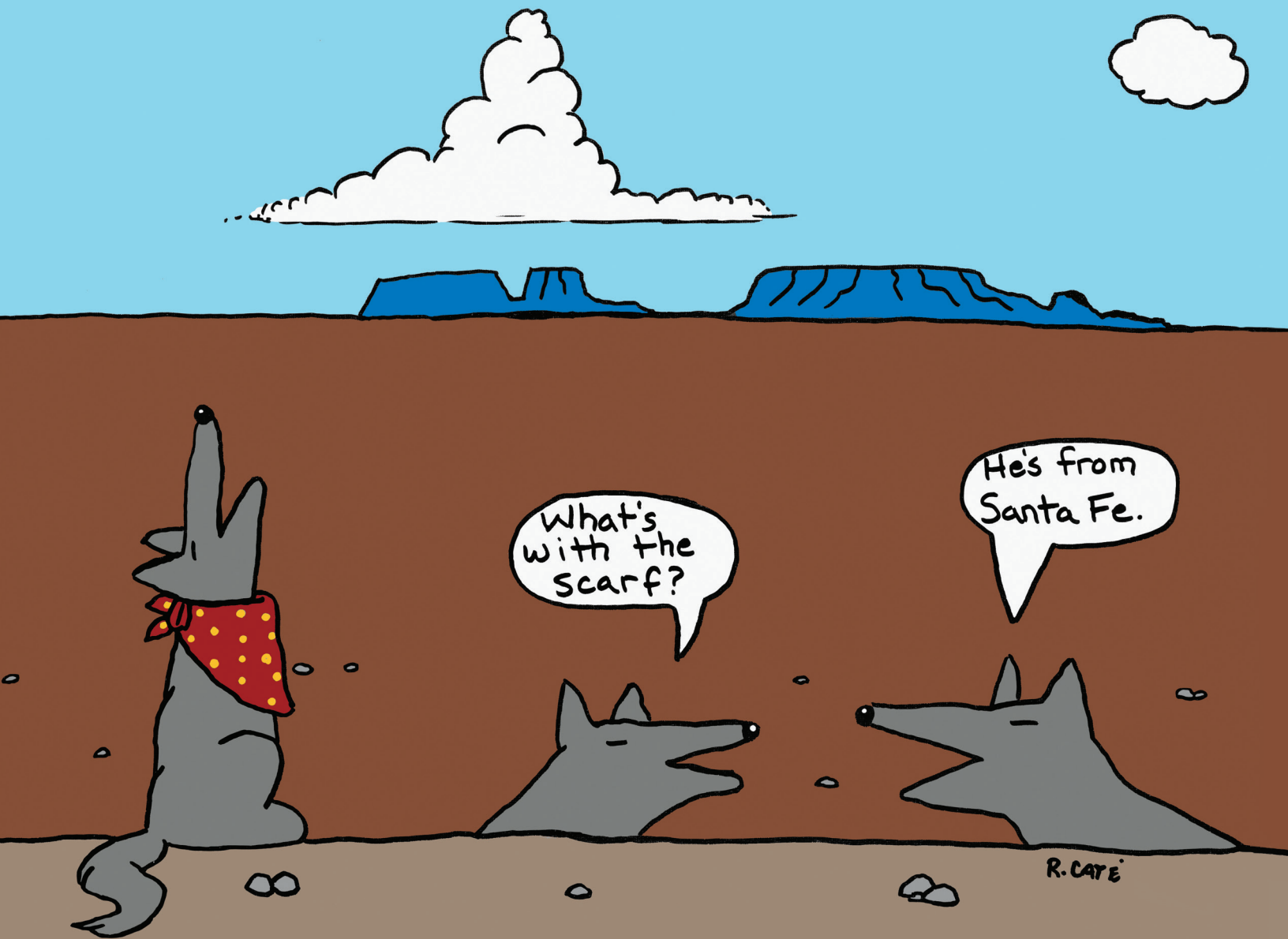


# Laughter & Resilience: Humor in Native American Art

## EXHIBITION GLOSSARY



Ricardo Caté (Santo Domingo Pueblo)  
*Untitled (Santa Fe Coyote)*, n.d.



