



# Hohokam Discovery guide



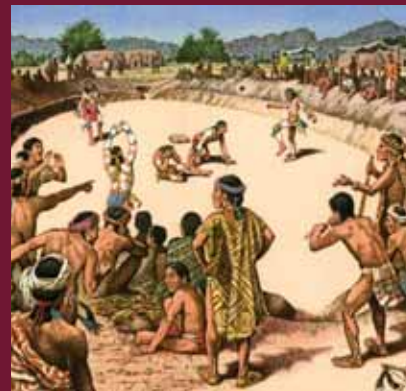
## The Ancient Hohokam

The Hohokam were a farming people who lived in central and southern Arizona and northern Mexico from approximately A.D. 1 to 1450. Their name comes from the Akimel O'odham (Pima Indian) word for "those who have gone." A creative and industrious people, the Hohokam turned the arid desert of the Salt and Gila River valleys and other areas of southern Arizona into lush green farmlands and thriving villages. One of those villages is the site of Pueblo Grande, preserved as a City of Phoenix museum and archaeological park.



## Assignment...

This fun guide will help you learn about the Hohokam. You will discover the secrets to surviving in the desert. Explore the ancient mound and ballcourt. Investigate the housing structures and what plants these successful farmers grew!



Have Fun and enjoy Your Visit!

Illustrations in this booklet are by Michael Hampshire

WELCOME TO PUEBLO GRANDE MUSEUM!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

the Theater  
*The Land and the People* (10 minute video)



1. Approximately how many people were supported at one time by the canal system constructed by the Hohokam?
2. What kind of items did the Hohokam obtain through trade? Where did they go to get these items?
3. The mound site at Pueblo Grande Museum is believed to have had several functions, both ceremonial and practical, in the Hohokam society. Name and describe one possible function of the mound site.
4. What do you think happened to the Hohokam?

the Exhibits  
*Landscapes & Lifeways*



**THE HOHOKAM CANAL SYSTEM AND MAP**

1. Name and draw at least one tool that the Hohokam used to dig the canals.
2. Pueblo Grande was not the only Hohokam site in the Salt River Valley. Find at least one other site on the map that would also have served as an “urban” center for the Hohokam. (Hints: look at the map key for homes and mounds, location of canals, flow of river, etc.)

### **TIME LINE: "CENTURIES OF CHANGE"**

3. What type of housing was used first by the Hohokam?
4. Name one kind of pottery made during the Classic period. Draw or describe some of the differences between the pottery throughout the time line.

### **PAINTING: THE HOHOKAM MURAL**

5. Describe some activities depicted in the wall mural. What time of year do you think this mural is representing? Why?
6. The Hohokam depended on the water of the Salt River, which once flowed year-round. Describe some of the ways they may have used the river for their survival.

Main Exhibit Gallery  
*The Land And The People*



### **SONORAN DESERT**

1. What are some of the animals the Hohokam may have used for food?
2. What kind of native plants would the Hohokam have used for building shelter and making tools?

### **DESERT FARMERS**

3. Name a few plants that the Hohokam grew and used for food or to make clothing.

### **HOHOKAM KITCHEN**

4. Describe special tools that would have been used to grind food, cut meat, chop wood, etc.
5. Draw a picture of a pot that would have been used in the kitchen. Pots used for special occasions may have had intricate designs painted on them. Do you think the designs had meaning?

## ARTS AND ARTISANS

6. The Hohokam made jewelry that may have been used for ceremonial occasions. Name some materials that would have been used to make jewelry.

7. Not many textile fragments, such as clothing, blankets or mats, are found in archaeological sites. What is one way an archaeologist can determine the patterns that were used in common textiles like mats?

## SET IN STONE

8. What are the two types of rock art? Give some possible explanations for why rock art was created.

### HANDS ON GALLERY *Dig It! Explore Archaeology*



1. Do Archaeologists dig dinosaur bones? If not, who does?
2. Check out the mural above the stratigraphy wall. What types of tools are the archaeologists in the mural using?
3. Name the two bodies of water the Hohokam got their shell from to make jewelry?

### the RUIN TRAIL The Platform Mound Ruin



#### **MOUNDS OF EARTH** (Find this sign.)

1. Why do you think the mound was built?

#### **SKYGAZING** (Find this sign.)

2. Why was skygazing so important to the Hohokam? Do you think that this would have been a fun activity? A sacred activity, perhaps?

#### **GROWTH AND CHANGE** (Find this sign.)

3. Notice the large empty room. What did archaeologists call this room and why?

The ruin trail  
Hohkam Houses: Doorways To The Past



**COMPOUND HOUSES**

1. What does the word "compound" mean?
2. Do you recognize any native plants that were used to construct this home? How far would you have to go to collect this material?

**PITHOUSES**

3. Can you guess why this style of home is called a pithouse?
4. How many people do you think lived in a house this size?
5. Look at the house arrangements. Who do you think lived in the other houses? Why were the houses built so close together?
6. Compare the pithouse and the compound house. What things are similar? What things are different? Why do you think the Hohokam changed the way they built houses?



The ruin trail  
The Ballcourt



1. What kind of ball game do you think was played here? Why do you think the Hohokam played this game?

## The ruin trail

### The Garden: Native Crops



1. Name some of the crops that the Hohokam planted.
2. Cotton was an important trade item for the Hohokam. Why?

## The ruin trail

### Native Plant Oasis: Before Supermarkets!



1. What plant was like a “one stop store” for the Hohokam? Why? Draw a picture of this plant.

## conclusions



1. After visiting the site and exhibits, what do you think happened to the Hohokam? Has your hypothesis changed since the beginning of your tour?