rooms. Elaborate black-on-white pottery and corrugated gray pottery was widespread.

Pueblo III (A.D. 1150-1300).

Both large pueblos and dispersed small villages were built. Sites around the heads of canyons, cliff dwellings, towers, and tri-walls were common in some areas. More space was allocated to kivas. Near the end of this period, ancestral Puebloan people migrated from the Four Corners

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Pottery from the Pueblos: Cultures (cont.)

region to the south and joined or established large pueblos in the Rio Grande, Hopi, Zuni, and Mogollon Rim areas of Arizona and New Mexico.

Pueblo IV (A.D. 1300-1600).

Puebloan communities concentrated into large, plaza-oriented villages. Corrugated pottery was replaced by plain utility ware. Black-on-white pottery declined and red, orange, and yellow pottery increased. Present-day Pueblo groups can be recognized during this time period.

Pueblo V (A.D. 1600 to present)

Puebloan populations declined due to European diseases and oppression, and because of raiding by other Indian groups who had incorporated horses into their cultures. Pueblo people incorporated many elements of European material and economic culture, but preserved languages, religion, social organization, and lifestyles.