

# First Humans of Utah

NOTES #1

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# History

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History is the study of the past. It deals with written records or accounts.

**PREHISTORIC:** Term used referring to people who lived before white explorers and missionaries wrote about them.

If we do not have written records how do we learn about ancient peoples?

# Archeologists

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- Are scientists who learn about early people by excavating and studying the traces of early settlements.
- An archeological site can provide some of the richest sources of clues.



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## Anthropologists

- Study ancient cultures
  - Culture is the way a group or society lives.

Anthropologists examine the artifacts at archeological digs.

After studying the evidence they recreate a picture of how early humans culture may have been.

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# Paleontologists



- Study fossils-
  - Evidence of early life preserved in rocks.
  - Human fossils usually consist of fragments of teeth, bones or skulls.

# Petroglyphs

Petroglyphs are some of the records that we have remaining from the first peoples of Utah.

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Petroglyphs are drawings usually done on rock walls. Many times they tell a story.



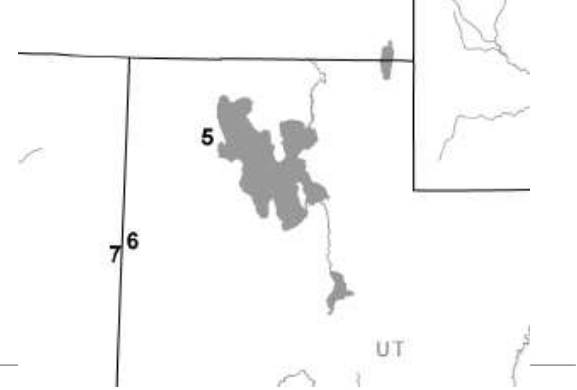
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[Horseshoe Canyon link](#)



# 2 Caves

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Archeological evidence shows that humans have been in Utah for the last 12,000 years.

Some of the best evidence has been found in Danger Cave (near Wendover), and in Hogup Cave (on the shores of the Great Salt Lake).

Danger Cave: Leather scraps, peaces of string, nets of twine, basket fragments, bone and wood tools such as knives, weapons and millstones.

- 11,000 years old.
- Dog Bones at cave around 9,000 years old
- One of the oldest human sites in the Great Basin







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## Hogup Cave:

Explored 10 years after Danger Cave.

- Used by different cultures over a period of 8,000 years.
  - Early Cultures used it to store pickleweed, an herb that grows in the salt marshes and was likely used to preserve food.
  - Later Fremont people used the cave as a temporary camp
  - Much later Shoshone left pottery and items made from animal hides.

In 1970, Hogup Cave was tragically destroyed by Vandals.



*A modern tour  
inside the cave*

*An early excavation of  
Hogup Cave in 1957,  
before it was  
vandalized in 1970.*



# Adaptation and Migration

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- Climate changes

- Ice Age ended. Region got warmer.
  - Led to changes in animals and food. Adapt or die.
  - What would it be like if some of your food sources were no longer available?

- People moved, following animals, food and with the seasons.

# Prehistoric Native Americans

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The Prehistoric tribes of Utah were nomadic hunter-gatherers.

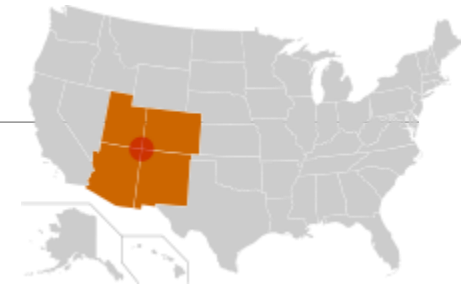
- Hunter-gatherers- food supply depended on hunting animals and collecting plant foods.

2 main Peoples: Paleo-Indians and Archaic Indians

# Paleo Indians

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Earliest people of North America



9000 B.C. – People first live in the Four Corners Region

- - Including Danger Cave

Paleo Indians- lived during the time of the Ice Age. They followed herds of large mammals for food. [Paleo Indians](#)

Used hard rocks or animal horns to make spear points, which were then lashed to sticks.

