PATHS OF LIFE

American Indians of the Southwest

The Apache 2nd–5th Grade Discovery Hunt

The Apache call themselves the Indé, meaning People in their language. Look at the map at the start of the Western Apache exhibit. In this exhibit you will learn about the Western Apache tribe which consists of the White Mountain, San Carlos and Tonto Apache. They are located in central Arizona within the mountainous regions.
The Mountain Spirits

The Apache love the mountains of their homeland in central Arizona. They believe that the Mountain Spirits, called the Gaan, teach them how to hunt, gather, and farm the Apache way. Look inside the case of the Mountain Spirits. Each Mountain Spirit has its own color of blue, black, white, or yellow. The masks the Mountain Spirits wear represent North, South, East, and West.

Push the red button to listen to the story of the Mountain Spirits.

Below are events from the Mountain Spirits story, but they are not in order. Put the events in order by numbering them 1 – 10.

The boy stumbled into the cave. _____

The grandmother was told to stay near the cave for 4 nights. _____

The Apache were not living the right way. _____

The boy heard some strange noises coming from the cave. _____

The boy and his dog went hunting. _____

The Mountain Spirits taught the Apache how to sing, dance and live the right way. _____

The grandmother became frightened and went back to the village. _____

One of the Mountain Spirits pets the dog. _____

The dog returned to the village and the grandmother noticed that her grandson was missing. _____

The Apache sang and danced for 12 nights. _____
People of the Mountains

Now that you know the story of the Apache boy and the Mountain Spirits, what happened to the boy at the end of the story? Take a look at the panel at the beginning of this section (it’s the one with the map on it) and find a black and white photo of the Mountain Spirits. How many Mountain Spirits are there in the photo? How many Mountain Spirits are in the case?

Help the Apache boy find the cave of the Mountain Spirits by using the map and the clues below.

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, Move East 7, Move North 2, Move West 6, Move North 5,
   Move East 2, Move South 1, Move East 6, Move South 2, Move West 3.
3. The last square at the end is the cave! Draw the cave spot.
Plants, Animals, & Other Resources

Look at the display cases of different resources the Apache used to make things they needed. Resources are things like plants, animals, and stones. The Apache found these resources around where they lived.

Look in the display cases and find things made from each of the resources shown below. Write in the box what things are made from that resource. For example, you can write “bird cage” in the box with the picture of the yucca plant, because the yucca plant was used to make the bird cage.