

ROZZY READERS

**ARCHEOLOGIST:
MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK
6-8**

Section 1: Archeologist

Archeologist



A person who studies human behavior and cultures to learn about the lives of people in the past.

National Parks



National parks are parks in the United States that have been created by the government. The government created national parks so that it could keep the plants and animals that live there safe.

Mesa Verde National Park



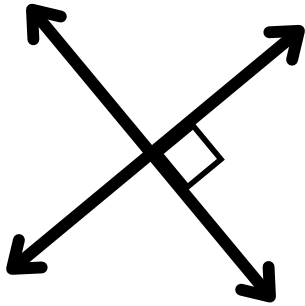
A National Park in Montezuma County, Colorado that was created to protect the archeological sites of the Ancestral Pueblo people.

Geometric Artwork



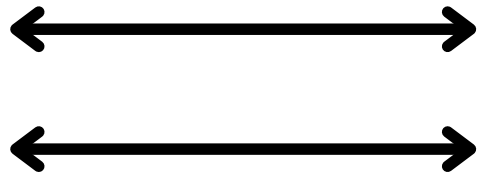
Artwork that is created using geometric elements and shapes.

Perpendicular Lines



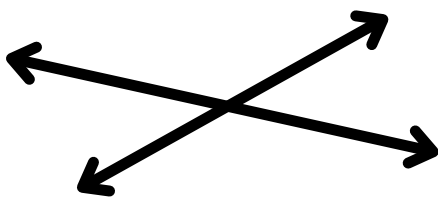
Lines that cross and make a right angle.

Parallel Lines



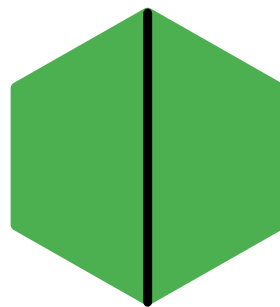
Lines that will never touch.

Intersecting Lines



Lines that cross but do not make a right angle.

Symmetrical



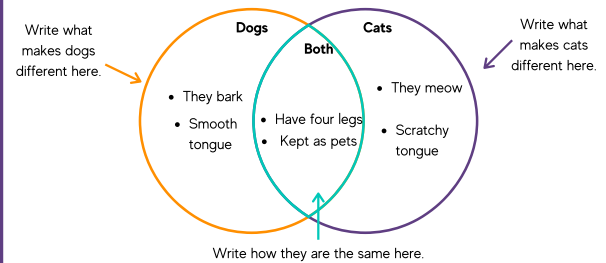
An object that can be split in half and be the same on each side is called symmetrical.

Asymmetrical



If an object is unable to be split in half so that each side is the same it is called asymmetrical.

Venn Diagram



A type of diagram that is used to compare and contrast two things.

Career Highlight:

Archeologist

An **archeologist** is someone who studies human behavior and cultures to learn about the lives of people from the past.

Responsibilities include:

- Analyze, recover, and preserve evidence of human activity from the past.
- Use artifacts and human remains to learn about how people from the past lived.
- Find and study objects from long ago such as tools, pottery, cave paintings, or ruins of buildings.
- Use data, laboratory samples, and other sources of information to uncover patterns about human life, culture, and origins.
- Protect and manage important archeological sites.

Education required:

A master's degree in anthropology or archeology is required for those who wish to work as an archaeologist. Some archaeologist jobs may require a Ph.D.



Content Check:

Archeologists

Answer the questions below about archeologists.

1. What does an archeologist study?
2. List at least three objects that an archeologist may study.
3. Why do you think it is important to learn about people and cultures from the past?

Section 2:

Mesa Verde National Park

Imagine that you just got a job as an archeologist at Mesa Verde National Park! You have to learn all about Mesa Verde National Park. Get started by reading the information on the next pages.

Learn: Mesa Verde National Park

LOCATION:

Mesa Verde National Park is located in Montezuma County, Colorado.



QUICK FACTS:

Mesa Verde National Park was established in 1906. The park was created to protect the archeological sites of the Ancestral Pueblo people.

