

Hopi

Of the Southwest

SS4H1 The student will describe how early Native American cultures developed in North America.

- a. Locate where Native Americans settled
- b. Describe how Native Americans used their environment to obtain food, clothing, and shelter.



The southwest region receives only a small amount of rain, so the area is extremely dry.

Because there is so little precipitation,
there are very few trees.

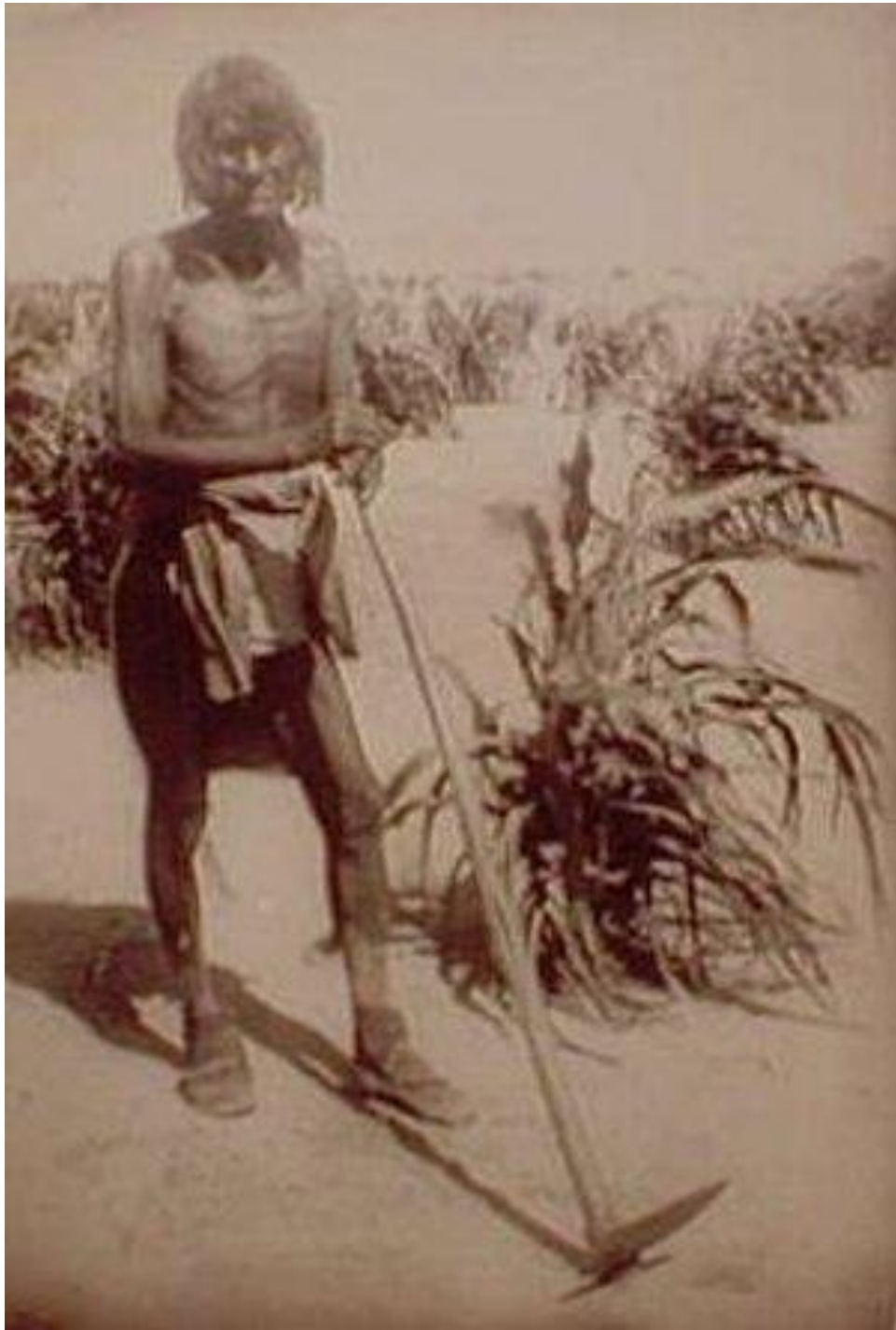




Much of the region is low, flat desert with some high plateaus and mesas.

The desert does get some rain, but most of the water came from the snow in the surrounding mountains. In the spring, the melting snow feeds into rivers that run into the desert.





The Hopi were farmers,
who grew beans,
squash, and corn.



