NAVAJO and the ANCESTRAL LANDS



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In this map, from PBS and its "<u>Storytellers</u>" website, we see the ancestral lands of the Navajo Nation. Back on their ancestral <u>homelands</u>, the Navajo people continued their traditional way of life. When America joined World War I, many Navajos fought for their country. When they returned to the reservation, most resumed their normal lives. It was a lifestyle largely unknown by other Americans:

- Navajo <u>sheep owners</u>, especially in the southern portions of the reservation, lived in "<u>hogans</u>." Most families had several, including a summer and a winter hogan, allowing them to follow their grazing sheep.
- The Navajo hogan evolved during the years from <u>piles</u> of dirt and pieces of <u>wood</u>, providing <u>shelter</u>, to the hogan of the 1930s, with its log walls and <u>dirt roof</u>. By the late 1930s, many Navajo were also <u>living in</u> log and stone houses.
- In ancient times people also constructed <u>houses</u> in <u>or near shallow</u> caves on <u>Navajo land</u>. One such four-story <u>tower house</u>, built about 800 years ago, still exists in a Navajo Canyon shallow cave.
- In the mid-1930s, Navajo sheep fed on <u>over-grazed</u> land.
- Navajo farms did not have irrigation systems. People had to depend on flood waters.
- By 1937, however, deep wells were providing grazing range in previously unusable areas.
- Most of the farms had <u>primitive fencing</u> which was being replaced by 1936.

The Navajo people have a deep respect for their ancestors and for their families. America's national archives

give outsiders an opportunity to examine <u>Navajo family life</u> in the decades before America's involvement in World War II.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/NAVAJO-and-the-ANCESTRAL-LANDS-Wind-Talkers-Navajo-Code-Talkers-in-WWII

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/NAVAJO-and-the-ANCESTRAL-LANDS-Wind-Talkers-Navajo-Code-Talkers-in-WWII

Media Stream



Navajo Ancestral Lands

PBS - Circle of Stories

View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Navajo-Ancestral-Lands



Navajo Homelands

Image online, courtesy <u>lapahie.com</u> website.

View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Navajo-Homelands



Navajo - Sheep Holding Pen

Image online, courtesy U.S. National Archives.

View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Navajo-Sheep-Holding-Pen



Hogans

Image online, courtesy Northern Arizona University, Cline Library.

View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Hogans



<u>Hogans - Navajo Family Photo</u>

Image online, courtesy the U.S. National Archives. ARC Identifier 298584.

PD

View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Hogans-Navajo-Family-Photo





Hogans - Built with Wood

Image described above - part of "Series: Photographs of Ranch Life and Arizona Territory, compiled 1887 - 1889" - at the U.S. National Archives. ARC Identifier: 523554. Online courtesy <u>U.S. National Archives</u>.

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View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Hogans-Built-with-Wood



Hogan Shelter

Image online, courtesy U.S. National Archives.

View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Hogan-Shelter



Hogan - Built with Log Walls and a Dirt Roof

Image online, courtesy Northern Arizona University, Cline Library.

View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Hogan-Built-with-Log-Walls-and-a-Dirt-Roof



Ancient Navajo House

Image online, courtesy the U.S. National Archives.

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View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Ancient-Navajo-House



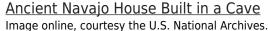
<u>Ancient Navajo House - Near Caves</u>

The image above is from the Cline Library Special Collections, photo NAU.PH.413.784. Online, courtesy the Northern Arizona University website.

View this asset at:

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http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Ancient-Navajo-House-Built-in-a-Cave



Caves on Navajo Land

Image online, courtesy the U.S. National Archives.

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Herding Navajo Sheep on Over-grazed Land

Image, described above, online courtesy U.S. National Archives. ARC Identifier 298581. PD

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http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Herding-Navajo-Sheep-on-Over-grazed-Land



Navajo Farm with a Deep Well

Image, described above, online courtesy U.S. National Archives.

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Navajo Farms in an Arid Land

Image, described above, online courtesy U.S. National Archives. ARC Identifier 298581.

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http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Navajo-Farms-in-an-Arid-Land



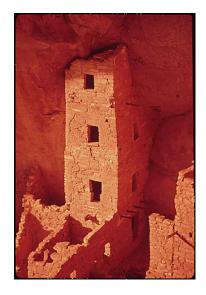
Navajo Home - Built with Logs and Stones

Image described above - part of "Series: Photographs Relating to Farm Management Investigations, compiled 1896 - 1921" - at the U.S. National Archives. ARC Identifier: 521045

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View this asset at:

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Navajo Tower House - Mesa Verde, Colorado

Photo, by Norton Boyd, during May of 1972. Image, described above, U.S. National Archives' Local Identifier: 412-DA-2459. Online, courtesy U.S. National Archives.

View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Navajo-Tower-House-Mesa-Verde-Colorado



Primitive Fencing Used on a Navajo Reservation

Image, described above, online courtesy U.S. National Archives. <u>ARC Identifier 298581</u>. PD

View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Primitive-Fencing-Used-on-a-Navajo-Reservation



Navajo - Evolution of the Hogan

Image described above - part of "Series: Classified Files of the Extension and Credit Office, compiled 1931 - 1946" - at the U.S. National Archives (NARA). ARC Identifier: 298586

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