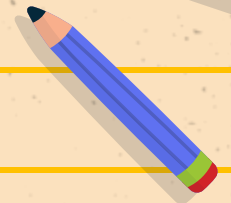
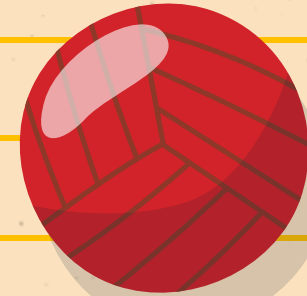
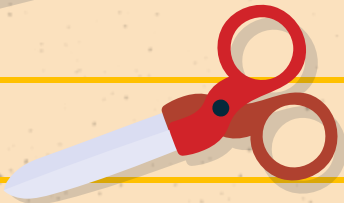
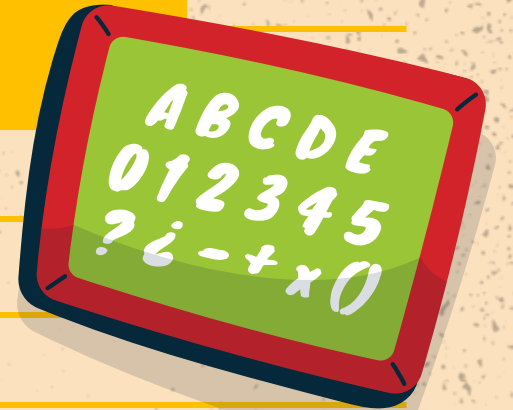
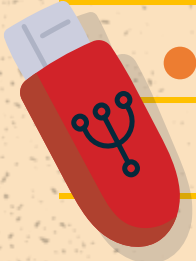


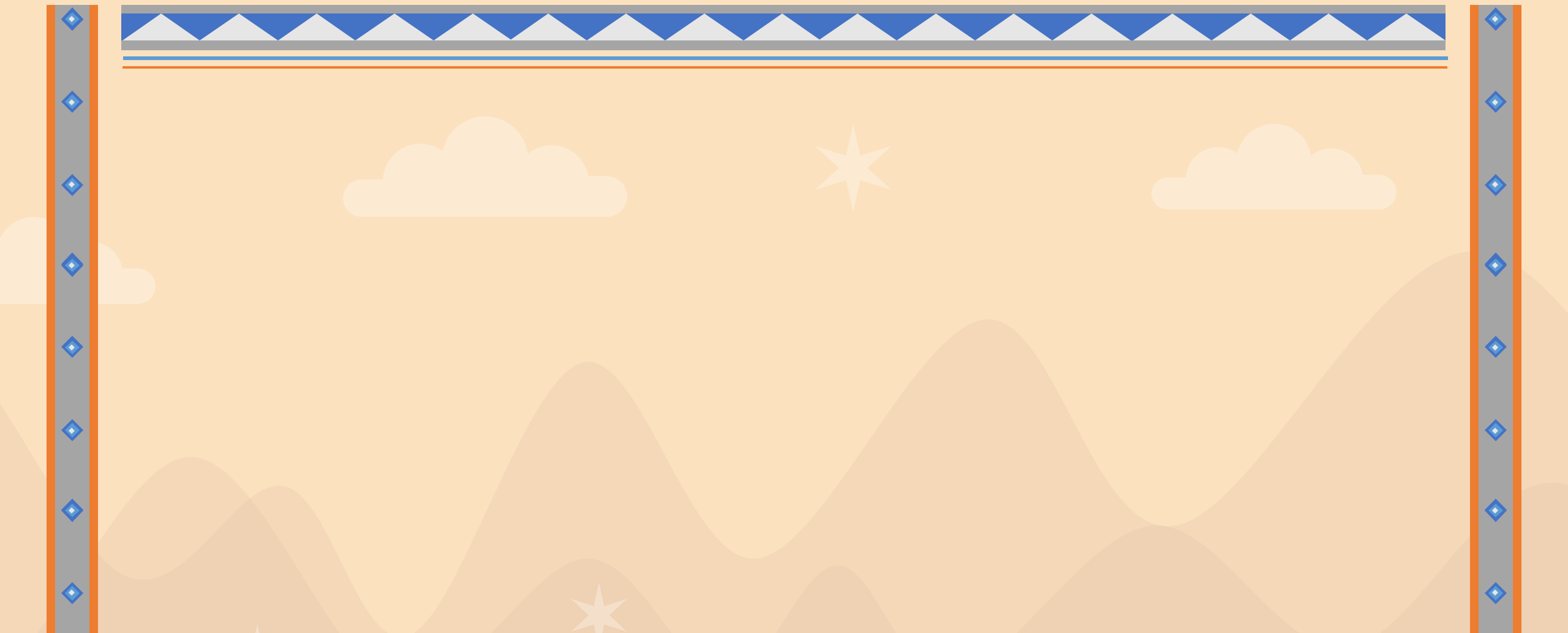
# What is the Southwest Region of the U.S. like?

