

Historical Summaries

Prehistoric Arizona

Sometime between the years 3000 to 2000 BC, an early kind of corn (maize) was brought north from Mexico into Arizona. As new kinds of corn reached the Southwest, the hunter-gatherer bands developed into farmers. By 100 BC, the major prehistoric cultures of the Hohokam, Anasazi, and Mogollon were established in areas of present-day Arizona. As their civilizations grew, trade developed between the prehistoric cultures as well as with tribes in Mexico. In addition to corn, cotton and beans also came from Mexico. Shells from the Gulf of California were used for jewelry. Copper bells made in Mexico and feathers from parrots and macaws were also traded. In addition, the ball courts built by the Hohokam also began in southern Mexico.

Spanish Arizona

The Spanish came into present-day Arizona when they were searching for gold and other treasures in 1539-1540. Explorers, soldiers, and missionaries came into this area for the next 200 years. As the Spanish explored and attempted to settle these lands, they introduced many products to the native people living there. While the Spanish missionaries' main goal was to spread their religion to the native people, they also introduced livestock and new crops such as wheat. The Spanish brought horses, cattle, sheep, and chickens north. The Spanish style of architecture and the spread of the Spanish language were also a result of this exploration and settlement.

Mexican Arizona

In 1821, the Mexican people won their independence from Spain, and the country of Mexico was established. At this time, Arizona was part of Mexico. Under Mexican rule, the missions closed, and various tribes of native peoples raided the towns and ranches of southern Arizona. Supplies for soldiers, miners, and ranchers made up the small amount of trade happening at this time. Captain Jose Romero traveled north to locate a good route to California in 1823; however, his road was rarely used.

Arizona as Part of the United States

Most of Arizona became part of the United States in 1848 as a result of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ending the Mexican War. The international border now existed in southern Arizona along the Gila River. This border was moved south to its present location after the Gadsden Purchase from Mexico in 1854.

The creation of this border did little to stop the flow of people, ideas and products north from Mexico. Supplies from other countries came into the Mexican coastal town of Guaymas (Sonora, Mexico) and were taken to the Territory of Arizona in the United States. By 1860, there was a wagon road from Guaymas to Tucson. In addition to the supplies from other countries, wheat and flour were transported along the same road from Hermosillo (Sonora, Mexico) into southern Arizona. A railroad line, the Sonoran Railroad, followed the wagon road route from Guaymas to the American border in 1882. The town of Nogales was established at the border at this time.

Modern Arizona

People, goods, and ideas still cross the international border between the United States and Mexico. Mexican towns and cities along the Arizona border have factories (Maquiladoras) which assemble American products for shipment back into the United States. Mexican trucks and railroad cars carry fruits and vegetables north to Nogales where they are transferred to American trucks and railroad cars for delivery in the U. S.

Mexican citizens also travel north across the border. Some come for a short time to shop or visit, while others will stay longer for jobs or to get an education. There is current problem of people (who do not have the correct paperwork or permission from the U.S. government) crossing the border. You may have heard of this problem on the news.

Today, as in the past, there is an important flow of people, goods, and ideas north from Mexico into Arizona and the United States.

Name _____

Notetaking Sheet

Historical Period _____

What moved north from Mexico during this period?

What happened in Arizona as a result of that movement? (What was the effect?)

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Graphic Organizer

Name _____



Prehistoric



Spanish



Mexican



Part of the U.S.



Modern

Time Eras Worksheet

Name _____

Using your Graphic Organizer, write 4 facts for each era.

Prehistoric	Spanish	Mexican

Part of the U.S.	Modern