Native Peoples of North America
Agricultural Societies In Pre-European Times
Southwestern U.S. and Northwestern Mexico

Mogollon | Anasazi | Hohokam

Source: cabrillo.edu
Native Peoples of North America

- **Hohokam** - centered in southern Arizona in the Salt and Gila River drainages (later home to the Pima Alto and Tohono O'Odham people, believed by some archaeologists to be the descendants of the Hohokam)

- **Mogollon** - centered in southwestern New Mexico and northern Sonora and Chihuahua (believed by some anthropologists to be the ancestors of the modern-day Zuni and other upper Rio Grande River Puebloan peoples)

- **Anasazi** - centered on the Four Corners area of Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Colorado (modern Puebloan peoples are considered by many anthropologists as the direct lineal descendants of the Anasazi)
The geographical extents of all these traditions often overlapped in real-time, with some communities occasionally participating simultaneously in two different cultural traditions. The map at right shows the maximum extent of each tradition. Please keep in mind that these five traditions did not reach their maximum extent simultaneously. Also, several of these traditions (Anasazi, Mogollon) had shrunk in geographical extent while others had perhaps disappeared (Hohokam) by the time the Spanish arrived in the late 16th - early 17th centuries.
Some Mogollon may have taken up residence with Anasazi or Hohokam - Zuni Pueblo may be, at least in part, composed of Mogollon descendants.
Key Features

- The most geographically extensive culture in the arid desert west
- May have developed as a result of stimulus from the Mogollon in what is now southwestern New Mexico
- Best known areas are from Mesa Verde and Four Corners regions because of the Cliff Dwellings
The photo below is of Cliff Palace at Mesa Verde, Colorado. It is the largest cliff dwelling in the United States, containing more than 200 rooms and nearly two dozen kivas (semi subterranean religious structures). It was built by the Anasazi between 600 AD and 1300 AD.
Because the people of this time did not use or make pottery but relied on an extensive inventory of baskets, they are called "Basketmaker." Then between A.D. 700 & 1000, people added pottery to their material culture inventory as well as abandoning their pit houses in favor of very distinctive multiroom apartment complexes, ushering in the so-called "Pueblo" period.
Montezuma’s Castle

- Sinagua culture
Key Traits
Four of the most outstanding characteristics of the Hohokam are their ball courts, stepped earthen platform mounds, use of canal irrigation, and their impressive artistry in acid-etching shell. The first three are believed to be imports from Mexico, while acid-etching may have been indigenous to the Hohokam.
Hohokam

- **Canal irrigation**
  - This is the most impressive Hohokam achievement and one that is unrivaled in native North America
  - required a tremendous investment in labor to build & maintain - called for constant work: opening & closing floodgates, periodic cleaning & repairing
  - more than 500 miles of main canals were constructed
  - some were massive, even by today’s standards - 75 feet across at the top & several miles in length - two near Phoenix were 10+ miles long, connecting the river with distant fields - the modern city of Phoenix uses a canal system virtually superimposed on the early Hohokam plan for diverting water from the Salt River
  - most appear at 800 AD or later
Pueblo Grande (ball court)