

Settlement in Flagstaff



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Flagstaff has been home to many people over time. About 20,000 years ago, early settlers shared the cool pine forests with buffalo and deer. The people hunted, gathered wild plants, and became farmers. Their diet mainly consisted of meat, beans, squash, and corn.

About 1500 years ago, Native Americans, called the Sinagua, lived in what is now Walnut Canyon area near Flagstaff. The canyon ledges formed natural shelters. Outsiders could not easily reach a cliff dwelling, so it also acted as a fort. And from these high places, people could see great distances. The red sandstone provided excellent building material. They made beautiful pueblos out of sandstone mortar, which was the red sandstone mixed with mud. Springs, rainfall, and seasonal streams offered sources of drinking water. Corn, beans, and squash were planted along the washes and placed on slopes to take advantage of rain. They also built small dams to help crops grow. The Sinagua stayed in the Flagstaff area for hundreds of years.



<https://ww1.prweb.com>

<https://upload.wikimed>



About 500 years ago, the Spanish explorer, Francisco Coronado, traveled through Arizona with 1,400 men and 1,500 animals. The Sinagua were already gone by this time. Coronado was in search of legendary cities of gold. He never found the cities (which probably never existed), but his men encountered Zuni, Hopi, and Pueblo Indians. Coronado and his men saw the Grand Canyon. Coronado wrote that the area had mulberries, roses, grapes, walnuts, and plums besides buffalo and other wild animals.



About 200 years ago, mountain men traveled through the Flagstaff region. Mountain men were looking for small animals (such as beavers) to trap, kill and skin. Beaver skins were used for making hats and other items.

About 160 years ago, the Beale Expedition came through Flagstaff to create road across Arizona. A diary from one of the men in the Beale party contained this following excerpt:

“When we arrived at their (Beale’s) camp there was great rejoicing... (they) had an abundance of bear meat, venison, and wild turkeys in camp when we arrived in camp. We had great feasting for several days. While in camp at the San Francisco Mountains, Kit Carson the great scout and Indian fighter came into camp.” L. A. Spitzer, 1859

About 150 years ago, American settlers began to move into the Flagstaff area. A few settlers arrived in 1876 and camped a few miles southeast of the San Francisco Peaks. They celebrated the one-hundredth anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence by stripping a large Ponderosa pine to use as a staff for an American flag. This pole gave the settlement its name—Flagstaff. Unlike the Sinagua who farmed the area for hundreds of years, these early settlers believed that the land was not suitable for farming. However, a shepherd named Thomas Forsythe MacMillan settled there finding that the land was very well suited for raising sheep.



<https://i.pinimg.com>

About 140 years ago, the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad (now the Santa Fe) reached Flagstaff and helped the community grow. While Flagstaff had natural beauty, timber, grass, and water; it was not a popular place to live. However, the railroad brought more tourists and settlers and also provided many jobs.

Today, about 100 trains go through Flagstaff each day. The city has a population about 75,000 people of different cultures and backgrounds. Flagstaff as one of Arizona’s three state universities. It has Lowell Observatory with scientists using the telescopes. Several industries have factories there. They make paper products, animal food, and clothing. Tourists come in the summer for the cool temperatures and in the winter to go snow skiing. Flagstaff is also close to the Grand Canyon which has 5.5 million visitors a year. The Sinagua, mountain men, and early settlers have gone, but their legacy remains.



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Name _____ Notetaking Graphic Organizer

Settlers	What Resources Did They Use from the Environment?	Your Picture
Hunters and Gathers		
Sinagua		
Francisco Coronado		
Mountain Men		
Beale Expedition		

Founding of Flagstaff		
Railroad Comes to Flagstaff		
Today		

Scoring Guide

Requirements	Points Possible	Points Earned
At least 20 natural resources mention.	20 Points	
Spelling is correct.	10 Points	
Illustrations are neatly done.	10 Points	
Illustrations are original.	10 Points	
Total		

Comments: