

The Ahamacave or Mohave

The information below is taken from *The Ahamacave (commonly pronounced as Mohave) Traveling Suitcase exhibit for Museum Education Outreach, Grade Levels 3-4, 5-6 Teacher Manual, the Heard Museum, 1994.*

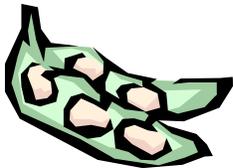
The Mohave continue to live in their river valley homelands.

The Mohave or “people along the water” live in the valley by the Colorado River. They have lived in the river valleys for at least a thousand years.



The Mohave eat many different types of food.

Before the Colorado River was **dammed** in the 1930s, the Colorado River carried minerals in the water (**silt**). The river flooded the valleys, **depositing silt** on the land. This rich **deposit** and the heat grew crops such as corn, wheat, squash, beans, melons, and seed grasses within a very short time (60 to 90 days).

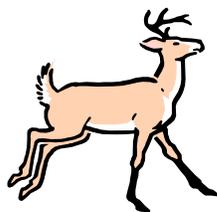
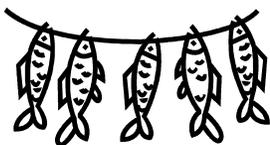


The Mohave women gathered of these plant foods was the ground into meal.



plant foods. The primary and most prized **mesquite bean**. **Mesquite pods** were

The men of the Mohave fished and hunted. With the use of bow and arrow or snare, deer, antelope, mountain sheep, rabbits, and other small game were hunted. Fishing was done all year. The men used lines, traps, scoops, and nets to fish in the river, ponds, and lakes.



This way of life gave the Mohave plenty of time to enjoy themselves. People traveled from all over the country to visit and **trade**. They **traded** shells from the Pacific Ocean to the Rio Grande River and as far north as Alaska and as far south as the Valley of Mexico.



The Mohave civilization changed and evolved over a period of thousands of years but perhaps its greatest changes have occurred in the last 150 years when the Mohave people began their encounters with Anglo-Americans.



The Mohave now eat other kinds of food because of Hoover Dam.

When Hoover **Dam** was built in 1931 the river valley changed. The floods stopped and the rich **silt** was not **deposited**.



The changes in the flow of water changed farming practices and the lives of the Mohave people. Many Mohave people in the Parker area began to grow alfalfa and cotton and used **irrigated** water. In order to to pay for the **irrigation** water, many Mohave people began to look for jobs that paid them a salary.



The natural plants along the river died out or became fewer. Mohave women could not get foods as they had in the past. Fish could not cross the **dam**. Without these foods, Mohave people began to use other foods and had a very different diet. New foods like potatoes, rice, canned meat, canned fruits and vegetables began to appear in their **diet**. This new **diet** had an impact on the people, possibly causing **diabetes** among Mohave people.



Diabetes is one of the major killers of Mohave people today. The Indian Health Service helps the Mohave people in treating the problems of diabetes. By understanding these changes in environment, diet, and health, future generations will learn to prevent this deadly disease.



Vocabulary Word	Definition	Picture
silt		
deposit		
mesquite		
trade		
dam		
irrigated		
diet		
diabetes		



Before the Dam

After the Dam

River:

Crops:

Men:

Lifestyle:

Diet:



(Accept reasonable answers)

Before the Dam

After the Dam

River:

The river flooded the valleys and deposited silt in the valleys.

The floods stopped.

Crops:

The Mohave grew corn, wheat, squash, beans, melons, and seed grasses within a very short time.

The Mohave grew alfalfa and cotton.

Men:

The men of the Mohave fished and hunted.

The fish could not cross the dam.

Lifestyle:

The Mohave traveled and traded from the Pacific Ocean to the Rio Grande River and as far north as Alaska and as far south as the Valley of Mexico.

The Mohave took jobs to pay for the irrigated water. This limited travel.

Diet:

The Mohave ate natural foods like Mesquite, the crops they grew and the animals they hunted.

New foods like potatoes, rice, canned meat, canned fruits and vegetables began to appear in their diet possibly causing diabetes.



The Ahamacave

Directions: Read the article “The Ahamacave,” then answer the following questions. Questions 1-7 should be answered in COMPLETE SENTENCES.

1. Where do the Ahamacave or Mohave people live? _____

2. When was Hoover Dam built? _____

3. What foods did the Mohave people eat before the Colorado River was dammed? _____

4. Where did the Mohave people trade? _____

5. How did the floods improve the soil? _____

6. How did the Mohave men add to the diet before Hoover Dam was built?

7. Why did the Mohave have more time to travel before Hoover Dam? _____



8. What is the author's purpose in writing this selection?

- a. to persuade people to destroy Hoover Dam
- b. to inform people about the changes the Mohave Indians have had
- c. to explain about diabetes
- d. to tell a story

9. What is the main idea for this selection?

- a. Dams cause diabetes.
- b. The Mohave people live in Arizona.
- c. The Mohave people were good farmers.
- d. The damming of the Colorado River changed the lifestyle of the Mohave people.

10. Which of the following statements would be an opinion?

- a. The Mohave people grew alfalfa and cotton.
- b. Canned meat is better than hunted game.
- c. The mesquite bean was a prized plant food.
- d. Diabetes is one of the primary killers of Mohave people today.



The Ahamacave Answer Key

Directions: Read the article “The Ahamacave,” then answer the following questions. Questions 1-7 should be answered in COMPLETE SENTENCES.

1. Where do the Ahamacave or Mohave people live?

The Mohave people live along the Colorado River, between Arizona and California.

2. When was Hoover Dam built?

Hoover Dam was completed in 1931.

3. What foods did the Mohave people eat before the Colorado River was dammed?

The Mohave people ate corn, wheat, squash, beans, melons, seed grasses, mesquite beans, tubers, roots, grass seeds, deer, antelope, mountain sheep, rabbits, quail, and fish.

4. Where did the Mohave people trade?

The Mohave people traded as far north as Alaska and as far south as the Valley of Mexico and from the Pacific Ocean to the Rio Grande River.

5. How did the annual floods improve the soil?

The river deposited topsoil as the floodwaters receded.

6. How did the Mohave men contribute to the diet before Hoover Dam was built?

The men hunted using snares, bows and arrows. They used lines, traps, scoops, and nets to fish.

7. Why did the Mohave have more time to enjoy themselves before Hoover Dam?

The Mohave had more time to themselves because they had successfully adapted to their environment. They did not have to have a job with a salary to pay the water fees for irrigation. Crops grew in a very short time.

8. *b to inform people about he changes the Mohave Indians have had*

9. *c The damming of the Colorado River changed the lifestyle of the Mohave people.*

10. *c canned meat is better than hunted game*

