Children’s Activities

Paths of Life:
American Indians of the Southwest
The Seri people live in Mexico in the desert next to the Sea of Cortez. They carve wood from the ironwood tree in the shapes of animals they see in the desert and the sea.

**Desert and Sea Match-ups**

1. Look at the Seri ironwood carvings below.
2. Draw a line from the animal to the place where it lives -- the **desert** or the **sea**.

- Desert
  - Manta Ray
  - Roadrunner
- Sea
  - Turtle
  - Mountain Sheep
  - Porpoise
  - Owl
The Tarahumara people live high up in the Sierra Madre mountains of northwest Mexico. They carve wooden dolls for their children that show many of the things they do in their daily life.

The dolls wear clothing like the Tarahumara people. They carry little tools, pots, toys and instruments. People everywhere make dolls that look like themselves.

"Carve" a Tarahumara doll!

The piece of wood below has a Tarahumara doll drawn on it. Color the spaces using the color key on the right and see your own Tarahumara doll!

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Color Key:
- white
- red
- brown
- black
- yellow
The Yaqui people and their neighbors, the Mayos, make masks to wear at some of their special fiestas. They carve the masks from wood, paint them with designs, and then add horse hair decorations.

**Design a Yaqui mask!**
1. Look at the masks on this page. How are they alike? How are they different?
2. Draw in the rest of the face on the big mask. You may combine ideas from the masks below.
3. Color your design with crayons, pencils or markers.
The O’odham people have lived in the Sonoran desert for hundreds of years. The desert is very dry, so water is very important to them. The O’odham celebrate the coming of the summer rains as the beginning of their new year.

O’odham Calendar Stick

This is part of an O’odham calendar stick. In the 1800s, they used calendar sticks to keep track of their history. Each rectangle stands for one year. The design in each rectangle stands for an important thing that happened in that year.

Create your own calendar stick!

1. Each box stands for one month.
2. Draw a design that reminds you of something you do during each month that is important to you. For example, draw a picture of yourself in the month you were born!
“Colorado River Yumans” is the name given to many American Indian groups that speak Yuman languages — the Mohave, the Quechan, the Cocopah, and the Maricopa peoples. They lived along the Colorado River, but traveled throughout the Southwest to trade shells, salt, blankets, and pottery.

Colorado River Yuman Puzzle!
1. Use the clues to fill in the puzzle below.
2. The puzzle clues and answers will tell you about the Colorado River Yumans — things they used in their villages, and what they traded when they traveled.

ACROSS:
1. A ______ holds water.
2. A ______ is used to shoot an arrow.
3. ______ kept the people warm.
4. A ______ makes noise when it is shaken.
5. ______ are worn on the feet.
6. ______ is made from clay.
7. ______ is a white food that is traded.

DOWN:
8. A ______ is worn on the head.
9. ______ come from the ocean.
10. Rattles and canteens were made from ______.
11. ______ are shot from a bow.
The Southern Paiute people make beautiful baskets. Other Indian groups, like the Navajo, often buy Paiute baskets. The wedding basket is a favorite design and is used by both the Paiutes and Navajos in their ceremonies. The colors and patterns of this basket have special meanings.

Creating a Wedding Basket
1. The center of the basket (1) is the beginning of life. Color this area yellow.
2. The stepped areas with dark outlines (2) are rain clouds. Color the rain clouds black.
3. Color the large area between the rain clouds (3) red — for the red and pink of the sky and clouds.
4. The break in the design (4) is a “path to let the people emerge.” Color it yellow.
5. Starting at (5), draw another row around the outside of the basket. Make sure to end at (5) — this completes the path from the center to the outside of the basket.
   Color this area above the rainclouds yellow.
The Hualapai, Havasupai, and Yavapai are three related American Indian peoples that have lived in the Southwest for over three hundred years in the land we now call Arizona. They love the land they lived in and used the plants, animals and other natural materials they found to create the objects they used everyday.

**Word Scramble**
1. Read the sentence under each object.
2. Unscramble the word in each sentence to find out what natural materials the people used to create the objects.

A riding whip was braided from ________________ (reathel)

A hair pin was carved from animal ________________ (ebno)

Beautiful baskets were woven with ________________ from the trees. (stwgi)

A cradleboard for the baby was made from tree ________________ (chsebrna)

A spoon for scooping was made from a mountain ________________ horn. (hesep)

Answers: leather, bone, twigs, branches, sheep.
The Apache people love the mountains of their homelands in central Arizona. They believe that the Mountain Spirit people — the Gaan — help them and taught them the Apache way of life. The masks the Gaan wear represent North, South, East, and West.

**Walk with an Apache boy to find the cave of the Gaan!**

A long, long time ago an Apache boy and his dog discovered the home of the Gaan in a mountain cave. Help the boy find the cave again!

1. Start at the square next to the boy and his dog.
2. Follow the compass directions through the mountains (1 square = 1 step):
   - Move North 1, East 7, North 2, West 6, North 5, East 2, South 1, East 6, South 2, West 3.
3. The last square at the end of the directions is the cave of the Gaan!
   - Draw a cave at that spot, with your favorite mask inside.
The Navajo people have raised sheep, goats, horses and cattle for more than three centuries. They spin wool from the sheep into yarn and use the yarn to make beautiful rugs, blankets and wall hangings.

You be the weaver!
1. The rug on the loom below has just been started. Draw in the design of the rug. Look at the rugs in the exhibit or at the folded blankets below for design ideas.
2. Color your rug with crayons, pencils or markers.
The Hopi people of northern Arizona belong to extended families called "clans." Each clan has a symbol or set of symbols with which it is identified. The landscape of the Southwest is dotted with these symbols.

Clan Symbol Match-Up
1. Hopis draw their clan symbols to represent plants, animals, weather, objects or spirits.
2. Below on the left are some of the Hopi clan symbols. On the English translations of selected clan names. Can you draw a line from each clan symbol to the name of that clan?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clan Symbols</th>
<th>Clan Names</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mountain sheep</td>
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<td>Cactus</td>
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<td>Coyote</td>
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<td>Spider</td>
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<td>Water (cloud)</td>
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<td>Rabbit</td>
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<td>Sun</td>
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