Corn was the staple for the Hopi, part of every meal. They grew enough corn for the year and kept it in storage rooms in their pueblos. A staple is a main crop that is used for food.





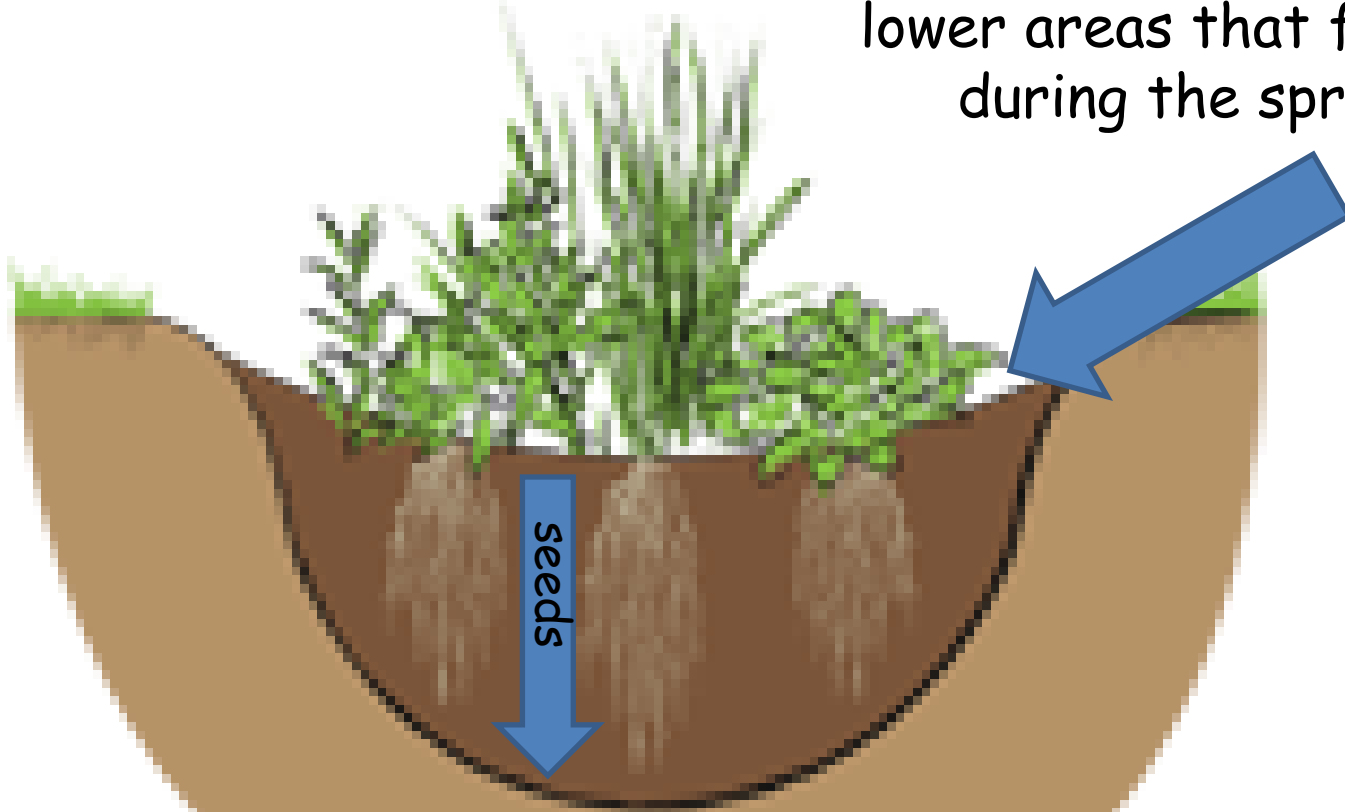
The lack of rain made agriculture difficult.

The Southwest Native Americans had to get water to their crops. Irrigation is a way of supplying water to crops with streams, ditches, or pipes.



Some groups dug long, narrow ditches from the rivers to their fields, so the water would flow from the stream to their crops.

They planted crops in lower areas that flooded during the spring.



