

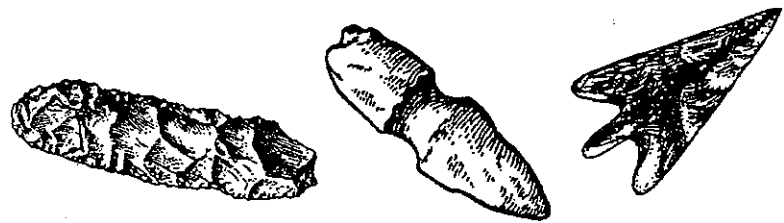
# NATIVE AMERICANS IN UTAH



Assignment	Points Possible	Points Earned
Prehistoric Indians chart	16	
Anasazi-cannablism	24	
Historic Indian chart	20	
Historic Indian Geographic Map	10	
Why were the buffalo so important to the Plains Indians?	30	
Total	100	

The first part of Chapter 3 is about the early Indians who lived in what is now Utah. Each group had a different culture. As you read pages 48–53 in the textbook, complete this chart with information about each group.

	WHERE THEY LIVED	SHELTER	FARMING AND FOOD	TOOLS AND CRAFTS
PALEO-INDIANS				
ARCHAIC INDIANS				
ANASAZI				
FREMONT				



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Thursday, September 7, 2000

Deseret News

Edition: All  
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## Tests show cannibalism in Anasazi

### Associated Press

Piles of human bones burned and boiled, smashed and scraped. Cooking pots smeared with blood. A few years ago, anthropologists in the American Southwest uncovered the grisly remains of what appeared to be an ancient cannibal feast, but they lacked the biological proof — until now.

Laboratory tests on some of the artifacts, including a piece of human excrement, have revealed traces of a human protein that scientists say is the first direct evidence of cannibalism among the **Anasazi**, whose empire stretched into present-day Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico and Utah.

"This proves they put the meat in their mouths," said Richard Marlar, a molecular biologist at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center in Denver who developed the biochemical tests to detect the protein. "If you didn't eat human beings, this protein would not show up."

The excavation site, consisting of three collapsed pit dwellings nicknamed Cowboy Wash near Dolores, Colo., was occupied about 1150 A.D. It was abandoned after seven people were butchered there.

The findings were published in Thursday's issue of the journal *Nature*.

Other anthropologists said the protein evidence is convincing. However, it doesn't explain exactly who committed the cannibalism or why.

Nor does it demonstrate that the **Anasazi** commonly ate their own, whether for nourishment or in a religious ritual.

"I doubt it was a routine thing at all in the culture of the early pueblo people, any more than it was routine in any other culture," said anthropologist William Lipe of Washington State University.

Among modern-day Indians of the Southwest, leaders of the Hopi, Zuni and other tribes have been especially critical of cannibalism research.

But Terry Knight, a Ute Mountain Ute leader who supervised the excavation, said of the findings: "Like any other civilization, there were good, productive people, and there were bad people."

Cowboy Wash was one of about 10 **Anasazi** homesteads in the Four Corners region. Today's inhabitants, the Utes, commissioned archaeologists to conduct a scientific survey before installing an irrigation system.

Even without the specter of cannibalism, the **Anasazi** are a mysterious lost culture. They built an elaborate network of roads and ceremonial centers

throughout the Southwest after 700 A.D. that were keenly oriented to the heavens. Severe drought helped to disperse the society by 1300 A.D.

Forty miles east of Cowboy Wash stands Mesa Verde, now an elaborate ghost city protected by cliffs and served by aqueducts. But most **Anasazi** lived in hardscrabble settlements, growing corn and hunting game.

The pit dwellings at Cowboy Wash appear to have been heavily used for many years, then suddenly abandoned. They contained pots, grinding stones, jewelry and other valuables.

In the ruins, researchers also found seven dismembered skeletons in 1994. The bones had been stripped of their flesh, then roasted and cracked for their fatty marrow. Skulls were scorched and cracked open for their brains. In the center of one cooking hearth was found a coprolite, or piece of dried feces. --

The scene suggested a gruesome butchering, but critics complained the evidence was circumstantial. In 1997, Marlar offered to find biochemical proof.