**Wheelwright Museum**

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## **Acknowledgments**

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**Art Dealers Association of America Foundation.**

**Acrylic**

A paint with liquid plastic emulsion that contains colored pigment. It is known for its quick drying and luminosity.

**Aesthetics**

A branch of philosophy dealing with the nature of the beautiful and with judgments concerning beauty.

**Albuquerque Indian School (AIS)**

A Native American boarding school established by the Presbyterian Church in 1881 and transferred to the Bureau of Indian Affairs in 1884. It was located in northwest Albuquerque, NM. The school closed in 1980 and the property was transferred to the All Indian Pueblo Council.

**American Indian**

A term commonly used to describe a member of any of the indigenous peoples of North, Central, and South America, especially used in North America.

**American Indian Movement (AIM)**

A Native American grassroots movement that was founded in July 1968 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The movement called attention to issues affecting Native Americans such as sovereignty, treaty rights, and racism.

**Ashiwi Museum and Heritage Center**

A tribal museum located in Zuni, New Mexico, dedicated to serving the Zuni Pueblo community with programs and exhibitions.

**Bear-grass**

A stout perennial that rises out from a woody, tuber-like rhizome. Bear-grass leaves are dull olive green, grass-like in appearance and rough to the touch. It is used to create baskets by the Tohono O’odham people of southern Arizona.

**Blackfoot**

A Native American tribe that migrated from the Great Lakes Region to the Northwestern United States. The tribe is located in northern Montana, Southern Alberta, and Saskatchewan.

**Blood Quantum**

An amount of Native American “blood,” in percentages, that an individual possesses, often used to determine membership in a tribe.

**Brigham Young University (BYU)**

A research university located in Provo, Utah founded, supported, and guided by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter- Day Saints.

**Bureau of Indian Affairs**

A division of the United States Department of Interior that administers federal programs to Native American tribes and manages land held in trust by the United States.

**Buffalo Bill**

The stage name of William Cody (1846-1917), a U.S. Army scout and showman known for producing “Wild West” shows.

**Buffalo Man**

The central character in “Last Indian Market”, a 2015 photograph by Chemehuevi photographer, Cara Romero.

**Buffalo Soldiers**

African-American US military personnel who served on the western frontier during the “Indian Wars”(1860-1890). Regiments and Cavalry units were established in 1866 and disbanded in 1951.

**Cartoon**

A drawing or group of drawings in newspapers, magazines, video, or books intended as humor, caricature, or satire.

**Censor**

The suppression or prohibition of any part of a book, film, or news item that is deemed obscene, politically unacceptable or a threat to society.

**Cherokee Princess**

A myth used by those wanting to claim Cherokee ancestry and status. “My great-great-grandmother was a Cherokee Princess.”

**Collection**

The various holdings of a museum organized by category, such as paintings, sculptures, works on paper, or jewelry, to be viewed or studied.

**Colonize**

To migrate to, settle in, and occupy and area of land.

**Comedy**

A literary work or performance with a humorous or comic theme, intended to make an audience laugh.

**Comics**

An image or a set of images in a magazine, newspaper, or book told in pictures to elicit humor.

**Commercialism**

An attitude or philosophy devoted to maximizing profiting through supplying goods and services.

**Commodification**

The transformation of goods, services, ideas, and people into objects of trade.

**Coyote**

A major character in Native American lore who is portrayed as a comic trickster who suffers consequences as a result of engaging in negative social behavior.

**Coyote Café**

The Coyote Café is located in Santa Fe, New Mexico and serves modern southwestern cuisine.

**Cross Cultural Art**

Art resulting from an artist using ideas and styles from a foreign culture in order to produce new work.

**Crystal, New Mexico**

A Navajo community located near the Arizona and New Mexico border.

**Culture**

The characteristics and knowledge of a particular group of people, encompassing but not limited to language, religion, cuisine, social habits, music, and arts.

**Curator**

A person responsible for organizing, interpreting, and exhibiting a body of work.

**Cushing**

Frank Hamilton Cushing was a 19th century anthropologist known for his in-depth cultural study of Zuni Pueblo.

**Decolonize**

An ongoing theoretical and political concept used to contest and reframe narratives about indigenous community histories and the effect of colonial expansion, genocide, and cultural assimilation.