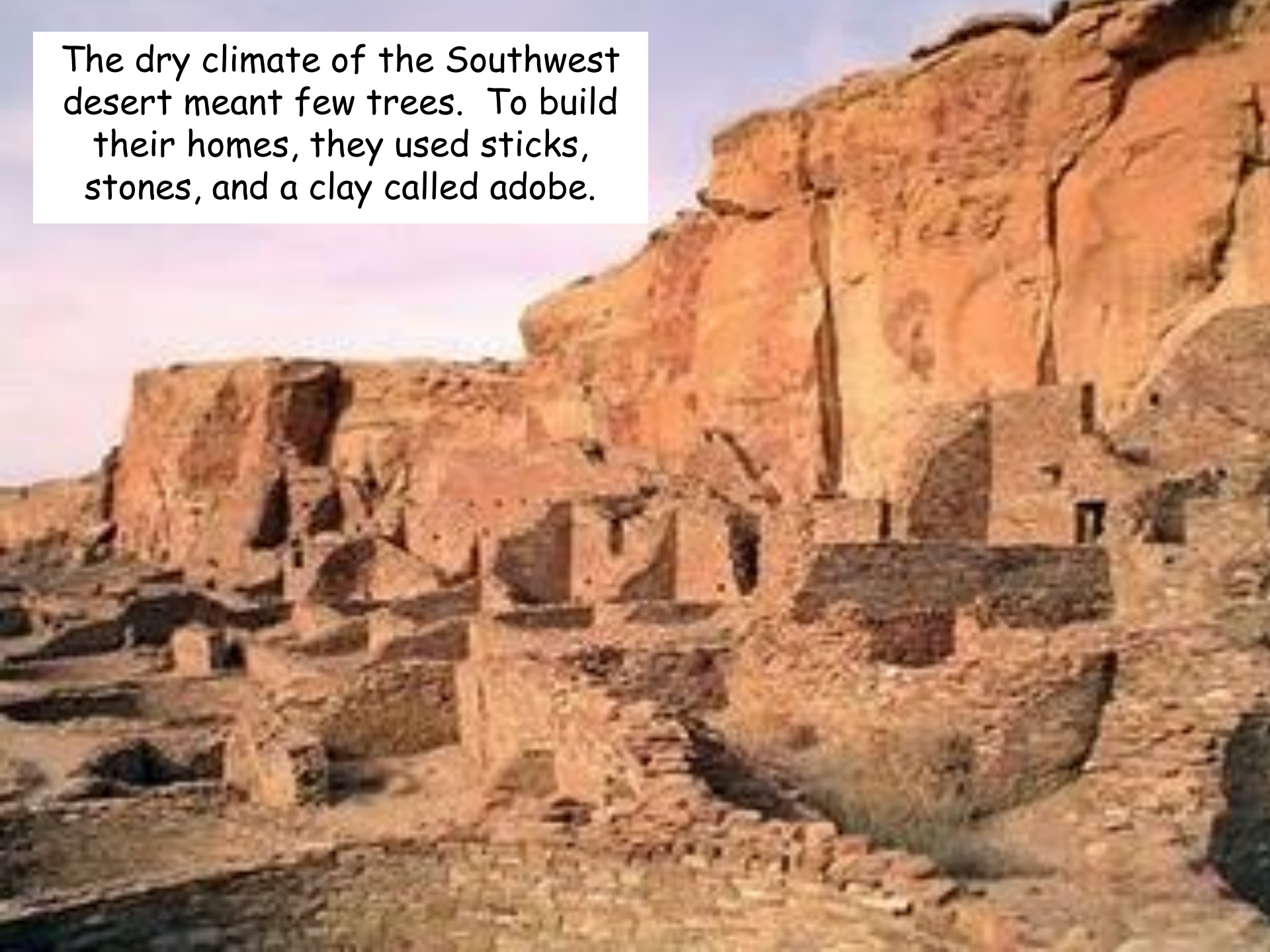
The Hopi planted seeds deep in the ground so the roots would get more moisture.

Water collects in the lower areas just like puddles on the playground. This area would take longer to dry out so the plants would get more water.

Crops are planted in lower area.



