

## **American Indians of the Southwest**

### Region

The Southwest region is the driest region in the United States. It goes from northern Mexico to the Southwest United States. There are mesas, canyons, mountains and deserts in the Southwest. Very little rain falls here. Days are hot. Nights are very cold. The summers are very long. The winters are short and mild. Very few trees or plants grow in the Southwest.

### Types of Indians in the Southwest

Some American Indians in the Southwest moved around a lot. This is called nomadic. Others called Hopis stayed in one place. They learned to farm without water. They grew beans, corn and squash.

### Homes and Shelters

People in the Southwest used what they had around them to make their homes. They built homes into the side of cliffs. These were called cliff dwellings. Their homes were also made from clay or stone.

### Clothing

American Indians in the Southwest had to stay cool. Hopi women wore cotton clothes in the summer to stay cool. They dyed the cloth with plant dyes. The colors included orange, yellow, green and black. Men wore cloth for blankets and clothing. They put designs on the cloth.

### Tools

The Hopi people used clay pots to store their food. They decorated the pots with animal designs.

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## **American Indians of the Great Plains**

### Region

The Great Plains are east of the plateau region. The Great Plains stretch from the Rocky Mountains to the Mississippi River. It goes from Canada to Texas. A few tribes that lived there were called the Sioux and the Comanches. The Great Plains has cold winters and hot summers. There used to be few trees. Grasses spread across the flat land. Big animals like the buffalo and deer lived there.

### Homes and Shelters

The Sioux used every part of the buffalo to help them. They used its skin to make teepees as homes. The women sewed the skins together and wrapped them around long poles. They could easily take the teepees down. Then they would paint the outside of the teepees with stories. This was important because then they could move to follow the buffalo.

### Clothing

American Indians in the Great Plains used buffalo skin to make warm clothes for the winter. They would put the furry side toward their skin to stay warm.

### Tools

The Sioux even made shields from buffalo skins! They decorated the shields with fur and feathers.