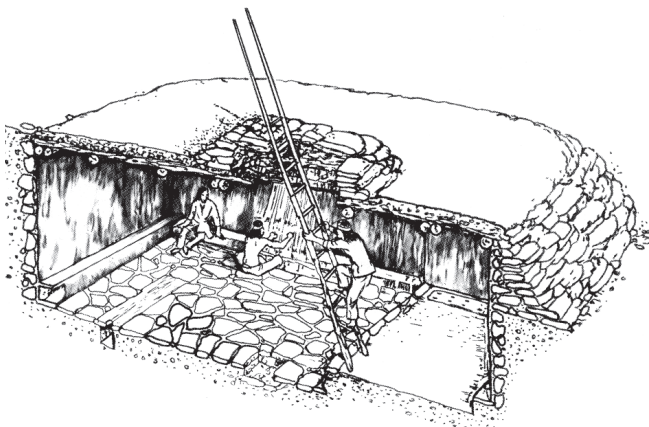


NATION PROFILE: THE PUEBLO (1)

The Spaniards were the first Europeans to explore the Southwest at the end of the sixteenth century. They gave the people they met the name of *Pueblo* from the Spanish word for *village*. The home territory of the Pueblo was in the canyons of Utah, Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico. They were descendants of the cliff-dwelling Anasazi people. The Pueblo people were not a single tribe. They were divided into two groups: Eastern Pueblo and Western Pueblo. The Eastern Pueblo built their villages along the Rio Grande. The Western Pueblo had less access to the river. They depended upon the run off of seasonal rains. The Pueblo spoke several different languages.

A pueblo consisted of several large, multi-storied houses arranged around a courtyard. Wooden ladders allowed movement from one level to another. In the courtyards were special rooms called **kivas**. These were used for special meetings

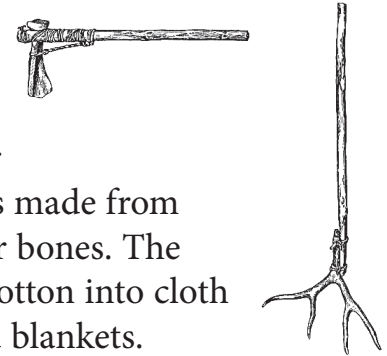


and religious ceremonies. Each pueblo was independent. It was headed by an **elected governor** and council.

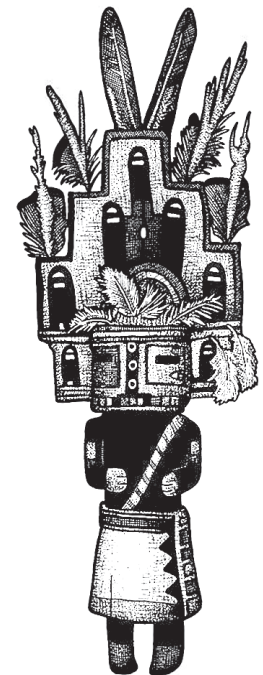
The Pueblo people were hunters and farmers. The men hunted deer, antelope, buffalo, and rabbits. The women grew **corn, beans, and squash**, as well as tobacco and cotton. The corn was grown on small patches of desert slopes.



The farmers used rakes made from deer antlers and hoes made from buffalo shoulder bones. The men wove the cotton into cloth for clothing and blankets.



The Pueblo people were deeply religious. They believed spirits called **Kachinas** guided their world. The kachinas had the power to bring rain and well being. The Kachinas take different forms in the shape of **Kachina dolls**. These carved dolls were given to Pueblo children to teach

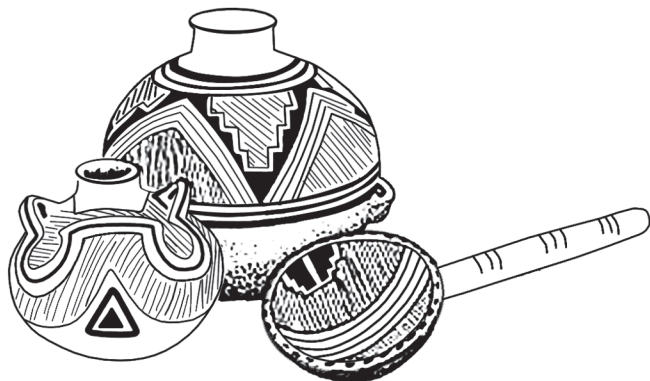


NATION PROFILE: THE PUEBLO (2)

them about the spirits. Some dolls were in the form of birds, wolves, and even clouds. Certain Pueblo men wore Kachina masks during sacred dances. The men spent more than half of their time in these ceremonies. The dances were designed to bring rain, good harvests and good fortune. Besides kachina dolls, ceremonial clowns played an important role. The Hopi, one of the Pueblo tribes, believed that human laughter and smiles were sacred.

The Pueblo valued kindness and generosity. They believed that the only thing that made a person sick was an unkind act or deed. To stay healthy, the Pueblo people needed to have a “good heart”.

Pueblo women made **beautiful pottery** and wove fine **wicker baskets**. Different groups made different types and designs



of pottery. Some were very thin; others had colorful designs; some were polished black, or had geometric patterns and bird patterns.

The Spanish arrived in the late 1500s. They were impressed with the large villages or pueblos built of stone and **adobe** (sun dried brick). The Spanish believed that the greatest good they could do was to convert the Pueblo to Christianity. The Spanish



built **missions** or church settlements all over what is now New Mexico. But the Pueblo continued to practice their religion in secret. If they were discovered, the Spanish would punish them. There were attempts by some Pueblo leaders to defeat the Spanish. But they were successful for just a short time. By the late 1600s, the Spanish *conquistadors* controlled most Pueblo lands.