AWESOME stories

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Harold Baxter (1889-1982) took this picture of Navajo shearing sheep. The image was digitized by Utah State University, Merrill-Cazier Library, and is online via <u>Navajo People</u>. The Navajo are a hardworking people. Before World War II, they divided family responsibilities along traditional lines.

• Navajo <u>Navajo women</u> took an active part in <u>handling</u> the <u>sheep</u> and goats and were responsible for most of the shearing.

• Women would also <u>card</u>, <u>spin</u> and <u>dye</u> the wool which was then turned into <u>yarn</u>, suitable for <u>weaving</u> beautiful Navajo blankets and rugs.

• While mothers worked, their babies rested in a cradleboard.

• By 1933, Navajos were still <u>cultivating their corn</u> their corn, a Navajo staple, by hand. The same was true of thrashing and grinding.

- The Navajo dried their corn on a "summer shade" or directly on the land.
- Because of the <u>arid</u> conditions, squash could be stored in a <u>pit</u> called a <u>root cellar</u>.

Even at a time when the United States was mostly an agrarian country, the Navajos <u>lived</u> <u>differently</u> from other Americans. But they also took time to have fun.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Sometimes the pictures from the U.S. National Archives do not display with the first try. If you experience that glitch, the pictures should appear if you click again. Sometimes it takes 2-4 tries, but the images are worth the extra effort.

NAVAJO FAMILY LIFE



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

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/NAVAJO-FAMILY-LIFE-Wind-Talkers-Navajo-Code-Talke rs-in-WWII

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/NAVAJO-FAMILY-LIFE-Wind-Talkers-Navajo-Code-Talkers-Nav

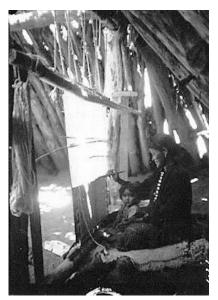
Media Stream





Photo by Harold Baxter; digitized by Utah State University, Merrill-Cazier Library; online via Navajo People. View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Navajo-People-Shearing-Sheep





<u>Navajo Lands - Arid Conditions</u> Image online, courtesy the U.S. National Archives. View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Navajo-Lands-Arid-Conditions-

<u>Navajo Life</u> Image online, courtesy the U.S. National Archives. View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Navajo-Life</u>



<u>Navajo Life and Culture</u> Image online, courtesy the U.S. National Archives. View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Navajo-Life-and-Culture