In addition to hunting they gathered seeds, roots, nuts and other wild plants.

Very Nomadic, meaning they moved around for food, never settling in one place.

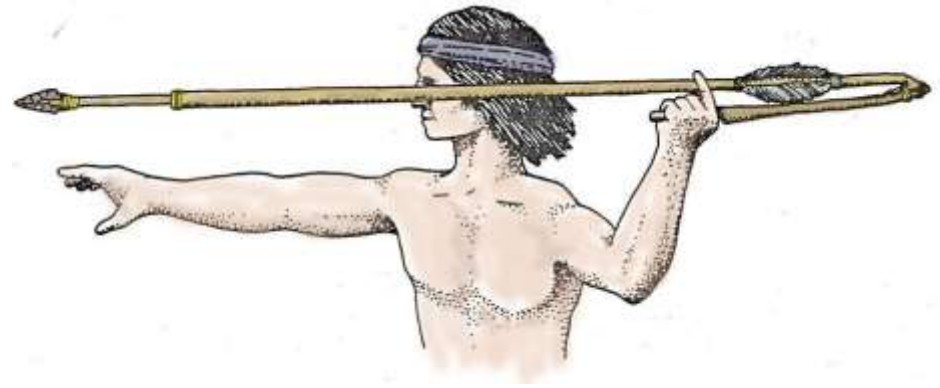
# Archaic Indians: Desert Gatherers

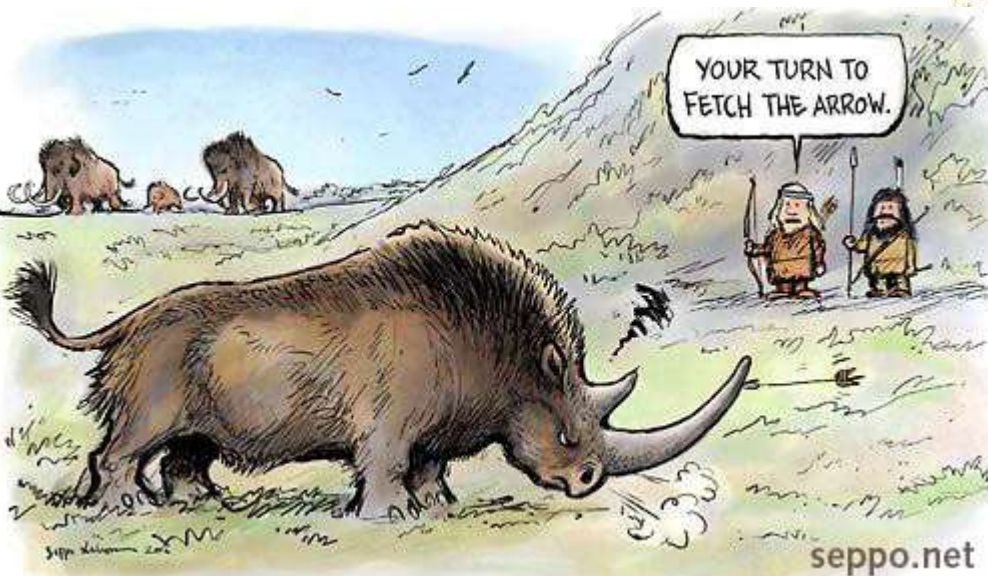
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Archaic Indians- are also known as desert gatherers.

- They lived in Utah for 6,400 years.
- They lived in simple open shelters known as **wicki-ups**.
- They made baskets woven tightly enough to carry water.
- Their main weapon was the atlatl and spear.