**Devil's Claw**

A plant found in the Sonoran Desert of Arizona whose dried claws provide strong supple fiber, which when soaked in water, forms long strands used to construct baskets by members of the Tohono O'Odham community and other communities.

**Etching**

A printing method that uses acid to incise marks on to a metal plate.

**Farmington, New Mexico**

A city in San Juan County located in northwestern New Mexico.

**First Mesa, Arizona**

First Mesa is located on the Hopi Reservation in Northern Arizona.

**Folk Art**

Forms of art that originate from people of a country, region, and that typically reflects their lifestyle.

**Folly**

A lack of good sense, normal prudence, or foresight, a foolish act or idea.

**Fort Defiance, Arizona**

A community located in western Arizona located seven miles north of Window Rock, Arizona. It was established in 1851 and was designated by the U.S. War Department to oversee the Navajo People on their return from captivity at Ft. Sumner, New Mexico.

**Genocide**

The deliberate and systematic destruction of a racial, political, or cultural group.

**Gouache**

An opaque pigment in water that is thickened with a glue-like substance.

**Guffaw**

A loud burst of laughter.

**Hammon, Oklahoma**

A small town located in western Oklahoma near the Texas border. It is the home of the Red Moon band of Southern Cheyenne tribe.

**Heard Museum**

A private non-profit museum dedicated to the advancement of American Indian Art, established in 1929 and located in Phoenix, Arizona.

**Heyoka**

A ceremonial clown of the Lakota people of the Great Plains.

**Hilo, Hawaii**

A city located on the eastern side of the Big Island, in the state of Hawaii.

**Hoop Dance**

A Native American social dance generally performed for the public that requires dexterity to manipulate a variety of hoops into various shapes and designs.

**Hozho**

A concept found in Navajo culture that refers to the interconnectedness between beauty, harmony, and goodness in all physical things.

**Humor**

The quality of being amusing or comic, especially expressed in literature, art, or speech.

**Identity**

The distinguishing characteristic or personality of an individual. Identity encompasses the memories, experiences, relationships, and values that creates one's sense of self.

**Idiosyncratic**

A unique characteristic of an individual or artwork.

**Indian Boarding Schools**

Established in the 1870s by the United States government to assimilate Native American youth to the "American Way of Life" through education.

**Indian Pueblo Cultural Center (IPCC)**

A center dedicated to the preservation and perpetration of Pueblo Culture, History, and Art, located in Albuquerque, New Mexico and operated by the 19 Pueblos of New Mexico.

**Indigenous**

The earliest inhabitants of an area or region. A person, animal, or plant that grows naturally in a particular region or environment.

**Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA)**

A four-year Native arts college dedicated to the study of contemporary Native American Arts, located in Santa Fe, New Mexico and established in 1962.

**Irony**

The use of words to convey a meaning that is opposite of its literal meaning.

**Jest**

Something that is said or done in order to be funny.

**Joke**

An action, expression, or story with a punch line that provokes laughter.

**Kiowa Five**

A group of Oklahoma Kiowa artists who painted in the early 20th century. They were Spencer Asah, James Auchiah, Jack Jokeah, Stephen Mopope, and Monroe Tsatoke. This group was known as the Kiowa Six when artist Lois Smokey was a member of the group.

**Koshare**

A ceremonial figure in Pueblo tribes that is known for humorous antics.

**Lampoon**

A piece of writing, a drawing, etc. that criticizes a famous person or public organization in a humorous way, allowing unseemly qualities to be seen and making them laughable.

**Laugh**

To express amusement with sound and movement.

**Ledger Art**

Plains tribal narrative drawings or painting on ledger paper, cloth, or hide. Ledger art flourished from the 1860's to the 1920's, and is still an active art.

**Mascot**

A person, animal, or object adopted by a group that is a symbolic figure to bring good luck.

**Metaphor**

A figure of speech in which a word denoting one subject or idea is used in place of another to suggest a likeness between them.

**Mickey Mouse**

An animated cartoon character created by Walt Disney in 1928.

**Mimbres**

A group of Indigenous people who lived in Southwestern New Mexico, Arizona, and northern Mexico. The Classic Mimbres period (1000–1130 AD) is represented by the emergence of black on white pottery.