The Ancestral Pueblo people lived here for over 700 years, from 600 to 1300 CE.

The park protects almost 5,000 known archeological sites, with 600 of them being cliff dwellings. Cliff dwellings are homes that are built under the overhangs of cliffs. These archeological sites are some of the best preserved in the United States and give us a great look into what life was like for the Ancestral Pueblo people.



Tower and Un-roofed Kivas

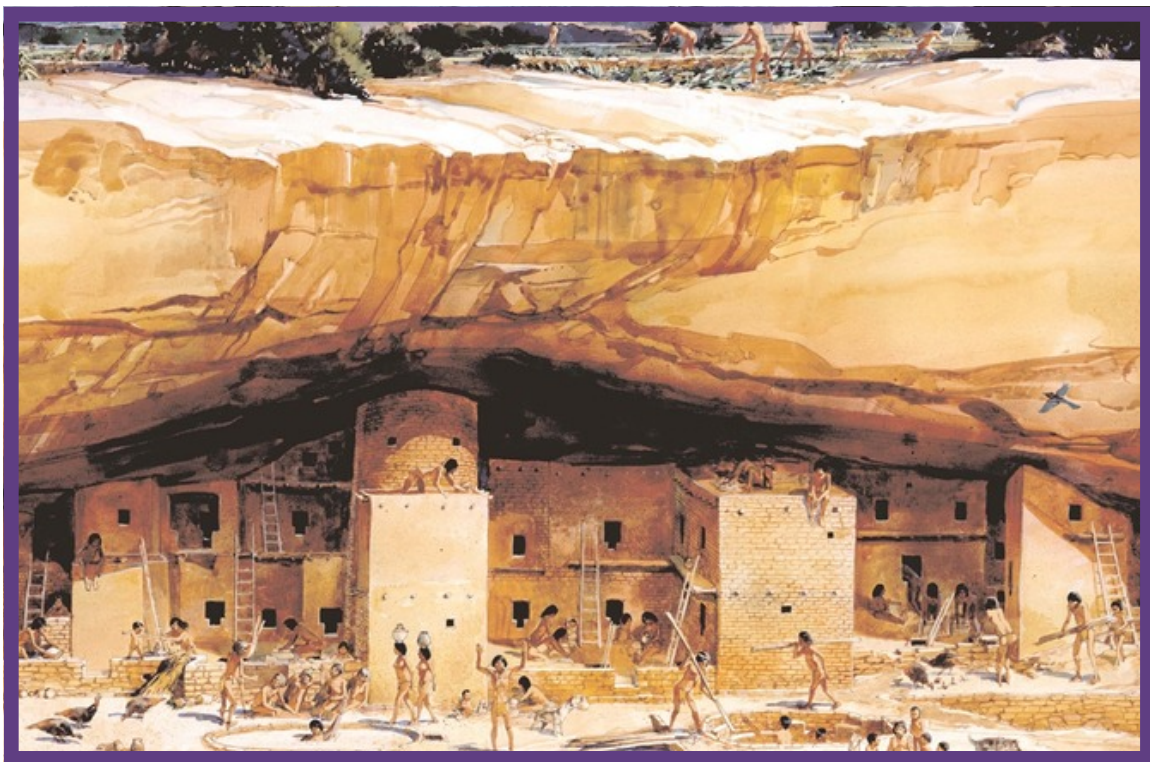


Cliff Palace

Mesa Verde's largest cliff dwelling

HISTORY:

- About 1,400 years ago, a group of people chose Mesa Verde for their home.
- Ancestral Puebloans settled in Mesa Verde about 550 A.D. and lived in the area for more than 700 years.
- They built elaborate stone communities in the canyon walls.
- In the late 1200s, they began to leave the area and moved to New Mexico and Arizona.
- Today Ancestral Puebloans' descendants, the Hopi, Zuni, Acoma, and other Rio Grande Pueblo people, live in Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas.



PLANTS:

The Ancestral Pueblo people used a variety of plants for food and medicine. Look at a few plants that the Ancestral Pueblo people used below.