In a series of tests, he determined that both the coprolite and residue on cooking pots contained human myoglobin. It is a protein that picks up oxygen from the bloodstream and carries it into the muscle cells.

Myoglobin is found in flesh, not in most organs or vessels. In mammals, the myoglobin of each species has its own chemical fingerprint. Marlar failed to find the myoglobin for deer, rabbit and other local game in the same samples.

As a comparison, he did not detect human myoglobin in coprolites and other artifacts found at other **Anasazi** sites from the same period.

"All we have found from the Cowboy Wash samples is human myoglobin — no other species," Marlar said. "They had a human meat meal."

Initially, researchers believed the victims might be prisoners of war who were sacrificed. Others contend the victims might have been executed and incinerated as witches, but not necessarily consumed.

The Cowboy Wash investigators now are developing a new scenario. According to University of North Carolina archaeologist Brian Billman, who coordinated the excavation, drought gripped the area in 1150 and the social order frayed. Marauders probably terrorized and cannibalized the families living at Cowboy Wash.

Billman described the coprolite as "a final insult" by the killers.

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*On the Net: Nature magazine: [www.nature.com](http://www.nature.com)*

*Mesa Verde National Park: [www.nps.gov/meve](http://www.nps.gov/meve)*

*Crow Canyon Archeological Center: [www.crowcanyon.org](http://www.crowcanyon.org)*

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# K.W.L. Worksheet for TESTS SHOW CANNIBALISM IN ANASAZI

## CANNIBALISM AMONG THE ANASAZI PEOPLE

**K**  
(Known Already)

**W**  
(Want to Learn)

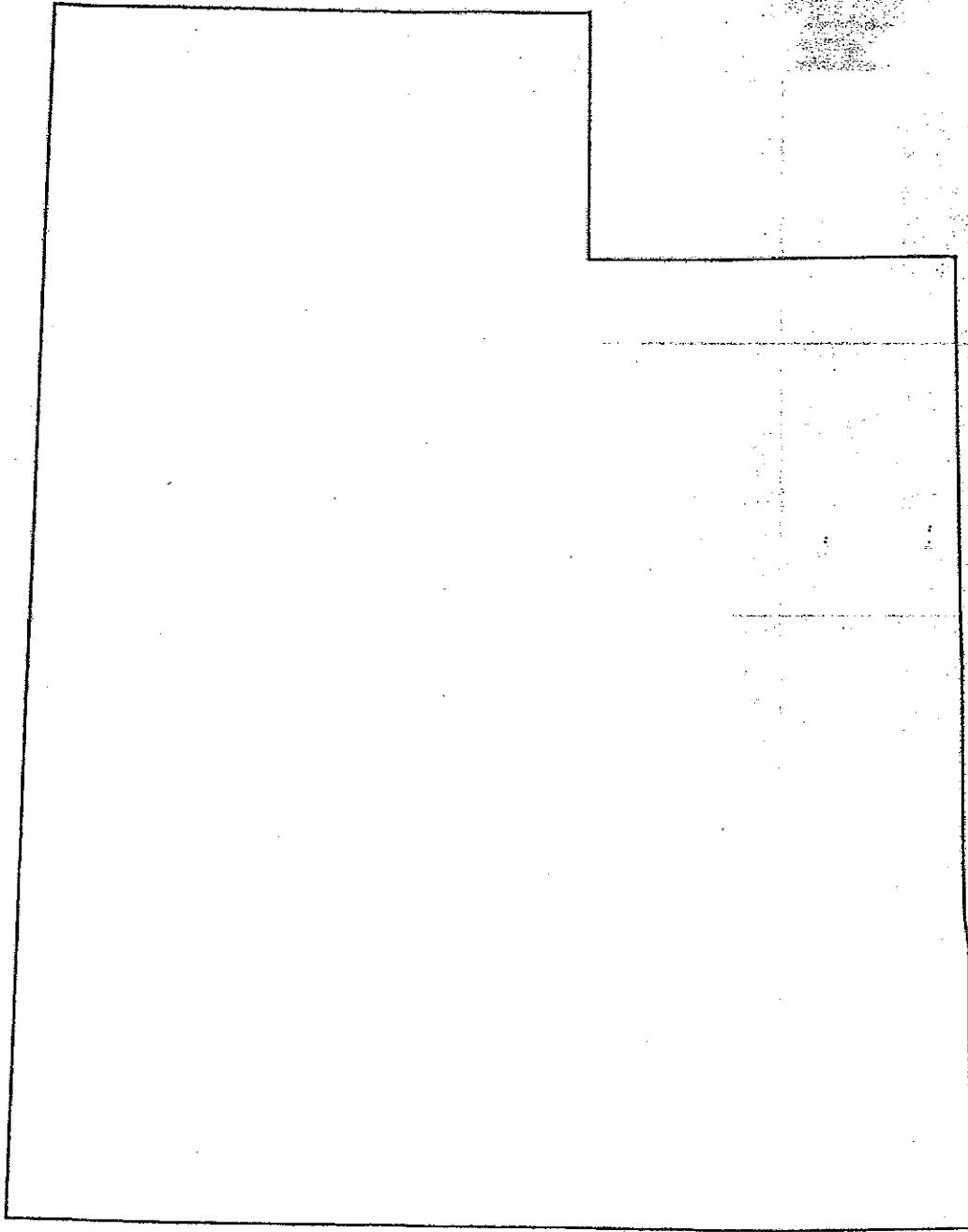
**L**  
(Learned)

