Native American Perspectives
Fourth Grade Study Guide

INTRODUCTION: Today, the descendants of the ancient Pueblo people are members of a number of different Native groups living in the northern Southwest. The Hopi live in several pueblos on three prominent mesas in northeastern Arizona. The Zuni live in a large pueblo in western New Mexico. In addition, there are 18 pueblos in the Rio Grande valley in central New Mexico. Each pueblo has its own history and traditions, and Pueblo people today will tell you that their culture is alive and thriving! In this activity, you will hear from four Native Americans and learn about Pueblo culture.

INSTRUCTIONS: In Woods Canyon Pueblo: Life on the Edge, you will read about four Native Americans and their perspectives on the past and the present. As you read, complete Part One and Part Two of this study guide. Read the instructions for both of these parts before you begin reading the Native American perspectives. After you have completed Parts One and Two, you will also need to complete Part Three.

PART ONE: As you read about each Native American, locate the pueblo or city where each lives, and write the person’s name next to that place on the map below:
PART TWO: Read the Native American perspectives in Woods Canyon Pueblo: Life on the Edge. As you read, answer the following questions.

Ramson Lomatewama

1. What is Ramson doing before he sees the clouds and rainbow? (Hint: What is a hoe used for?) __________________________________________________________________________

2. Why do you think Ramson is excited to see the rainbow? _________________________________________________________________________________________

3. Why do you think Ramson says “silence will speak for us”? _________________________________________________________________________________________

Walter Tutsiwai BigBee

1. Walter BigBee’s Comanche name is Tutsiwai. What does Tutsiwai mean in the Comanche language? ________________________________________________________________

2. Why is it important for people who live in the southwestern United States to conserve water? _______________________________________________________________________________

3. Walter says that water is powerful, aggressive, peaceful, fun, and beautiful. Think about water you have seen in your life. Can you name times when water is the way that Walter describes it?
   • Water is powerful when _________________________________________________________________________________
   • Water is aggressive when _________________________________________________________________________________
   • Water is peaceful when _________________________________________________________________________________
   • Water is fun when _________________________________________________________________________________
   • Water is beautiful when _________________________________________________________________________________

4. Why do you think water is very sacred to Native American people? _______________________________________________________________________________

Ernest M. Vallo, Sr.

1. Who does the planting and harvesting in Pueblo villages? __________________________________________________________________________

2. What two things does Ernest say are passed from generation to generation? __________________________________________________________________________

3. How do Pueblo people treat corn? __________________________________________________________________________

4. Why do you think Pueblo people treat corn with respect? __________________________________________________________________________

5. According to Ernest, why was Woods Canyon a good place to live? __________________________________________________________________________
Peter Pino

1. What does Peter make using the same techniques employed by his Pueblo ancestors?
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

2. What does Peter say was handed down from generation to generation? ______________
   ________________________________________________________________

3. What does Peter have respect for? ____________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

4. When Peter takes things from nature, what does he give in return? __________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

5. What does Peter say about using ancient technologies? ____________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

PART THREE: Think about your answers in Part Two as you answer the following questions.

1. How are the present-day Pueblo peoples connected to their ancestors? ______________
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

2. How are you connected to your ancestors? _________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

3. According to what you’ve read, list at least four things that are very important to Pueblo peoples.
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

4. Think about what Pueblo peoples find important.
   a. Which things in Pueblo culture are also important in your culture? Why do you think they are important in both cultures? __________________________________________________________
      ____________________________________________________________
      ____________________________________________________________
      ____________________________________________________________

   b. Which things in Pueblo culture are not as important in your culture? Why do you think they are not equally important in the two cultures? __________________________________________________________
      ____________________________________________________________
      ____________________________________________________________
      ____________________________________________________________