Broadleaf Yucca

- Fruit can be eaten
- Roots for soap or shampoo,
- Used medicinally to reduce swelling
- Strong leaf fibers for making ropes, clothing, blankets, sleeping mats, and baskets.



Prickly Pear Cactus

- Pads can be eaten raw or baked once the spines are removed.



Utah Juniper

- Berries used for flavoring.
- Wood used for lumber, plates, and firewood.



ANIMALS:

Mesa Verde is a semi-arid climate with moderately high elevation. Semi-arid climates get very little rainfall. Below are photos of a few animals that are common in this region.



Bobcat



Collard Lizard



Wild Turkey



Prairie Rattlesnake

TODAY:

Today, people visit Mesa Verde National Park to view the archeological sites that are preserved. Many also come to hike trails and view wildlife in the area.



Content Check:

Mesa Verde National Park

1. Why was Mesa Verde made a national park?
2. Write at least one way Ancestral Pueblo people used each plant listed below.
 - a. Broadleaf Yucca:
 - b. Prickly Pear Cactus:
 - c. Utah Juniper:
3. Where do most of Ancestral Puebloans descendants live?

Section 3: Math Practice

Geometric Designs, Parallel Lines, and Symmetry

Archeologists often examine artifacts to learn about people who lived in the past. Learn about how the Ancestral Pueblo people used geometric designs, parallel lines, and symmetry when designing their pottery.

Part of your job as an archeologist is to look at artifacts to learn about people who lived in the past. Mesa Verde National Park has a lot of artifacts and architectural sites to teach you about the Ancestral Pueblo people who lived there 1,400 years ago.

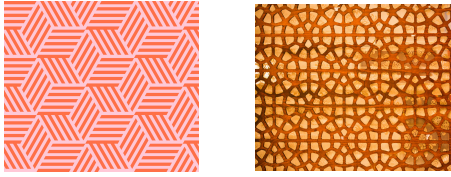
Pottery shards are one type of artifact that can be found in Mesa Verde National Park. Ancestral Pueblo people used geometric designs, parallel lines, and symmetry in many of their designs.

Learn about geometric designs, symmetry, and parallel lines on the next few slides.



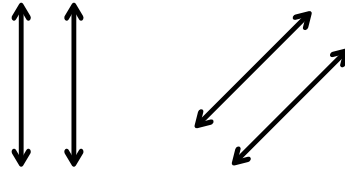
Geometric Art

Artwork that is created using geometric elements and shapes.



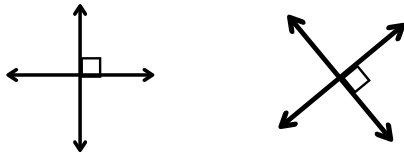
Parallel Lines

Lines that will never touch.



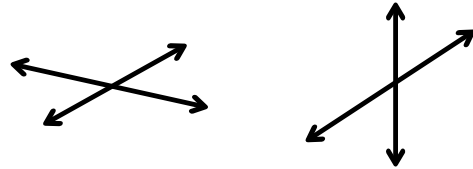
Perpendicular Lines

Lines that cross and makes a right angle.



Intersecting Lines

Lines that cross but do not make a right angle.



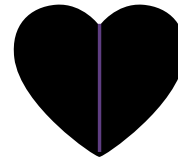
Symmetry

When an object is split in half and each side is exactly the same.



Symmetrical

An object that can be split in half and be the same on each side is called symmetrical.



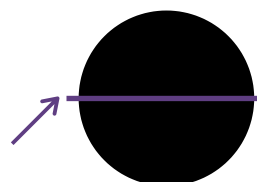
Aysemmetrical

If an object is unable to be split in half so that each side is the same it is called asymmetrical.

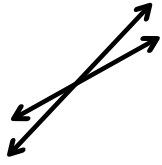


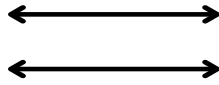
Line of Symmetry

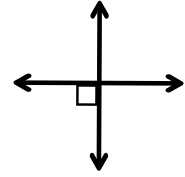
An imaginary line that splits an object in half in order to make each side exactly the same.

