

## PRE-LESSON ACTIVITY PPT – The History of Indigenous People in Santa Cruz County

Within Santa Cruz County, archaeological evidence shows that human occupation has existed for millennia.

***Furthermore, local populations were involved in:***

- Trade with other groups nearby and along ancient trails as far as the Sea of Cortez
- The sharing of ideas both agriculturally and materialistic across cultural boundaries

# Paleo – Indian Period (12,000-8,000 BCE)

## Clovis Culture



## Earliest period in Southern Az & Northern Sonora

- Environment cooler, Ice Age
- Highly mobile
- Chased Mega – Fauna like Mammoth and sloth
- Clovis Point – med to large size, fluted, lanceolate point with concave base. The point was attached to a spear and was used for hunting.

# Archaic Period 8,000-4,000 BCE

## Earth begins to warm



## Archaic Period Living changes

- Hunt smaller game after mega-fauna dies out
- Incorporate more of a plant based diet
- Their points become smaller, finely notched serrated type edges with wide base
- Tools like metates, are used for grinding & processing plant material
- Plants like yucca, sumac and agave are used for rope, clothes and baskets

# Early Agricultural & Ceramic Period < 4,000 BCE

## Field or Terraced Agriculture



## Living Changes

- Corn introduced ( seeds shared along trade routes) later beans and squash
- Agricultural fields for domesticating plants
- Sedentary ( permanent structures)
- New fired clay pottery vessels for storing and cooking by 50 CE

# Trade & Regional Prominence 850-1150 CE (Pre – Classic Period)

## Trade among neighboring groups



## Other Period Changes

- Fused practices between Hohokam and Trincheras cultures
- Both were sedentary agriculturalists
- Hohokam pottery primarily red-on-brown some with designs. Trincheras made a purple on brown type pottery.
- Hohokam burial practice at this time was cremation and Trincheras buried their loved ones.
- Trade networks for obsidian and shell ensued with sharing of developmental plans for communal living.
- **Ex:** Palo Parado near Rio Rico excavated in 1950's by Charles DiPeso



# The Classic Period 1150 CE-1450 CE



## Period Changes

- Increased migration and conflict from the North. Original sites abandoned.
- Environmental floods and droughts led to resource scarcity
- New trade items, ideas and networks established
- Mergence of original practices with those of new migrants droughts led to resource scarcity
- Populations moved onto the bajadas and began using new crops such as agave. Agave, yucca and sumac used for clothing, baskets, and rope with sweet roasted (agave) treats!
- Salado Polychrome introduced from Kayenta people from the north

# Protohistoric & Mission Period (1450-1690 CE)

- **Protohistoric** means the time when a culture first contacts another group with a written history such as the Spaniards



## Period Changes

- Earliest evidence of O'Odham people, no more Hohokam material culture
- Linguistic evidence and settlement patterns reveal Hohokam are O'odham ancestors
- Pottery is undecorated and called Whetstone Plain
- The protohistoric period ends with the arrival of Father Kino. He builds missions near the indigenous people
- Ex: Tubac, Tumacacori and San Xavier

# Conclusion

- The people before the arrival of the Spanish did not have a written language. Instead they used oral histories, ritualistic dances and the calendar stick to record their history. The calendar stick was a rib from the saguaro to help recall important events. On the front they would carve info about the moon or months, the side recorded winters or years, and the back displayed the important events; like the birth of a new family member or memorable event.
- Archaeological remains and oral stories from their indigenous communities provide evidence that Santa Cruz County served as a critical location for trade, ideas across the borderlands.





# Conclusion cont.

- Today, over twenty indigenous populations reside in Arizona and Sonora.
- In Sonora, we have the Tohono O'odham, Akimel O'odham, Sobapuri O'odham and Hia C'ed O'odham. In the Sonoran Desert we have the Pasqua Yaqui and various Apache nations that entered the desert after the arrival of the Spanish.