**Mixed Media**

A technique for making art by using different materials.

**“Mutton Man”**

A cartoon super-hero created by the late Navajo comedian, Vincent Craig.

**Navajo Times**

A tribal newspaper established by the Navajo Tribal Council in 1959.

**Organza**

A thin, plain weave, sheer fabric traditionally made from silk.

**Origin Stories**

A narrative or story that explains how a cultural group came into existence.

**Paradox**

A statement that seems contrary to common sense and yet is perhaps true.

**Peace Corps**

A federal government program dedicated to volunteering and working with local communities locally and internationally. President John F. Kennedy founded the Peace Corps in 1960.

**Petroglyph(s)**

Carving(s) or inscription(s) on rock.

**Pigments**

A dry coloring powder mixed with a suitable base, oil or water, to make paint.

**Pine Ridge, South Dakota**

The location of the Oglala Lakota reservation in the state of South Dakota.

**Polacca, Arizona**

A Hopi village located at First Mesa in Northwest Arizona.

**Pop Art**

Art based on modern popular culture and the mass media. Art in which commonplace objects such as road signs, comic strips, or soup cans are used as subject matter and are often physically incorporated into the work.

**Rabbit Trickster**

A light-hearted character who does not engage in serious wrongdoing and is featured in many children’s stories. The character is prone to humorously inappropriate behavior such as carelessness and overeating.

**Raven Trickster**

A character known for poorly thought out behavior that causes trouble for himself and the people around him. Known for his impatience and greed but also for his great deeds and heroism.

**Reservation**

A legally designated tract of land managed by a federally recognized Native American tribe.

**Resilience**

An ability to recover from or adjust easily to change or misfortune. The power or ability to return to an original form or position after being bent, compressed, or stretched; elasticity.

**Rhetoric**

Speech or writing intended to influence people.

**Rio Puerco**

A tributary of the Rio Grande located in the state of New Mexico.

**Santa Fe Indian Market**

An annual Native American arts market that takes place in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The market is organized by the Southwestern Association for Indian Arts (SWAIA). Established in 1921.

**Santa Fe Indian School (SFIS)**

Established in 1890 to educate Native American children from the tribes throughout the southwest. The school, today, is operated by the 19 Pueblo Council of Governors to promote the right and responsibility to educate New Mexico Native American children in a manner that supports their cultural and traditional belief systems.

**Satire**

The use of humor, irony, exaggeration, or ridicule to expose and criticize people's folly or vices particularly in the context of contemporary politics or other topical issues.

**Sketch comedy**

A series of short scenes performed by a group of comic actors or comedians.

**Southwestern Association for Indian Arts (SWAIA)**

Established in 1922, this organization sponsors the annual Santa Fe Indian Market in Santa Fe New Mexico.

**Sobriety**

A state of being sober, free of alcohol or drugs.

**Sponge Bob Square Pants**

An animated cartoon character created by Stephen Hillenburg in the late 1980's. The character is described as a childish, joyful, sea sponge who lives in a pineapple in the underwater city of Bikini Bottom.

**Stereotype**

A widely held, over-simplified, and preconceived idea about the traits or skills of an individual or group.

**Stoic**

A person who can endure pain or hardship without showing their feelings or complaining.

**Street Art**

Art that is created for exhibition in public spaces.

**Super Flat Movement**

A postmodern art movement founded by the artist Takashi Murakami, which is influenced by Manga and anime.

**Survivance**

An Indigenous self-expression in any medium that tells a story about their active presence in the world today.

**Tease**

To intentionally annoy, vex or make fun of a person often in a playful or mocking way.

**“The Last Supper”**

A painting created by Leonardo Da Vinci between 1495 and 1498, depicting Jesus Christ and his disciples at a dining table before he was crucified by the Romans.

**The Santa Fe New Mexican**

A local daily newspaper published in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

**Tribal Council**

The governing body comprised of appointed or elected members of a tribe.

**Tribal Band**

A small kinship-based group of 10-50 people. A tribe is made up of a number of bands.

**Tribe**

A social division in a traditional society consisting of families or communities linked by social, economic, religious, or blood ties, with a common culture and dialect, typically having a recognized leader.