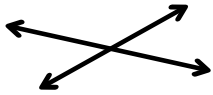


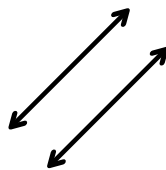
Look at the sets of lines below. Under each one write if the lines are parallel, perpendicular, or intersecting.

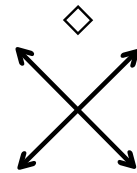




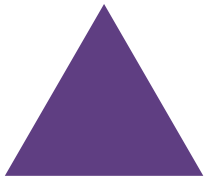








Look at the shapes below. Under each one write if the shape is symmetrical or asymmetrical.













Ancestral Pueblo people often used geometric features when decorating their pottery. Read the following quote from the book Mesa Verde the Living Park, page 19.

"Mesa Verde ceramic artists ...had a vast and fascinating repertoire of abstract geometric designs. There were bands of parallel rings, spirals, scrolls, interlocking curlicues, triangular mazes, elbows that folded in on themselves, stairstep-like ziggurats, lightning-like slashes, and checkerboards. Some of the same figures appear on rock walls as petroglyphs. Designers today see an obsession with symmetry and the tension of tight, parallel lines."



Look at the three artifacts below. Then, in the box underneath the picture, use what you have learned to write about at least one of the geometric features that the Ancestral Pueblo people used when designing each piece. Geometric features you could write about are: parallel lines, perpendicular lines, intersecting lines, or symmetry.



Look at the three artifacts below. Then, use what you have learned to write about at least one of the geometric features that the Ancestral Pueblo people used when designing each piece. Geometric features you could write about are: parallel lines, perpendicular lines, intersecting lines, or symmetry.



Section 4:

ELA Practice-Venn Diagrams and Narrative Writing

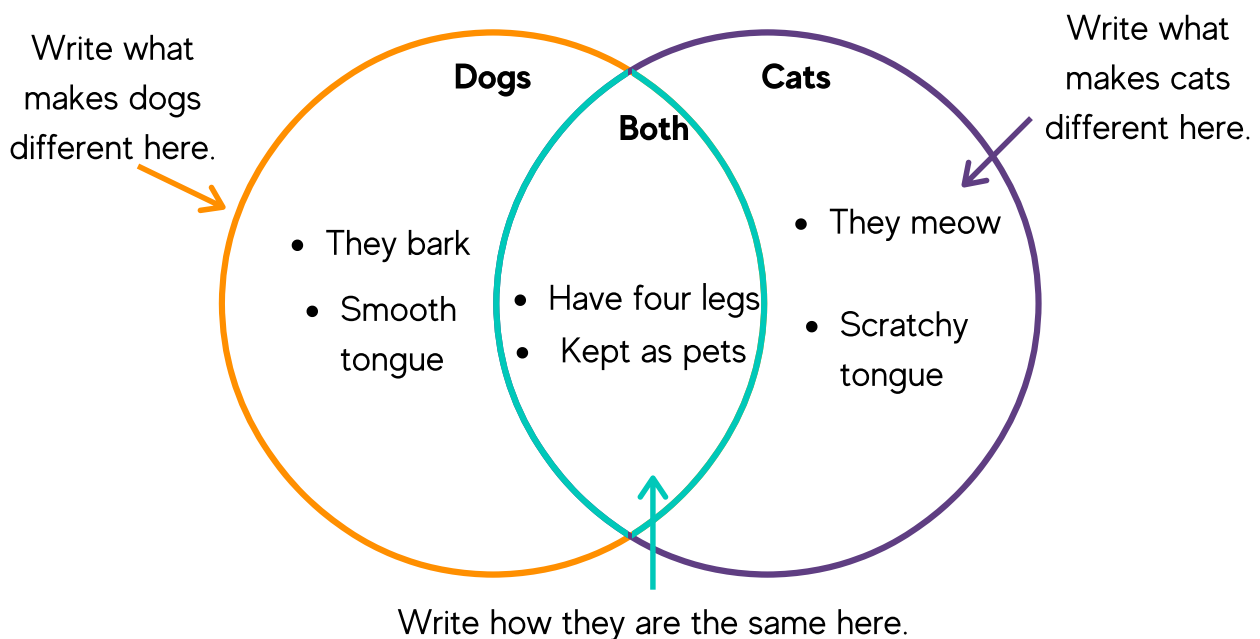
Archeologists often learn about and compare different cultures. Learn about how the Ancestral Pueblo people lived 1,400 years ago. Then, use a Venn diagram to compare their way of life to how we live today.

