

PATHS OF LIFE

American Indians of the Southwest

The Navajo 2nd-5th Grade Discovery Hunt



The Navajo call themselves *Diné*, meaning People. They are one of the largest tribes in the United States and they have the largest reservation. Their reservation is located across three states. What are those three states? Look at the map at the beginning of the exhibit to help you figure it out.





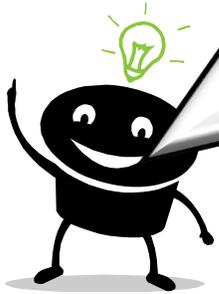
“Sheep Are Our Life”

The Navajo say that “sheep are our life.” Sheep are very important to the Navajo. The Navajo use the wool of the sheep to make beautiful rugs, blankets, and dresses.

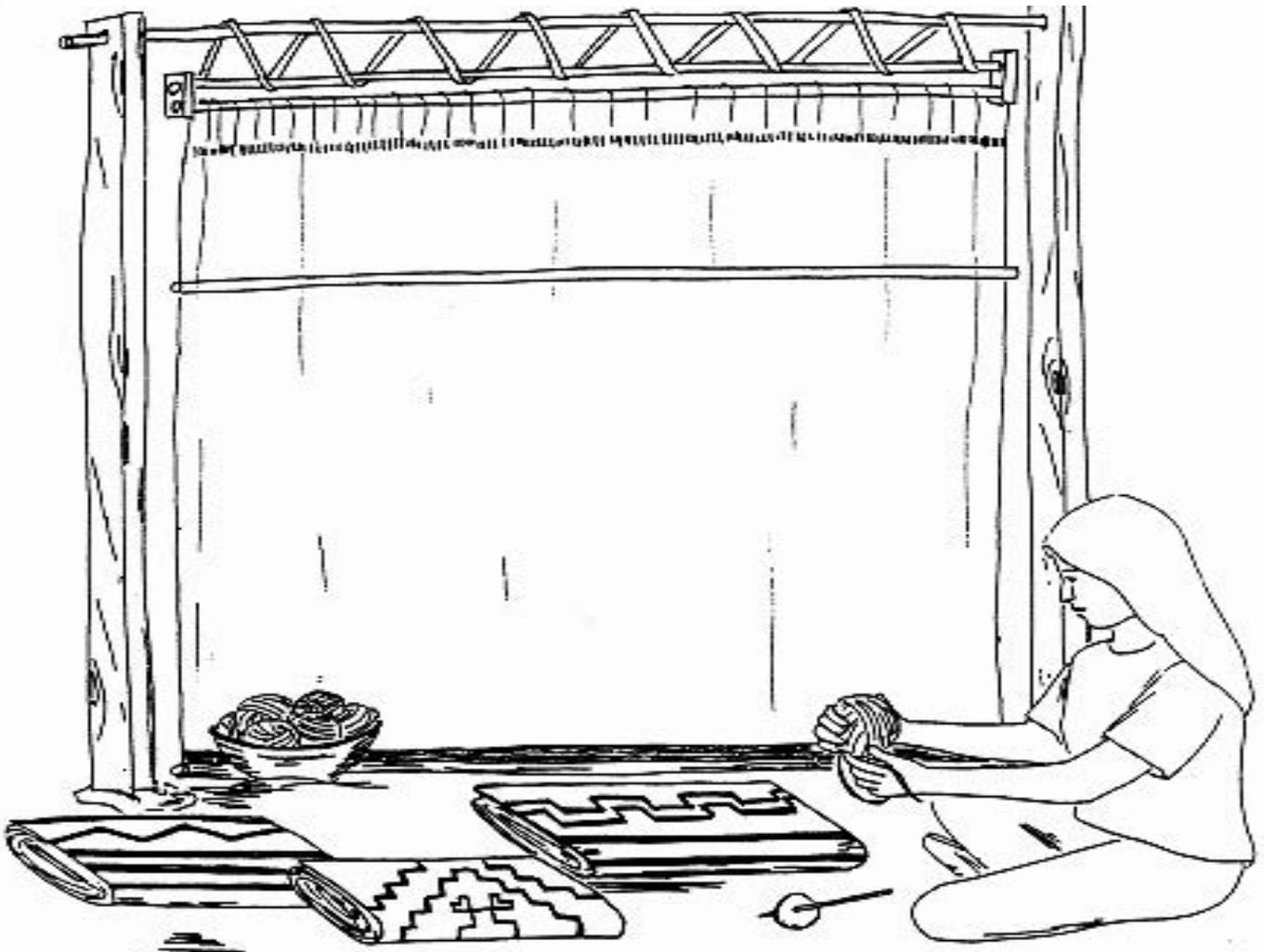
To make a rug or blanket, the Navajo must first remove the wool from the sheep using a pair of shears (they give the sheep a haircut!). Then, they clean the wool using carders. After that, they dye (color) the wool using plants they find around their homes or using dyes that they buy at the store.

After the wool is dyed, then the Navajo spin the wool into yarn using a spindle. Finally, they start to weave their rug or blanket using a loom. Can you find shears, carders, and a spindle in the display case? Read the labels to help you find them.

Now, carefully look at some of the rugs in the cases. As you can see, the Navajo make rugs that have all sorts of different designs and colors.



The rug on the loom below has just been started. Draw in your own design of the rug. Look at the rugs in the cases for design ideas.





Inside the Hogan

Look for a display of a family inside a room. They are in a hogan, a traditional Navajo house with 8 sides. The door to the hogan is always on the east side. What happens each morning in the east? If you said the sun rises, you are right!

Look at what is going on in the hogan. The grandmother is teaching her granddaughter how to weave, while the mother helps spin the wool. This is how Navajo women pass on the tradition of weaving. To discover more about Navajo weaving, push the red button on the wall and listen to the story about Spider Woman.



The family in the hogan lives both a traditional and a modern way of life. They mix old ways of living with new ways of living.

Below you will find a list of things that are found inside the hogan. Place a check mark next to each thing that you might find in your own home and circle each thing that you might find only in a Navajo home.

turquoise necklace

cowboy hat

Folgers coffee

sandpainting clock

box of matches

John F. Kennedy wall hanging

Coca-Cola

VapoRub

Broncos hat

spindle

coffee cup

calendar

Navajo newspaper

electric lamp

trophies

loom

paper towels

flashlight

oil lamp

mail

radio

Navajo rug

turquoise/silver watch

leather purse

radio station sticker

brown wool

keys

Phoenix Suns jersey

comic books

Eat More Lamb! sticker