

Study Questions

The following study questions are designed for learning at the knowledge and comprehension levels of Bloom's Taxonomy. Answers are found within the Fact File. There is a separate section for each of the main topics: Mesa Verde Environment, Anasazi Culture, Anasazi Artifacts and Anasazi Architecture. The following objectives are embedded within the study questions:

The learner will list environmental characteristics of the Mesa Verde environment.

The learner will label the parts of a pit house and a kiva.

The learner will match Anasazi time periods with the form of architecture present at that time.

The learner will describe how environmental conditions affected the Anasazi.

The learner will explain how Anasazi artifacts provide information about how the Anasazi lived.

The learner will discuss how the Anasazi used plants and animals in daily life.

The learner will describe elements of Anasazi culture.



Mesa Verde Environment

The Anasazi chose to live at Mesa Verde because of favorable environmental conditions. The topography, climate and wildlife all helped the Anasazi to survive at Mesa Verde for over seven centuries. The answers to the following questions can be found by exploring the environment section of the Fact File.

1. Which four states meet at the Four Corners?

Utah, Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona

2. Mesa Verde is part of the Colorado Plateau.

3. Mesa Verde is Spanish for green table.

4. List the four geologic formations of Mesa Verde from oldest to youngest.

Oldest Mancos Shale

Point Lookout Sandstone

Menefee Formation

Youngest Cliff House Sandstone

5. What happened to the Cliff House Sandstone layer and what did the Anasazi do as a result?

The layer eroded away, forming alcoves. The Anasazi built the cliff dwellings in these alcoves.

6. The climate at Mesa Verde is classified as semi-arid.

7. Where did the Anasazi get their drinking water from?

Natural seeps and springs



8. What is it about each of the following environmental factors that make Mesa Verde a good place to live?

Temperature

Summer temperatures warm enough for good crop growth

Mild winters with warm daily temperatures and few severe cold periods

Water

Dependable summer rains

Sufficient winter precipitation to help vegetation grow and to supply ground water

Natural seeps and springs

Soil

Soil good for growing crops

9. How did the Anasazi use each of the following plants?

Piñon Pine

Nuts used as food, wood used for house construction, tools, and firewood

Utah Juniper

Berries used as food supplements, flavorings and in medicine, wood used for tools, firewood and house construction

Yucca

Clothing, sandals, blankets, snares, baskets, rope, food and soap

10. Name three animals that can be found at Mesa Verde.

Rocky Mountain Mule Deer

Wild Turkey

Collared Lizard



Anasazi Artifacts

Objects can tell us a great deal about a culture. Archeologists have found many objects at Mesa Verde that tell us how the Anasazi lived. The answers to the following questions can be found by exploring the artifacts section of the Fact File.

1. The Anasazi did not use any metal. What were some of the other materials they used to make tools?

Wood, stone and bone

2. Where did the Anasazi get hard stones for making tools?

Riverbed or other mountain areas

3. What was the most common everyday tool used by the Anasazi and what was it used for?

The metate and mano. It was used for grinding nuts, berries, corn and other food

4. Why have archeologists found very few pieces of Anasazi clothing?

Clothing was worn until it was no longer wearable

Clothing was made from plant material, which decays when discarded

The Anasazi probably didn't wear very much clothing

5. What is the most important piece of clothing for the Anasazi and why?

Sandals were the most important because the feet needed to be protected from the rocky terrain, cactus and insects

6. What are some of the things the Anasazi used baskets for?

Carrying water, storing grain and cooking

7. How did the Anasazi make their baskets waterproof?

By lining the baskets with pitch

8. During what period did the Anasazi start making pottery?

Modified Basketmaker period



9. What was the most important thing pottery allowed the Anasazi to do?

Cook food more thoroughly

10. During the Developmental Pueblo period, Anasazi pottery techniques improved. Why were they able to spend more time making pottery at this time?

Because they developed a more reliable method of growing food so they had more time.

11. What are the features of the refined pottery of the Classic Pueblo period?

Geometric black designs on a grayish-white background

12. What is an atlatl and how is it used?

It is a short, rigid stick that helps the hunter throw a spear with greater force

13. Around what year did the bow and arrow replace the atlatl and spear as the primary hunting weapon?

A.D. 500

14. Why was the bow and arrow better for hunting than the atlatl and spear?

Much more accurate, increasing the hunter's success

15. What is the difference between a petroglyph and a pictograph?

Petroglyphs are figures carved into the rock surface and pictographs are figures painted on the rock surface

16. Which are there more of at Mesa Verde, petroglyphs or pictographs and why?

There are more petroglyphs because the paint of the pictographs has eroded away over the years.

17. Rock art from each period of Anasazi culture has different characteristics. Why is there more rock art found from the Early Basketmaker time period?

Because rock art was the only way the people expressed themselves during that period. In later periods pottery became another form of artistic expression.



Anasazi Culture

Because the Anasazi did not have a written language, archeologists have worked to piece together information about this ancient culture. Much of what we believe to be true about the Anasazi comes from comparisons with modern Pueblo Indians of Arizona and New Mexico. The answers to the following questions can be found by exploring the culture section of the Fact File.

1. Certain parts of a village were assigned to individual family units called clans, while other parts were shared by the whole community. Next to each village feature, write whether it was assigned to a clan or community or to both clan and community.

Open courtyards	<u>community</u>
Sections of cliff dwellings	<u>clan</u>
Roads	<u>community</u>
Fields for farming	<u>clan</u>
Ceremonial kivas	<u>community or clan</u>
Refuse heaps	<u>community</u>

2. Anasazi family structure was probably matrilineal. What does this mean?

Descent was through the female line.

