

# LOST CITY MUSEUM

Ancestral Puebloan Culture

**!! Please do not touch, write on, or put clipboards on the glass!!**

1. In the **Pottery** case, when was the earliest pottery found within Moapa Valley? What was it called?

The earliest potter was found during the Basketmaker II phase, from about 500 AD to 800 AD. The design is called Lino black on gray.

2. A. Look in the **Pottery** case. How do pottery designs change over time?

Observe that the design on the three example pieces become more ornate.

- B. Notice that the pottery throughout the museum varies in colors. Why are the bowls different colors such as red, white, and gray?

The different colors emerge through using different types of clay. The more iron in the clay, the brighter the red color.

3. Before metals were available, Ancestral Puebloans chipped stone or carved bone for tools. Look in a couple of different cases to find examples of tools (**Hunting, Farming, Mining, Trade**, etc.). Sketch a rough outline of the tool and describe its use. Some tools can be used in multiple ways.

<p><b>Examples:</b></p> <p>Hammer/Hand Ax- cutting meat, mining salt</p> <p>Digging stick and stone hoe- planting and farming</p> <p>Hair pin- grooming</p>	<p>Atlatl, arrowheads, projectile points- hunting game</p> <p>Metate &amp; Mano- grinding corn, seed pods, and other plants</p> <p>Knife blades- food processing, hide processing, cutting</p>	<p>Scrapers- processing hides, cutting</p> <p>Awls- punching holes for sewing leather</p> <p>Drills- Like awls, also for holes in beads</p>
<p>This _____ was used for:</p>	<p>This _____ was used for:</p>	<p>This _____ was used for:</p>

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4. In the **Mining** and **Trade** cases, you will note a wide variety of items that were mined and traded by the Ancestral Puebloans. List three items and explain how they were used.

Example: Turquoise was used for Jewelry

Possible Answers:

- 1) Shell was used for Jewelry
- 2) Salt was used for Food
- 3) Obsidian was used for Projectile Points

- 5) In the **Daily Life** case, note the different game pieces on display. Using the text in the exhibit along with your imagination, invent a game were these items might have been used in.

How would you use these pieces in a game? What are the rules? Are there turns? How many people play (One person, two people, a group, divide into teams)? How do you win?

By using stone balls, the bone and clay/pottery game pieces, etc. - The goal is to have students recreate past lifeways through their imagination and what sorts of games would be available without current technologies.

Landscapes of Change

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1. Landscapes of change is an exhibit that highlights changes in climate, time period, tool manufacture, and animals available for hunting. Fill in the table with animal and tools mentioned in the exhibit.

Years Ago	Climate	Hunting: animals and implements
15,000 – 10,000	Cold – Ice Age	Animals: Mammoth, giant ground sloth, llama, camel Tools: Clovis/fluted, Great Basin Stem, Crescents, hand ax, Lake Mohave
7,500 – 5,500	Hot	Animals: Horned toad, tarantula, tortoise, deer, (bighorn sheep, coyote, kit fox, etc) Tools: Lake Mohave, Pinto, plain weave bags, milling stones, drills, gravers, atlatl
5,000 – 1,500	Hot	Animals: Bighorn sheep, desert tortoise, coyote, kit fox, reptiles, small fish Tools: Twig figurines, atlatl, Pinto, Gypsum, Elko, Metate
1,500 – 800	Hot	Animals: No change in animals Tools: Bow and arrow, pottery, Parowan/Rose Spring, cottonwood triangular
800 – 150	Hot	Animals: Deer, desert bighorn sheep, tortoise, chuckwalla, rabbit Tools: Ceramics, basketry, bow and arrow, cottonwood triangular, desert side notch, brown ware pottery, buff ware pottery
150 – 50	Hot	Animals: Desert animals (bobcats, kit fox, squirrel, rattlesnake, deer) and farm animals (cows, horses, pigs, goats, chickens, etc) Tools: Cottonwood triangular, desert side notch, pottery brown ware, glass, metal tools

2. The Cat Claw Cave was an extraordinary archaeological site where many different types of artifacts were found.

A. What types of artifacts were found there?

Artifacts that were found included basketry, pottery, tinker and rawhide items, awls and worked bone, human hair and twine.