## TESTS SHOW CANNIBALISM IN ANASAZI

1. What did anthropologists find in the American Southwest that linked cannibalism to the Anasazi?
2. What evidence supported the claim that cannibalism existed among the Anasazi?
3. What evidence from laboratory tests showed cannibalism existed among the Anasazi?
4. (Fill in the blank) Speaking of the traces of protein found on Anasazi artifacts, Richard Marlar, a molecular biologist at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, said, "This proves they put \_\_\_\_\_." He also said, "If you didn't eat \_\_\_\_\_, this protein would not show up."
5. Although traces of protein on Anasazi artifacts is evidence of cannibalism, it does not explain everything? What does it not explain?
6. What does William Lipe believe about cannibalism among the early Pueblo people (relatives of the Anasazi)?
7. Besides cannibalism, what evidence shows the Anasazi were a mysterious culture?
8. What happened to skeletons found at Cowboy Wash in 1994?
9. What is coprolite?
10. What did anthropologists find on cooking pots and coprolite?
11. What is myoglobin? What type was found at Cowboy Wash in cooking pots (animal or human)?
12. Marlar said, "All we found from the Cowboy Wash samples is human \_\_\_\_\_ - no other species." Also, he said, "They had a \_\_\_\_\_."
13. Who do researchers believe the victims were?
14. Archeologists believe that marauders probably killed and ate families that lived at Cowboy Wash. What did they leave as a final insult?
15. What does this story tell you about prehistoric civilization in Utah?

The second part of Chapter 3 is about the historic American Indians of Utah. Each group had a different culture. As you read pages 55–63 in the textbook, complete this chart with information about each group.

	WHERE THEY LIVED	SHELTER	FARMING AND FOOD	TOOLS AND CRAFTS
NAVAJO				
GOSHUTE				
SHOSHONE				
PAIUTE				
UTE				



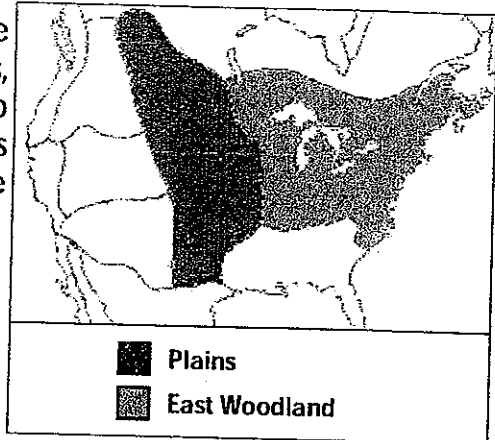
## Utah - The Beehive State

Use page 55 in your textbook as a guide. Draw, color, and label the boundaries for the Ute, Paiute, Shoshone, Goshute, and Navajo tribes.