**Trickster**

An entity or person who deceives or cheats others. In mythology, and in the study of folklore and religion, a trickster is a character in a story who exhibits a great degree of intellect or secret knowledge, and uses it to play tricks or otherwise disobey normal rules or conventional behavior.

**Vanderwagen**

A town located in McKinley County in western New Mexico.

**Wheelwright Museum's Collection**

The museum's holdings include jewelry, metalwork, carving, basketry, folk art, and textiles of Native peoples of the Southwest. The museum's archives include papers of many noted scholars and artists.



**Whimsy**

Something that is quaint, fanciful, playful, and amusing.

**Wit**

A quality of mental sharpness and inventiveness.

**Wooden Nickel**

A disc made of wood used to represent something of value for a limited amount of time. The phrase “Don’t take any wooden nickels” refers to avoiding being fooled.

**Zozobra**

A 50-foot high marionette made of muslin and shredded paper that is burned during the annual Santa Fe Fiesta celebration.

**1491s**

A five-member inter-tribal Native comedy sketch group that lampoons Native American stereotypes and related topics.

**Tribal References**

**Apache**

A group of culturally related tribes located in Arizona, New Mexico, and Oklahoma. These tribal groups are known as the Chiricahua, Jicarilla, Lipan, Mescalero, Salinero, Plains, and Western Apache.

**Blackfoot**

A Plains tribal group who migrated from the Great Lakes region of the United States and settled in the Northern Great Plains states of Montana, Idaho, and the province of Alberta, Canada.

**California Mission Tribes**

Tribal communities located in central and southern California. Tribes include the Diegueño, Luiseño and Janeño, Gabrielino, Chumash, and Costanoan.

**Cattaraugus Seneca**

One of three Seneca Nation reservations located in western New York state.

**Chemehuevi**

A tribe located in the Mojave Desert of southern California. They are considered the most southern group of the Paiute tribe.

**Cherokee**

A tribe whose ancestors lived in the southeastern part of the United States including North and South Carolina, Kentucky, Virginia, Tennessee and Georgia. Many were forced from their homelands in the 1800’s and were settled in the state of Oklahoma.

**Cheyenne Arapaho**

The name of two Plains tribes that are recognized as one tribe. Each tribe maintains their culture, traditions, customs, social dances, ceremonies and languages. The Cheyenne Arapaho tribe is located in western Oklahoma.

**Cree**

A large Canadian tribal group whose populations inhabit Canada and the United States. The Canadian Cree live in areas from Quebec in the east to Alberta in the west. American Cree live throughout many states and some share the Ojibway Rocky Boy reservation in Montana.

**Dakota**

The name for one of the three tribal language groups within the Sioux Nation located in Minnesota, South Dakota, North Dakota, Nebraska and Canada.

**Delaware**

A tribal people who originally resided along the Delaware River on the Atlantic coast of the United States. Descendants of the tribe reside in Oklahoma and Kansas.

**Eastern Navajo**

A jurisdictional designation for Navajo tribal members who reside in western New Mexico.

**First Nations**

A term for Indigenous or Aboriginal tribal people of Canada.



### **Hopi**

A group of Pueblo people who reside in several villages in northern Arizona. Every village is an autonomous government. However, the Hopi Tribal Council makes the laws for the tribe and sets policy to oversee tribal business. Hopi artisans are known for their weavings, silver overlay jewelry, hand carved Kachinas, and polychrome pottery.

### **Jemez**

A Pueblo community located 50 miles west of Albuquerque in north-central New Mexico. Artisans from Jemez are painters, sculptors, potters, and jewelers.

### **Kanaka Maoli**

Indigenous people of the Hawaiian Islands or their descendants.

### **Laguna Pueblo**

A Keres speaking Pueblo community located 45 miles west of Albuquerque in west-central New Mexico. The tribe consist of six villages, Laguna, Mesita, Paquate, Seama, Paraje, and Encinal. Laguna artisans create pottery, woodcarvings, paintings, and moccasins.

### **Lakota**

The name for one of the three tribal language groups within the Sioux Nation located in Minnesota, South Dakota, North Dakota, Nebraska and Canada.