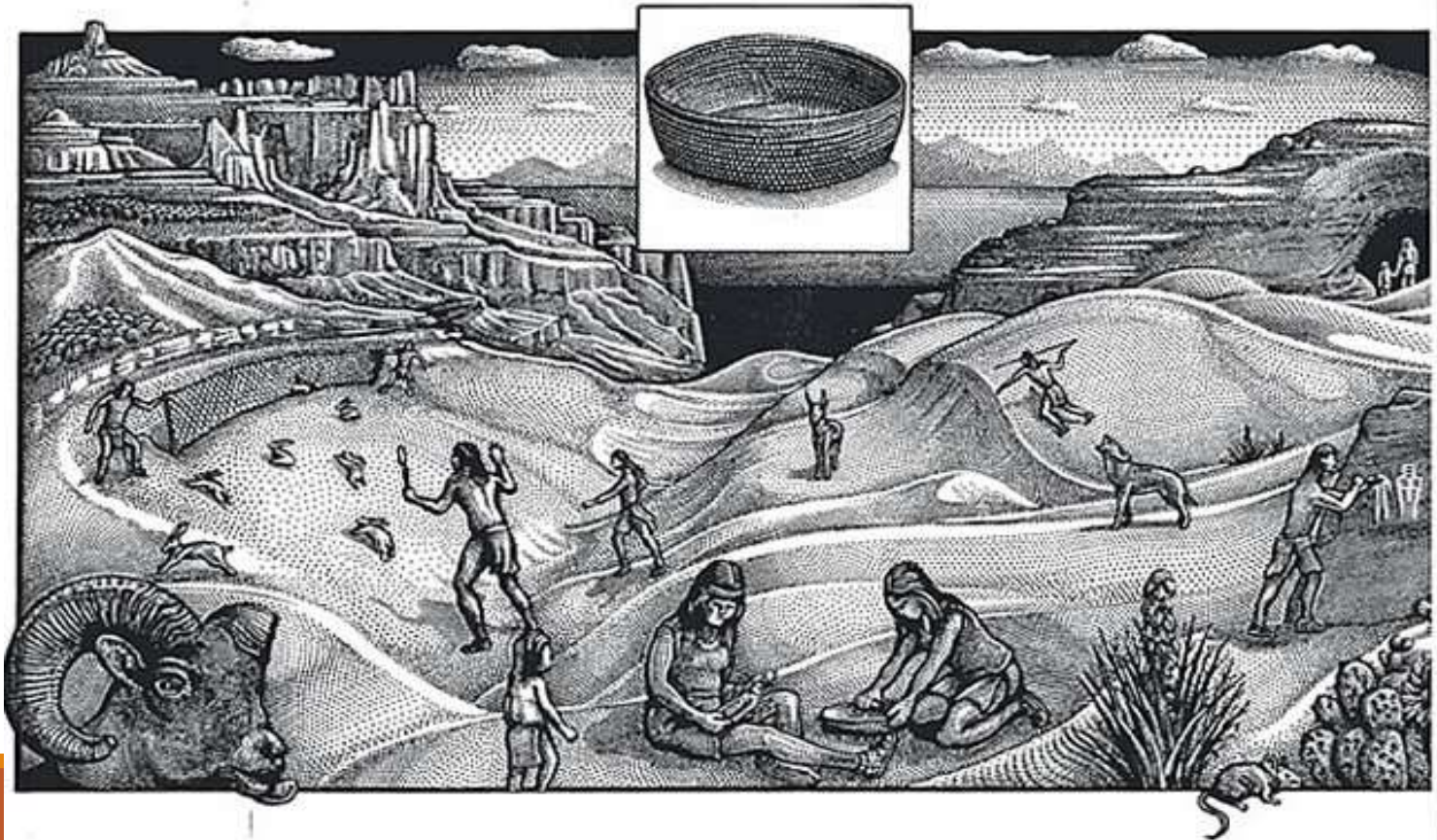
Good at adapting to their environment.