Archeologists often learn about and compare different cultures. You will use the information you have learned about the Ancestral Pueblo people to complete a Venn diagram by comparing how the Ancestral Pueblo people lived 1,400 years ago to how you live today. Start by learning about Venn diagrams and looking at the example Venn diagram below.

When you **compare** things you say how they are the same.

When you **contrast** things you say how they are different.

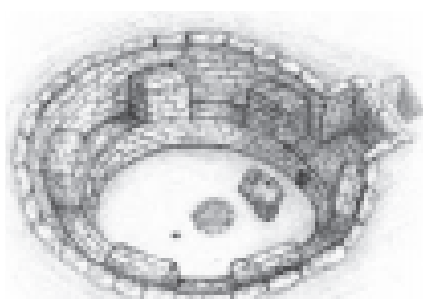
EXAMPLE:



View this diorama that was constructed in Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum in the 1930s to show the daily life of an Ancestral Pueblo cliff dwelling. Read more about the daily life of the Ancestral Pueblo people on the next page.



The Ancestral Pueblo people got the majority of their food by farming corn, beans, and squash. They would also get food by gathering wild plants and hunting deer, rabbits, squirrels, and other game. Woven mats or deer hides could have also been used as clothing. They also had cotton by this time. Although they couldn't grow it here, they traded with others and made shirts, blankets, and other types of textiles with cotton. They built their homes beneath the overhanging cliffs. They used sandstone that they shaped into rectangular blocks about the size of a loaf of bread. In addition, they also built underground kivas. Kivas were ceremonial chambers. The kiva roofs created open areas where many daily routines took place. The cliff dwellings had no running water, so women and children had to go to the nearest seep spring to collect it in pottery jars. Sometimes there was a spring nearby, but they often had to walk a distance to get water every day. Children helped by assisting the adults with tasks like carrying fire wood. They practiced how to use the tools they would need as an adult, like a bow and arrow for hunting. They also learned their family's or clan's history by listening to oral stories shared by their elders.