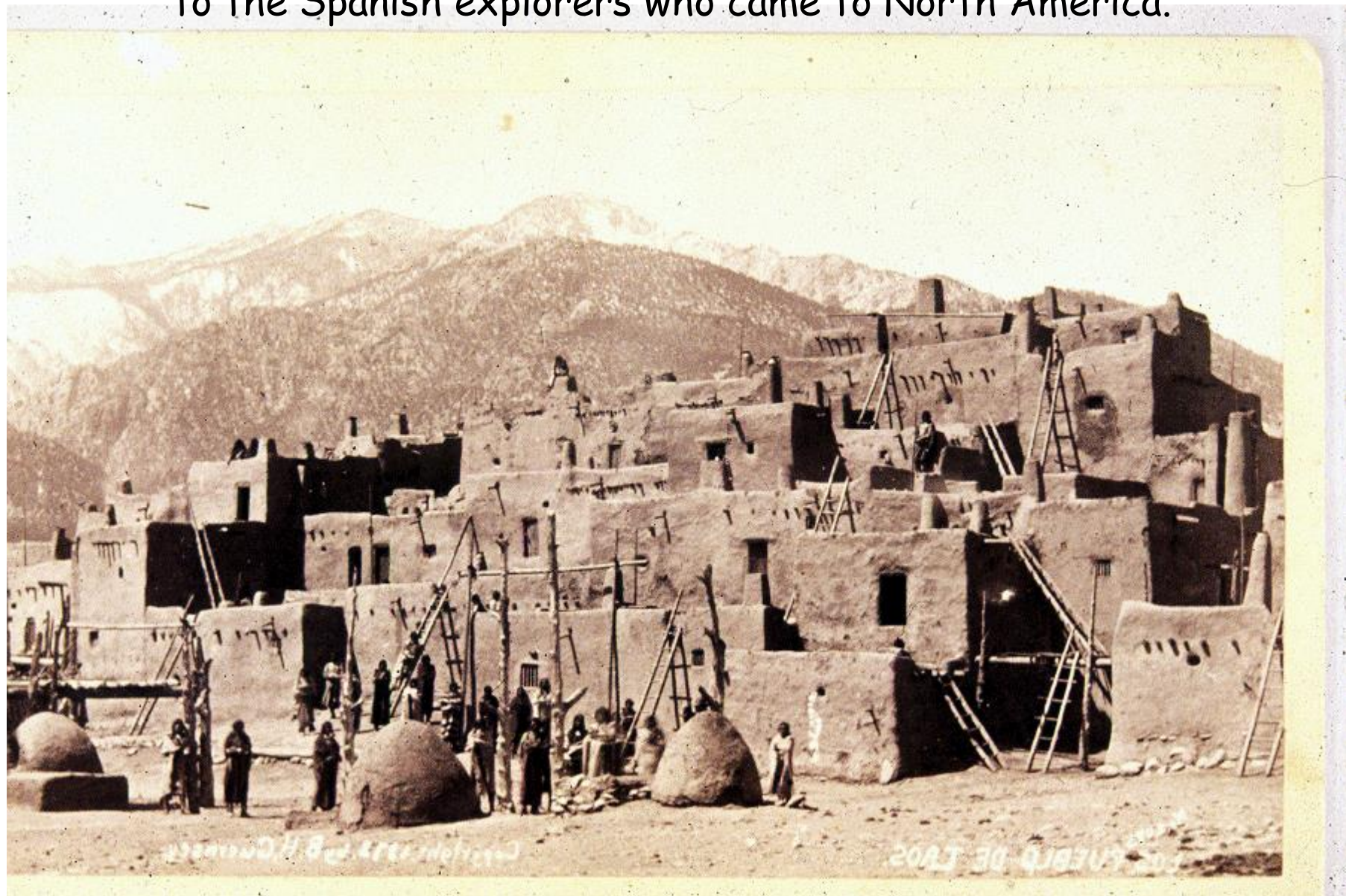
The dry climate of the Southwest desert meant few trees. To build their homes, they used sticks, stones, and a clay called adobe.



They often built their homes on tops of steep mesas, which are small plateaus with steep sides and flat tops.



The Hopi are part of the group known as Pueblo Indians. Pueblo means town in Spanish. The large buildings looked like towns to the Spanish explorers who came to North America.





The Hopi made containers to store food and water. They dug clay and shaped it into pots. The Hopi were some of the first people to fire their pottery with coal, which made it stronger and harder.

The Hopi were very religious. They believed they were the caretakers of the land, and they had to keep the land healthy. If the land was healthy, they would have good harvests and enough rainfall.





HOPPI SNAKE DANCE, ARIZONA

To take care of the land, they prayed and had ceremonies. A ceremony is a special event at which people gather to express important beliefs.

The Hopi often dressed in costumes and masks for their ceremonies.
At the Bean Dance ceremony,
the Hopi danced and prayed for a good harvest.





Young girls wore their hair in elaborate butterfly twists called Squash Blossoms. After marriage, women would wear their hair down, in two long twisted pig tails.

The Hopi carved figures called Kachinas.
Kachinas are often called dolls, but they are religious symbols (not toys)
that represent the spirits.





Kachinas are religious emblems used to teach children the ancient spirits of the tribe.

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EQ:

How did the Hopi adapt to their environment?

What techniques did they use to farm in desert lands?

How did the Hopi build their homes with the resources they had in the desert?