### **Maidu**

A northern California tribe located in the Sierra Nevada and the Sacramento Valley.

### **Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation**

Known as the Three Affiliated Tribes, they are located on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation in central North Dakota.

### **Minnesota Chippewa**

A tribal governing body that represents six Chippewa bands that include Bois Forte, Fond Du Lac, Grand Portage, Leech Lake, Millie Lacs, and White Earth.

### **Mohawk**

The eastern-most tribe of the Iroquois Confederacy located in the state of New York. The Iroquois Confederacy is made up of the Seneca, Cayuga, Onondaga, Oneida, Mohawk and Tuscarora nations.

### **Muskogee Creek**

One of the Five Civilized Tribes located in eastern Oklahoma and whose tribal headquarters is located in Okmulgee, Oklahoma.

### **Navajo Nation**

The largest tribal governing body in the United States located in Window Rock, Arizona. The Navajo Nation represents close to 300,000 tribal members and is located on 16 million acres in Arizona, Utah, and New Mexico.

### **Nisenan**

A tribal people of California located near the Yuba River and American River watersheds in Northern California.

### **Oglala Lakota**

A Plains tribe that is one of seven bands of the Lakota division of the Great Sioux Nation. Their tribal headquarters are located at Pine Ridge, in southwestern South Dakota.

### **Oneida**

An Iroquois Confederacy tribe located in central New York state.

### **Onondaga**

One of the original five constituent nations of the Iroquois Confederacy in northeast North America. Their traditional homeland is in and around present-day Onondaga County, New York, south of Lake Ontario.

### **Otoe-Missouria Tribe**

A Plains tribe made up of Otoe and Missouriia peoples whose tribal headquarters are located in Red Rock, in northeastern Oklahoma.

### **Pit River**

A tribe consisting of eleven bands of indigenous people of California. They live primarily in the northeast corner of California.

### **Plains Cree SikSika Nation**

A First Nation tribal community located in southern Alberta, Canada.

### **Pueblo**

A tribe in the Southwest United States consisting of 19 tribal communities in New Mexico and one tribal community in El Paso, Texas.

### **San Juan Pueblo**

A Tewa language speaking Pueblo tribe located near the Rio Grande in northern New Mexico. The Pueblo changed their Spanish place name to the Tewa language name of Okay Owingeh. Artisans from this community are known for their polished red surface pottery.

### **Santa Clara Pueblo**

A Tewa language speaking Pueblo community located in northern New Mexico. Artisans from this community are known for their polished black pottery.

### **Santo Domingo Pueblo**

A Keres language speaking Pueblo community located 34 miles south of Santa Fe, New Mexico. Artisans from this community are known for their lapidary work, jewelry, and pottery.

### **Seminole**

The name of two tribes, one located in Florida and the other in Oklahoma. The original homelands of the Seminole were in the states of Georgia, Alabama and Florida.

### **Tohono O' Odham**

The tribe's 28,000 community members are located on tribal lands west and south of Tucson in the Sonoran desert of south-central Arizona. The tribal headquarters is located in Sells, Arizona. Artisans of this tribe are known for their basketry.

### **Warm Springs Chiricahua Apache**

The Fort Sill Apache Tribe is comprised of the descendants of the Chiricahua and Warm Springs Apaches who lived in southwestern New Mexico, southeastern Arizona and Northern Mexico. They were removed from their homelands and held as Prisoners of War by the United States from 1886-1914.

### **Western Navajo**

A jurisdictional area of the Navajo Nation located in Arizona and Utah.

### **White Mountain Apache**

A western Apache tribal group located 194 miles northeast of Phoenix in east-central Arizona. The tribe has over 12,000 members located in nine major reservation communities.

### **Wind River**

The home community of the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho tribes located in west-central Wyoming.

### **Wyandotte**

A tribe located Ottawa County, Oklahoma, whose original homelands were located in the Upper Great Lakes region of the United States.

### **Zuni**

A Pueblo community, with a population of 18,000 tribal members, located near the Arizona border in western New Mexico. Zuni artisans are known for their intricate inlaid jewelry and carved fetishes.

### **NOTE:**

Definitions were drawn from various dictionaries and web sources.





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