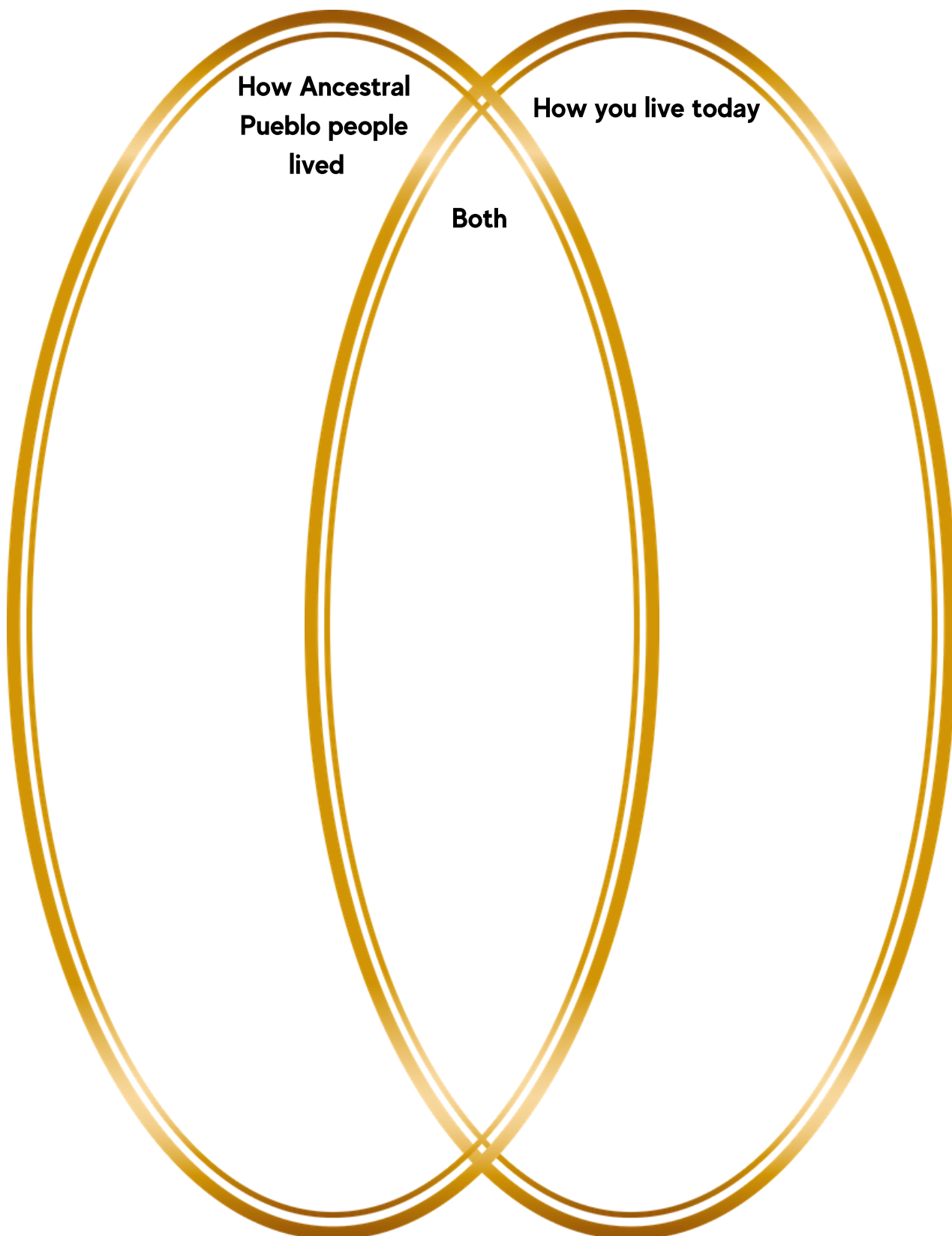


Kiva



Seep Spring

Use the information you have learned about the Ancestral Pueblo people to complete the Venn diagram. You will compare how the Ancestral Pueblo people lived 1,400 years ago to how you live today. Include at least two points in each section.



You are now going to imagine you have gone back in time and are living in Mesa Verde with the Ancestral Pueblo people. You are going to write a diary entry about what your average day looks like. Your entry must include the following:

- A minimum of ten sentences
- Information about how you get food and water
- Information about the home you live in
- Information about a way that you are able to help your family

Look at the example below. Then, write your own diary entry on the next page.

"My family and I live in a stone room of a cliff dwelling. I woke up very early this morning and people had already started making cooking fires. I saw my sister walking to collect water from the nearest seep spring, so I grabbed a pot and went with her to help. After I ate my breakfast I climbed up the cliff face using hand and toe holds to reach the fields. I spent most of the day helping to clear the fields and planting corn, beans, and squash. Corn is my favorite crop to eat. When I got back my mother was teaching my younger sister how to make pottery from clay. We use pottery for cooking and storing food and water. Before dinner, I went to collect yucca leaves. My mother is going to teach me how to pound the leaves into fibers to make rope, sandals, and baskets. After dinner, I went with my family to the kivas for a celebration."

Imagine you have gone back in time and are living in Mesa Verde with the Ancestral Pueblo people. Write your diary entry about what your average day looks like in the box below. Remember, your entry must include the following:

- A minimum of ten sentences
- Information about how you get food and water
- Information about the home you live in
- Information about a way that you are able to help your family