

🔴🔴🔴 Pueblo Tribe 🔴🔴🔴

🔴 *How do you pronounce the word "Pueblo"? What does it mean?*

It's pronounced "PWAY-bloh." This just means "town" or "village" in Spanish, and was originally used to refer to the Indian cliff dwellings and large adobe house complexes of the Southwestern Indian tribes. Today, the word "Pueblo" (with a capital P) is also used to refer to these tribes themselves. There are many different Pueblos and each has its own name, including the Acoma, Cochiti, Isleta, Jemez, Laguna, Nambe, Picuris, Pojoaque, Sandia, San Felipe, Santa Ana, Santo Domingo, San Ildefonso, San Juan, Santa Clara, Taos, Tesuque, Ysleta del Sur, Zia, and Zuni. The [Hopi](#) are also Pueblo people, but they are culturally more distinct from the others, have a separate government, and are usually considered as a different tribe.

🔴 *Where do the Pueblo Indians live?*

The Pueblo are natives of the Southwest deserts, particularly [New Mexico](#). (The Hopi live in [Arizona](#), while the Ysleta del Sur Tigua live in [Texas](#).) Unlike many Native American tribes, the Pueblo Indians were never forced to leave their homelands and are still living there today.

🔴 *How is the Pueblo Indian nation organized?*

The nineteen Pueblos of New Mexico belong to a confederation called the All Indian Pueblo Council, which makes joint political decisions on behalf of all of them. Each Pueblo also has its own local government, with laws, police, and services just like a small country. However, the Pueblos are also US citizens and must obey American law.

In the past, the Pueblo Indians had a *theocratic* government. That means that the head priest or **cacique** (pronounced kah-seeq) was also the town chief. Today, each Pueblo still has its own cacique, but he is primarily a religious leader. Most Pueblos are now led by an elected governor and tribal council.

🔴 *What language do the Pueblo Indians speak?*

Almost all Pueblo people speak English today, but most of them also speak one of the native **Pueblo languages**. Though the Pueblo Indians all have closely related cultures, they do not all speak the same language. The [Hopi language](#) is a Uto-Aztecan language, distantly

related to the language of the Aztecs. The [Zuni language](#) is a **language isolate**, not related to any other living language. Seven of the remaining Pueblos speak [Keresan](#) languages, and the other twelve speak [Tanoan](#) languages related to Kiowa. Speakers of these four language groups cannot understand each other at all. In the past, they needed to use interpreters to communicate with each other. Today, they use English for that purpose.

All four of these language groups are traditionally **oral** languages, which means they were not written down. Caciques and elders in some Keres and Tanoan-speaking Pueblos don't want their languages to be written down at all, while other Pueblos encourage children to read and write their traditional languages today. If you'd like to know an easy Pueblo word, "k'ema" (pronounced k-ay-mah) means "friend" in San Juan Tewa (one of the Tanoan languages from a Pueblo that has published a written dictionary.)

🔴 ***What was Pueblo culture like in the past? What is it like now?***

Here is the homepage of the [All Indian Pueblo Council](#). On their site you can find information about the Pueblo people in the past and today.

🔴 ***How do Pueblo Indian children live, and what did they do in the past?***

They do the same things all children do--play with each other, go to school and help around the house. Many Pueblo children like to go hunting and fishing with their fathers. In the past, Indian kids had more chores and less time to play in their daily lives, just like colonial children. But they did have [dolls](#), toys, and games to play. A Pueblo mother traditionally carried a young child in a [cradleboard](#) on her back--a custom which many American parents have [adopted](#) now.

🔴 ***What were men and women's roles in the Pueblo tribe?***

Generally, Pueblo women were in charge of the home and family. Pueblo men were in charge of politics, agriculture and war. Women played important roles in Pueblo religion and clan governance, but caciques and warriors were traditionally always men. Both genders took part in storytelling, music and artwork, and traditional medicine.

🔴 ***What were Pueblo homes like in the past?***

Pueblo people lived in adobe houses known as **pueblos**, which are multi-story house complexes made of **adobe** (clay and straw baked into

hard bricks) and stone. Each adobe unit was home to one family, like a modern apartment. Pueblo people used ladders to reach the upstairs apartments. A Pueblo adobe house can contain dozens of units and was often home to an entire extended clan. Here are some [pictures of Pueblo adobe homes](#) and other Indian houses.

Unlike most old-fashioned Indian shelters, traditional Pueblo houses are still used by many people today. In fact, some Pueblo people have been living in the same adobe house complex, such as Sky City, for dozens of generations. Other Pueblo families live in modern houses or apartment buildings, just like you.

What were Pueblo clothes like? Did the Pueblos wear feather headdresses and face paint?

Originally, Pueblo men didn't wear much clothing-- only [breechcloths](#) or short kilts. Pueblo women wore knee-length cotton dresses called *mantas*. A manta fastened at a woman's right shoulder, leaving her left shoulder bare. Missionaries didn't think this dress style was modest enough, so in the 1900's many Pueblo women started wearing blouses or shifts underneath their mantas. This style is still in use today. Men and women both wore [deerskin moccasins](#) on their feet. For dances and special occasions, women painted their moccasins white and wrapped white strips of deerskin called *puttee* around their shins as leggings. Here is a site with photographs of [Pueblo clothing styles](#), and some photos and links about [Indian clothing](#) in general.

The Pueblos did not traditionally wear [warbonnets](#) like the Sioux. Pueblo men usually wore cloth headbands tied around their foreheads instead. For special ceremonies, Pueblo dancers sometimes wore painted masks or crowns of feathers. Both men and women wore their hair gathered into a figure-eight shaped bun called a *chongo*, but some Pueblo men preferred to cut their hair to shoulder length. Except for certain religious ceremonies, the Pueblos didn't paint their faces or bodies. But they are famous for their beautiful silver and turquoise ornaments, particularly their elaborate necklaces.

Today, many Pueblo people still wear moccasins or mantas, but they wear modern clothes like jeans instead of breechcloths... and they only wear puttee or kilts on special occasions like a dance.

What was Pueblo transportation like in the days before cars? Did

they paddle canoes?

No--the Pueblo Indians weren't coastal people, and rarely traveled by river. Originally they just walked. There were no horses in North America until colonists brought them over from Europe, so the Pueblos used dogs pulling **travois** (a kind of drag sled) to help them carry heavy loads. Once Europeans brought horses to America, the Pueblo Indians could travel more quickly than before.

What was Pueblo food like in the days before supermarkets?

The Pueblo Indians were expert farming people. They raised crops of corn, beans, squash, and sunflowers, as well as cotton and tobacco. Pueblo men also hunted deer, antelope, and small game, while women gathered nuts, fruits, and herbs. Favorite Pueblo recipes included hominy, popcorn, baked beans, soups, and different types of cornbread.

What were Pueblo weapons and tools like in the past?

Pueblo hunters used bows and arrows. In war, Pueblo men fired their bows or fought with spears and war clubs. Pueblo tools included wooden hoes and rakes for farming, spindles and looms for weaving cotton (and later wool), and pump drills for boring holes in shell and turquoise beads