B. The archaeologists also discovered animal bones at the site. What specific type of animal bones were discovered in the cave?

Razorback sucker, Colorado pike minnow, and humpback chub bones

**Landscapes of Change**

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3. St. Thomas was a city that was abandoned due to the rising waters of Lake Mead after the completion of Hoover Dam. In recent years, the St. Thomas site was exposed again, leaving the Park Service questioning how to document and protect the historic site.

A. In what ways did the Park Service document the site and its artifacts?

Lake Mead must keep in mind visitor safety by covering up the cisterns. It must mitigate tamarisk invasion - to keep the foundations visible and keep back an invasive species. Increased visitation and looting are also concerns.

B. What types of items were discovered at the site?

Horseshoe, notary seal, spoon, glass bottle, inkwell, bowl

4. There is a factory under Lake Mead. What was the factory called, what did they produce, and what was the product used for?

The factory sorted sand, gravel, and aggregates from soil. These particles were then used in concrete and poured into the Hoover Dam.

**BONUS QUESTION**

Who is Nampeyo?

The center exhibit case is dedicated to Nampeyo, a Hopi potter who was born around 1860. She is renowned for her ceramics.

## Archaeology Room

**!! Please do not touch the sand or rocks. !!**

**The center display is an actual Anasazi house floor over 1000 years old.**

1. Part of this long case tells a story of the Conservation Civilian Corps (CCC), a group of young men ages 18 to 25, who were hired by the government during the Great Depression in the 1930s. These men often worked far away from home. At the Lost City, they had the opportunity to work as archaeologists.

Imagine you are working with the CCC at the Lost City; helping with archaeological digs. On the postcard below, compose a short note to your family about what are you are doing. Describe what types of items you might have found at the digs, the types of tools that you used, etc. Think about what the CCC members might have told their families when writing back home.

<p>Example:</p> <p>Mom and Dad, I hope all is well. I have had many great experiences in Nevada. I am currently stationed in the Moapa Valley where I have been able to help dig for Native American artifacts! The other day we got to excavate a pithouse that had many beautifully painted bowls. The natives here had a staple diet of corn, beans and squash based on some seed we discovered in our digs. Hope sister is well, give her my love.</p> <p>Hope to write again soon. Love, Your Son</p>	 <p>My Family 123 Main Street Anytown, USA 12345</p>
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2. Find the small models of Ancestral Puebloan houses in the long glass case. These housing structure types are in order from oldest (pit house, left) to newest (pueblo, right).
  - A. Why do you think that people transitioned into living in pueblos?

Pueblos have larger conjoined rooms with a central courtyard. It may mean that more people were living closer together and a different kind of residential space was needed. It shows an advancement of architectural technology. The invention of adobe bricks may have made pueblos easier to build than pit houses.
  - B. Notice the way that Ancestral Puebloans stored their belongings changed. What are the advantages of having the separated storage bins from the main house?

The separated storage bins demonstrate a need for more storage of materials. Seeds stored separated from the house could potentially keep mice and pests from inside the main living area.