# Why were the Buffalo so important to the Plains Indians?

Many of the Plains Indians originally came from the Woodlands. In the Woodlands, Indian life was based on hunting the buffalo and simple farming. Most of the Plains was unsuitable for farming as Indians didn't have the tools to use on the difficult Plains soils.



Using this worksheet, you need to work out why the Buffalo were so important to the Plains Indians.

## WHAT WAS THE BUFFALO USED FOR?

### Meat / Organs: food

Flesh - boiled, roasted or dried  
Brain, nose, gristle and tongue - eaten raw  
Kidneys and liver - eaten raw

### Hide: clothing & shelter

Tipi covering, leggings, shirts, dresses, winter robes, shoes, shields, knife sheaths, quivers for arrows

### Other parts: tools

Shoulder blades - hoes  
Hair - ropes and pillows  
Fat - soap  
Bones - knives, dice, paint brushes  
Tongue - hairbrush

By surrounding a herd of buffalo, Indians could kill all of them in about 15 minutes. It was noisy and dangerous as the confused animals ran around in a circle of panic.

“ When chasing a large herd, the Indian generally rides close to the rear, until he selects the animal he wishes to kill, which he separates from the crowd as soon as he can, by dashing his horse between it and the herd, and forcing it off by itself where he can approach it without the danger of being trampled to death. ”

A

Once the animals had been killed, the women came in to skin and butcher them where they lay. The women carried their meat and skins home, where they put them to a great variety of uses. The thick strong skin of old bulls was used for shields and winter moccasins.

The thin skin of a calf was made into underclothes and tobacco pouches. Buffalo fat was used for soap, and the rough side of the tongue was used for hairbrushes.

“ For the beginner, there is much danger to his limbs and life. For the Indian who had made this the everyday sport and amusement of his life, there is less difficulty and less danger. ”

B

“ The buffalo's doom is sealed, and with their extinction, the Indians must surely sink into despair and starvation. The Plains offer them no other means of living. ”

C



# Why were the Buffalo so important to the Plains Indians?

ANSWER ALL THE QUESTIONS IN FULL SENTENCES - USE AS MUCH DETAIL AS POSSIBLE!

1. Where did many of the Plains Indians come from?
2. What was the Indian life based on in the Woodlands?
3. Why couldn't Indian life be the same in the Plains?
4. Find an example use for each part of the buffalo:
  - a) Meat
  - b) Hide
  - c) Other parts
5. How long would it take Plains Indians to slaughter a herd of buffalo?
6. Why was it noisy and dangerous for the Indians?
7. According to George Catlin (source A), how did the Indian separate his intended kill from the rest of the herd?
8. What words does George Catlin use (in source B) that put across the idea that for the experts hunting buffalo was enjoyable?
9. Who had the disgusting job of skinning and butchering the animals?
10. How were the skins of old bulls used differently from skins of a calf? (give two examples of each.)
11. Using all your answers so far, copy and fill in the table below:

Aspect of Life	Used buffalo? [YES or NO]	Part of buffalo used
Eating	yes	flesh, brain, nose, kidneys
Clothing		
Housing		
Cleaning		
Farming		
Hunting		
Entertainment		

The Plains Indians began killing many more buffalo than they needed so they could trade buffalo skins for European goods. Seeing this, George Catlin says that the buffalos were doomed (source C).

Use source C, together with all your previous work, to write a paragraph (at least 5 lines) explaining **why the buffalo were so important to the Plains Indians.**

**Bonus** Ask your teacher for a buffalo diagram, and using the information on the first side, write in what each part of the buffalo was used for!