3. Why did Anasazi girls grind corn in front of a boy's mother before the girl would be allowed to marry the boy?

In order to prove that she could make enough food to support the family.

4. After Anasazi people married, where did they live?

With the girl's family.

5. Each of the seasons required specific work for the Anasazi. Next to each season, list the activities of the Anasazi.

Spring	<u>Repair and redecoration of the houses</u>
Summer	<u>Tend crops and conserve water</u>
Autumn	<u>Harvest crops and dry food for storage</u> <u>Collect grasses and plants for storage</u> <u>Hunt for wild game and store meat</u> <u>Weave feather blankets</u>
Winter	<u>Some hunting</u>



6. What were some of the items the Anasazi traded with people from other areas?

Seashells, turquoise, pottery, cotton

7. What were the three main staples of the Anasazi diet?

Corn, beans and squash

8. Men and women had different responsibility related to finding and preparing food. What were these responsibilities?

Men Hunting and farming

W omen Collect wild plants and berries and prepare the meals

9. About how tall were Anasazi men and women?

Men 5 feet 4 inches

W omen 5 feet

10. What did the Anasazi probably look like?

Dark hair and brown eyes

Light to dark brown skin coloring

11. W e can only base our ideas of Anasazi beliefs on what we learn from their modern descendants. What do the modern Pueblo Indians believe about spirits?

That they come from the underworld to teach people

12. By about what date was Mesa Verde deserted?

A.D. 1300

13. What are some of the theories about why the Anasazi abandoned Mesa Verde?

Natural resources like soil, forests and animals were depleted

Social and political problems

14. Where did the Anasazi go when they left Mesa Verde?

New Mexico and Arizona



Anasazi Architecture

Mesa Verde contains many different examples of Anasazi architecture including pithouses, pueblos and cliff dwellings. Over the seven hundred year span that the Anasazi lived at Mesa Verde, building techniques and designs reflected changes taking place in the culture. The answers to the following questions can be found by exploring the architecture section of the Fact File.

1. Why did the Anasazi first start to build permanent structures for shelter?

They started to lead a more settled way of life as farming replaced hunting and gathering and they needed to live near their farmlands.

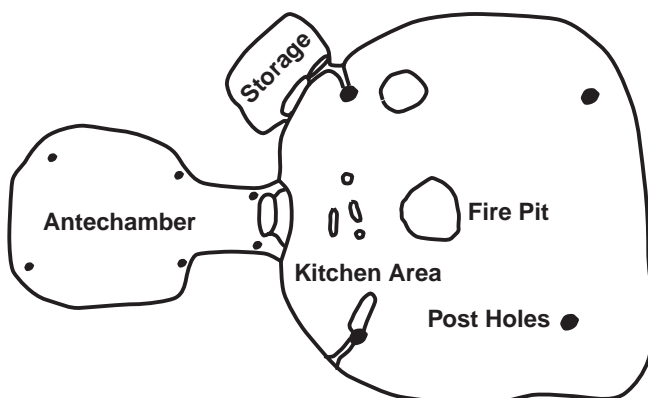
2. Three major forms of architecture are associated with different Anasazi time periods. Complete the chart below by filling in the name of the time period and the form of architecture for each range of dates

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Time Period</u>	<u>Form of Architecture</u>
A.D. 550 - A.D. 750	<u>Modified Basketmaker</u>	<u>Pithouses</u>
A.D. 750 - A.D. 1100	<u>Developmental Pueblo</u>	<u>Pueblos</u>
A.D. 1100 - A.D. 1300	<u>Great Pueblo</u>	<u>Cliff Dwellings</u>

Time Periods: Developmental Pueblo, Modified Basketmaker, Great Pueblo

Forms of Architecture: Cliff Dwellings, Pithouses, Pueblos

3. Label the parts of a pithouse on the diagram below.



4. What two things did the pithouse structure evolve into?

The above-ground structure developed into the pueblo house and the under-ground pit evolved into the kiva.



5. When the Anasazi began to build pueblo houses, they changed from using pole and adobe construction to what other type of construction?

Stone masonry

6. The word pueblo is Spanish for city.

7. What changes in the Anasazi culture caused them to start building the larger, pueblo structures?

They started to live in larger groups and probably developed more formalized family, social and religious patterns.

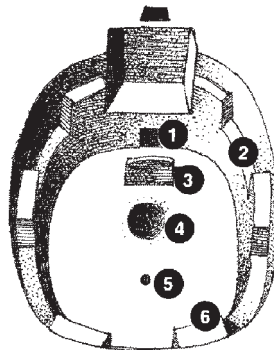
8. The name kiva comes from the Hopi word for ceremonial room.

9. What did the Anasazi use the kivas for?

Religious rituals and social gatherings

10. Label the parts of a kiva.

- 1 ventilator
- 2 bench
- 3 air deflector
- 4 fire pit
- 5 sipapu
- 6 pilaster



11. What are some of the reasons the Anasazi may have built the cliff dwellings high in the cliff alcoves?

Cliff dwellings are easier to defend

The alcoves provided better protection from the elements

Moving to the alcoves freed up valuable flat ground on the mesa tops that could be used for farming

12. Which direction do most cliff dwellings face in and why?

Most face south so they can catch more of the winter sun.

13. How did the Anasazi access the high cliff dwellings?

Ladders made from logs, ropes woven from yucca, hand and toe holds