



Name _____

Peoples of the Mesa Verde Region Student Worksheet

Overview

The Crow Canyon Archaeological Center's *Peoples of the Mesa Verde Region* is an interactive, online timeline that traces the history of the Pueblo, Navajo, and Ute peoples of the Mesa Verde region of the American Southwest, including the impact that the Spanish and other peoples of European descent had on indigenous, or native, cultures. The resource covers more than 15,000 years of human history.

Directions

1. Go to www.crowcanyon.org/peoplesmesaverde.
2. Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper.

Introduction

1. Describe the Mesa Verde region: Where is it? What is the environment like?

Paleoindian

1. Describe the lifestyle of people who lived during the Paleoindian time period: How did they live? How did they meet their fundamental human needs?
2. Describe the significance of the Bering land bridge in American history: What is the Bering land bridge? How did the environment affect the movement of people across this area? How does the land bridge figure into the human history of the Mesa Verde region?
3. How was the environment during the Paleoindian period different than the environment today?
4. Why do we have less archaeological evidence of life during the Paleoindian period than during other time periods?

Archaic

1. Describe the environmental and cultural changes that distinguish the Archaic period from the Paleoindian period.
2. What do we know about Archaic culture and lifestyle? How are artifacts evidence for these interpretations?
3. What might artifacts from your life and home tell us about your cultural practices?

Basketmaker II

1. How was life during the Basketmaker II period different than life during the Archaic period?
2. Describe houses and artifacts dating from the Basketmaker II period. What do they tell us about Pueblo culture during this time? How are Basketmaker II houses and artifacts similar to your house and the items in it? How are they different?

Basketmaker III

1. Though much shorter than the Basketmaker II period, the Basketmaker III period was characterized by great change. Describe those changes, looking specifically at population size, migration patterns, artifacts, housing, food, and settlement patterns.
2. What are “great kivas”? What role did they play in Pueblo communities? What structures do people in your community have today that serve similar purposes? What do these kinds of structures tell us about the communities who build and use them?
3. Using archaeologists’ definition of community, how would you describe your community (or communities) today?

Pueblo I

1. How did life change for people in the Mesa Verde region during the Pueblo I period? What is the archaeological evidence for those changes?
2. How did people respond to environmental changes at the end of the Pueblo I period? How do we know?

Pueblo II

1. Describe how developments in Chaco Canyon affected people in the Mesa Verde region during the Pueblo II period.
2. How did necessity drive innovation in farming and engineering practices during this period?
3. What do Pueblo II artifacts tell us about trade, travel, and broader cultural networks?

Pueblo III

1. Describe the dynamic interplay of population, housing, environmental conditions, and social interactions that characterized the Pueblo III period.
2. Why might people have built large cliff dwellings during the Pueblo III period? What were the advantages to living in a cliff dwelling as opposed to a village located in a more open area?
3. Where did the Pueblo people go at the end of the Pueblo III period? Why?

Post-Pueblo

1. Who are the Ute people? What made their lifestyle and culture different than the lifestyles and cultures of the Pueblo and Navajo peoples?
2. Who are the Navajo people? How was their lifestyle and culture different than the lifestyles and cultures of the Pueblo and Ute peoples?
3. How did the interactions among the Pueblo, Ute, Navajo, and Spanish influence lifestyles and cultures? How did the interactions affect the landscape and environment?

Historic

1. What was “Manifest Destiny,” and how did it shape the U.S. government’s policy toward indigenous peoples?
2. Describe how Ute culture and lifestyle were shaped by interactions with Plains Indians and by interactions with the Spanish and other peoples of European descent during this time period.
3. Describe how Navajo culture and lifestyle were shaped by interactions with Ute Indians and by interactions with the Spanish and other peoples of European descent during this time period.
4. What was the “Long Walk?” How did it affect Navajo culture and lifestyle?

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5. The Historic Period was comparatively short, lasting only 150 to 200 years. Explain why this period led to such significant and lasting cultural change for people in the Mesa Verde region and surrounding areas.
6. What drives cultural change today?

Today

1. Where do the Pueblo, Ute, and Navajo peoples live today?
2. What are the challenges facing people in the Mesa Verde region today?
3. What role has archaeology played in the Mesa Verde region?

www.crowcanyon.org

School group programs: www.crowcanyon.org/schools

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