

Back To The Past

Hohokam Summer

It is the end of a long day. The last rays of the sun slip behind the mountains in the west, and a slight breeze cools the hot land. This evening, the plants seem especially thirsty; the saguaro are skinny and there are no leaves on the palo verde trees. We are nearing the time of the **monsoons** — rains that come and bring relief from the great heat. Everything anticipates the coming rains. All the plants of our home will become very green again - grateful for relief from the intense heat.

We too, will be thankful. This is a busy time of the year for me and my people. We have been very busy with the **harvest** of the ripe fruit from the tops of the tall cactus called **saguaro**. We use very long sticks to knock the fruit from way up on top of the saguaro. The fruit is important to us. We celebrate its harvest. It is also nearing the time for gathering another important food source for us: the **mesquite beans**. My mother will grind the mesquite beans on a **metate**, or grinding stone. We get all of our food from the surrounding environment. Besides gathering food from plants such as saguaro and mesquite, we hunt many of the wild animals such as deer, quail, and rabbit. This canyon also provides us with our most important need, water. Without fresh water, we would die. We live near the mouth of this canyon in **pit houses**, small mud houses with roofs made out of plant material. Everything we eat, drink, or use for shelter or clothing comes from the area around us. It is not an easy life but there is enough of everything to survive. We have also learned to grow some plants such as corn. We bring water from the creeks and rivers to our corn fields by building **irrigation canals** which channel the water to our crops.

After all the work for survival is done, we have time for other activities such as games and art. It is said that people express themselves through their art. We certainly do. We make **clay pots, baskets**, and some jewelry. We also trade with other people who bring such things as feathers and shells from far away.

The desert here is our home and we know how to live with all the plants and animals — using what we need to survive. The precious water of the canyon means life to all of us.

Present Words From the Past

Things that were important in the daily life of the Hohokam are hidden in this puzzle. They are written across, down and diagonally.

See if you can find them. The list of words below will help you.

Y	M	T	S	L	W	O	M	E	S	Q	U	I	T	E
A	U	E	N	Q	R	M	A	N	O	L	U	X	O	I
W	N	C	D	A	S	L	X	P	S	H	E	L	L	S
U	O	R	C	R	T	C	P	R	N	M	S	U	P	P
L	R	A	N	A	R	O	I	E	S	A	K	V	U	O
X	I	B	O	U	A	T	T	H	N	T	I	Q	M	T
G	R	B	S	N	M	T	H	I	R	O	N	F	P	T
M	T	I	R	V	A	O	O	S	U	I	S	N	D	E
W	E	T	V	O	D	N	U	T	O	B	C	D	R	R
A	D	T	X	O	A	B	S	O	F	D	R	V	I	Y
T	L	F	A	E	O	S	E	R	N	E	C	O	L	S
E	S	D	B	T	N	O	M	I	V	E	X	O	L	G
R	H	L	R	N	E	M	A	C	K	R	E	L	R	S
O	D	B	A	C	O	B	A	S	K	E	T	S	E	N
S	A	G	U	A	R	O	B	C	O	S	N	T	X	Y

Ramada
Baskets
Skins
Metate
Mano
Saguaro

Yucca
Deer
Mesquite
Shells
Pottery
Water

Corn
Cotton
Rabbit
Pit House
Pump Drill