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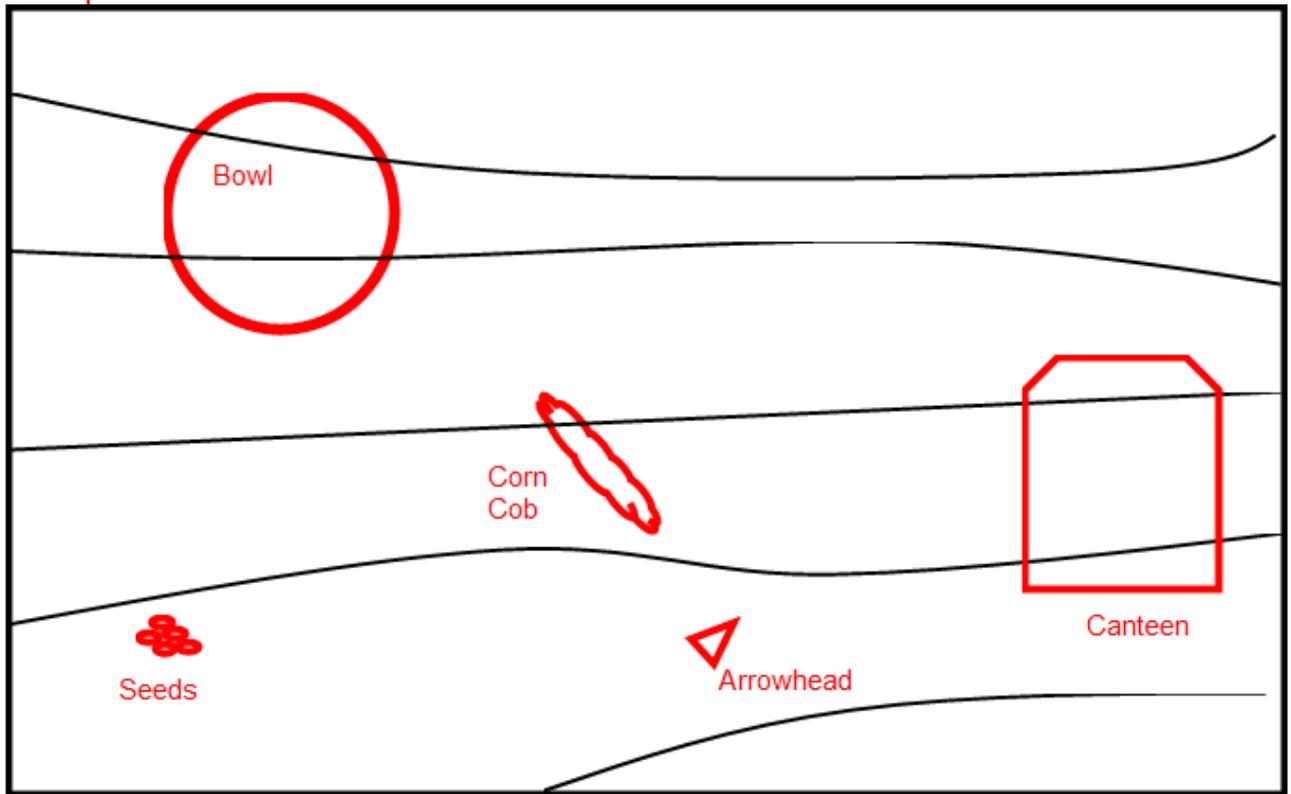
3. The center exhibit shows a few objects that the Ancestral Puebloans would have used in their kitchens. What do you use in your kitchen that is similar to what they used?

Ancestral Puebloan Kitchen	Your Kitchen
Hearth Pottery	Oven or stove Pots and Pans, Tupperware
Mano & Metate Storage bins	Cutting board, grinding surface Cabinets or pantry
Food	Food

4. In the center display, there is a cleared floor and stratigraphic wall. Stratigraphy is used to analyze the order and position of layers at archaeological sites. This wall shows the deposits of sediment over time and the objects that are found within the different layers. The lowest layers are the oldest because sediment continued to pile on top of it over time.

In the box below, draw five different artifacts how they might have been found at a Lost City archaeological site. Use inspiration from the artifacts you have seen and learned about while at the museum.

Example:



**Archaeology Room**

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5. In the Proof is in the Pots display, note some of the plants and animals the Ancestral Puebloans consumed.

A. Besides corn and beans, what types of things did they eat?

Examples: Agave, mesquite seed pods

B. Some of these food items were used in different ways besides food. List two items and explain the other ways the Puebloans used them.

1) Clothing made from Agave fibers

2) Tools made from deer antlers