INVESTIGATE



**1.3**

**Agriculture-Based Societies in the Southwest**



## **As a Young Historian, I will be able to...**

- **Analyze the culture & climate of the region**
- **Describe building techniques implemented**
- **Discuss the importance of agriculture & maize**

# **Diversity of the Region**

**The Southwest region (between Nevada into Mexico)  
of North America has large biome  
differences....**

**Deserts & Forests**

**Mountainous territories & areas of low/moderate  
rainfall**

**Due to the extremes in geographic locations, the  
people here developed distinct cultural  
groups**

# Language Groups

**Yuman-Speakers** lived in the Colorado river valley in Mexico

These people were hunters who relied upon the flood plain for agriculture

The **O'odham** group lived in Southern Arizona, living remote highlands, arid deserts, & lush river valleys

Arizona & New Mexico was home to the **Pueblo** people, who spoke different dialects but shared cultural traits

# Language Groups

Black Mesa, Arizona was occupied by the **Hopi** people

The Zuni people lived in large **Adobe Pueblos**-  
Multistory houses made of adobe clay

The east was the Acoma, Laguana, Keresan, &  
Taonoan people

Some pueblos in the region had circular ceremonial  
pits known as **kivas**

# Agriculture

People who lived in the highlands developed agriculture based on corn, beans, & squash

The earliest variety of maize (*Zea Mays* or Indian Corn) developed in the Southwest

Maize originally was used to supplement their gathering diets, but soon society depended on it

Soon different variations of maize was grown to fit the region, such as *Chapalote* in the Southwest

# Maize Agriculture

**Maiz de Ocho** eventually became the staple grow in the Southwest because of it was easy to grind & cook

However, it couldn't serve as the only diet or villages would contract **pellagra**- a vitamin deficiency that would cause sores, bleeding, & death

This led to the “**three-sisters**” diet comprised of beans, corn, & squash

Agriculture eventually saw the rise of the first permanent villages in the Americas



# **Life in the Southwest**

**Pit dwellings began to appear around the Southwest  
& some villages specialized in trade (such as  
shells & obsidian)**

**People began to become connected via large  
distances due to trade & shared rituals**

**As populations grew, the pit houses became store  
rooms or kivas & people began to build &  
live in the adobe dwellings**

# The “Chaco Phenomenon”

From 900 CE to 1150 CE, Chaco Canyon, New Mexico, saw a boom of population growth

**Pueblo Bonito**- A large settlement built in a semicircle with five story buildings with each “apartment” having a kiva.

This area saw the rise of the Anasazi culture (Navajo word for “ancient enemies”)

As villages grew, the Anasazi people built **outliers**- networks of settlements that lead back to Chaco Canyon

# Anasazi Culture

Along roads leading from Chaco Canyon & outliers, the Anasazi people built irrigation systems for water to travel

Along with Pueblo Bonito, two other “great houses” were built. **Penasco Blanco & Una Vida**

Archeologists have found items such as human effigies & parrot statues in the region showing the scope of trade

A drought eventually drove the people from the region & into smaller societies

# Hohokam Culture

The **Hohokam** “those who have gone” people were another society in the Southwest region

Evidence suggests they arrived from Mexico to settle the region, evidence from trade materials & ritual ball courts

Rather than build large apartments, these people built homes that faced a giant courtyard

Evidence of a flood & war indicates the society vanished around 1450 CE

# Mesa Verde

The people of **Mesa Verde** settled the region of San Juan Basin of southwest Colorado

Villages were built along banks of rivers in deep cliff dwellings & in canyons

Eventually, most Anasazi people would leave the “Four Corners Territory (Colorado, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico connecting point) for better climates

Pueblo dwellings & kivas remained an important building unit for the people who remained