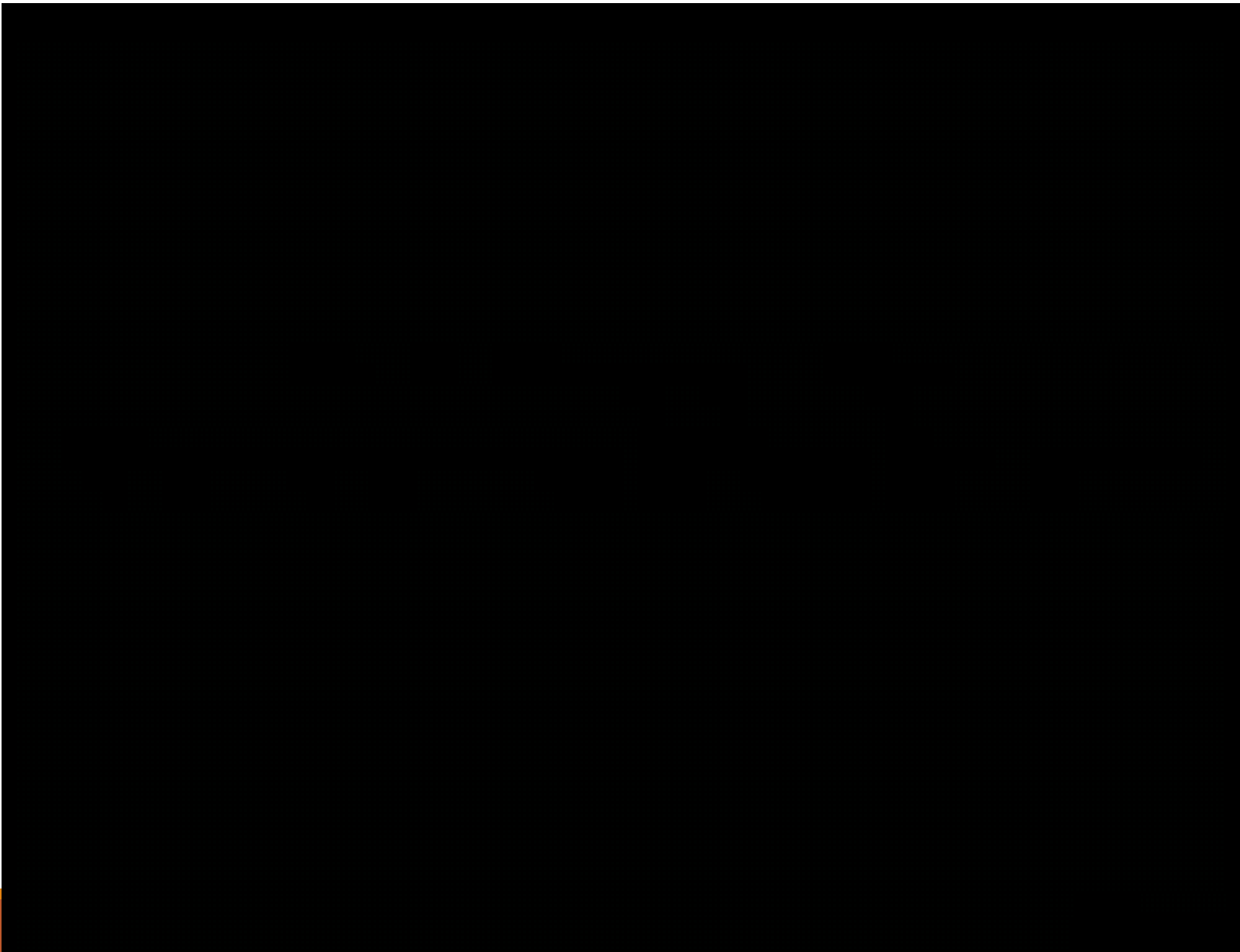








# Anasazi and Fremont Indians



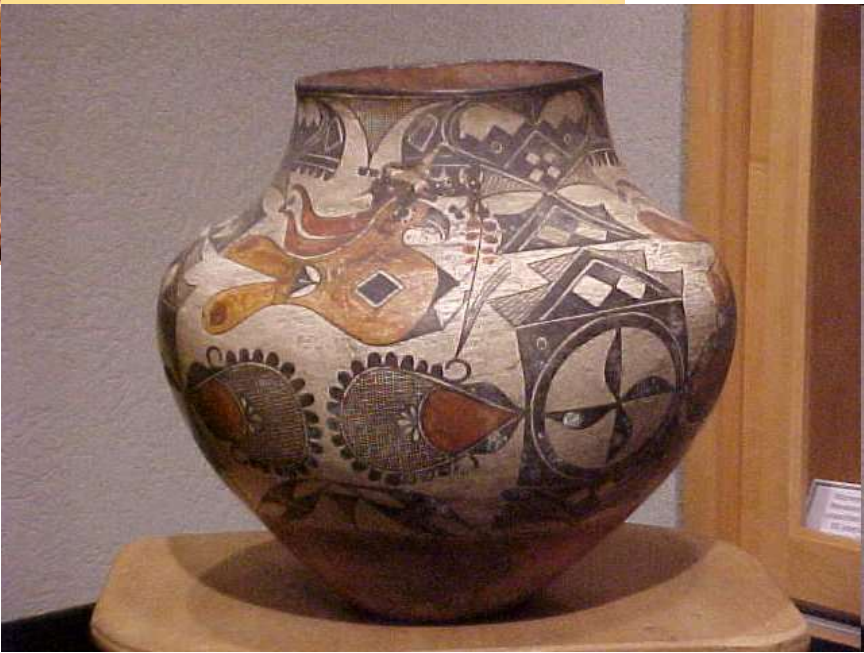
# Anasazi

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The Anasazi (ancient ones) lived along the San Juan River.

For food they hunted and gathered but also grew corn, beans, squash, and even cotton. Much of this food was dried and stored.

They had also developed the bow and arrow for hunting larger game animals.

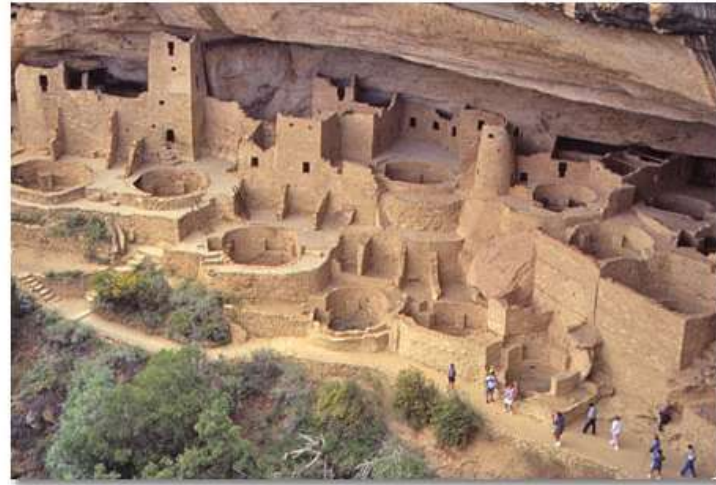


# Houses

Cliff houses or apartments were made on the sides of cliffs.

These structures could be several stories high and contain hundreds of rooms.

The cliff houses were constructed from pine logs, adobe, and stone.



Exploring the ruins in Mesa Verde National Park

# Technology

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Anasazi pottery can be recognized by its distinct orange color.

Made bags out of animal skins.

Tightly woven baskets.

Cradle boards

Jewelry

Stone knives



# Fremont

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The Fremont were located throughout the Great Basin.

Many different cultures developed because of the different locations of the tribes.

Different tribes were farmers, or hunter gatherers, or a combination.



The Fremont's used granaries to store their food.



They used ditches to pull water away from rivers and streams to crops.

# Fremont Housing

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Fremont's also had Pit Houses.

They were built partially underground and were circular. The exterior was made of mud plaster.

In the center a stone fire pit was located.



# Technology

Coiled gray pottery.

Fiber baskets

Moccasins

Clay figurines



# Where did They Go?

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It is not known exactly what happened to the two tribes.

The Anasazi may have moved south into New Mexico and Arizona.

The Fremont people slowly went away from their cities and farming.

[Demise of the Anasazi](#)

# Changes

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Maybe climate?

Soil erosion?

Numic invasion?