

# PATHS OF LIFE

## American Indians of the Southwest

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### The O'odham 2<sup>nd</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> Grade Discovery Hunt



Look at the map at the start of the O'odham exhibit. Can you locate where the Tohono & Akimel O'odham live? The word "Tohono" means desert, the word "Akimel" means river, and the word "O'odham" means people. What rivers do the Akimel live near? How many reservations do the O'odham have? Can you locate Tucson on the map?



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## The World Would Burn Without Rain

Look for a photo of the monsoon rains. Every year, the O'odham hold a special ceremony called the Nawait ceremony. During the ceremony, the O'odham sing for the rain to come and cool down the desert and help things grow.

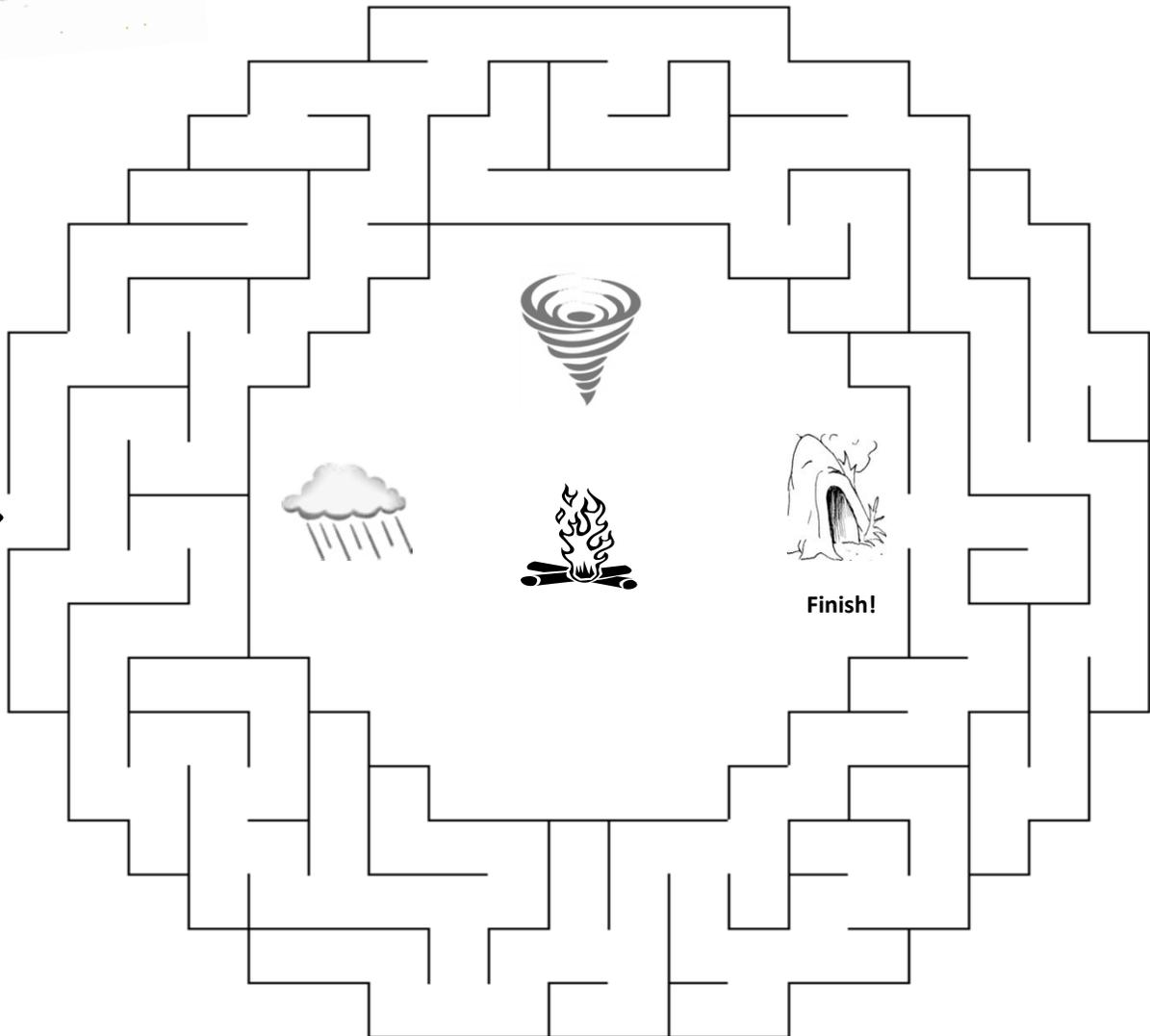
Now, read the story written on the photo of the monsoon rains. It explains why the O'odham hold the Nawait ceremony and how a little, but clever, hummingbird helped bring rain to the desert.



Help Hummingbird find Wind and Rain by leading her through the maze.



Start Here



Finish!

## O'odham Calendar Stick

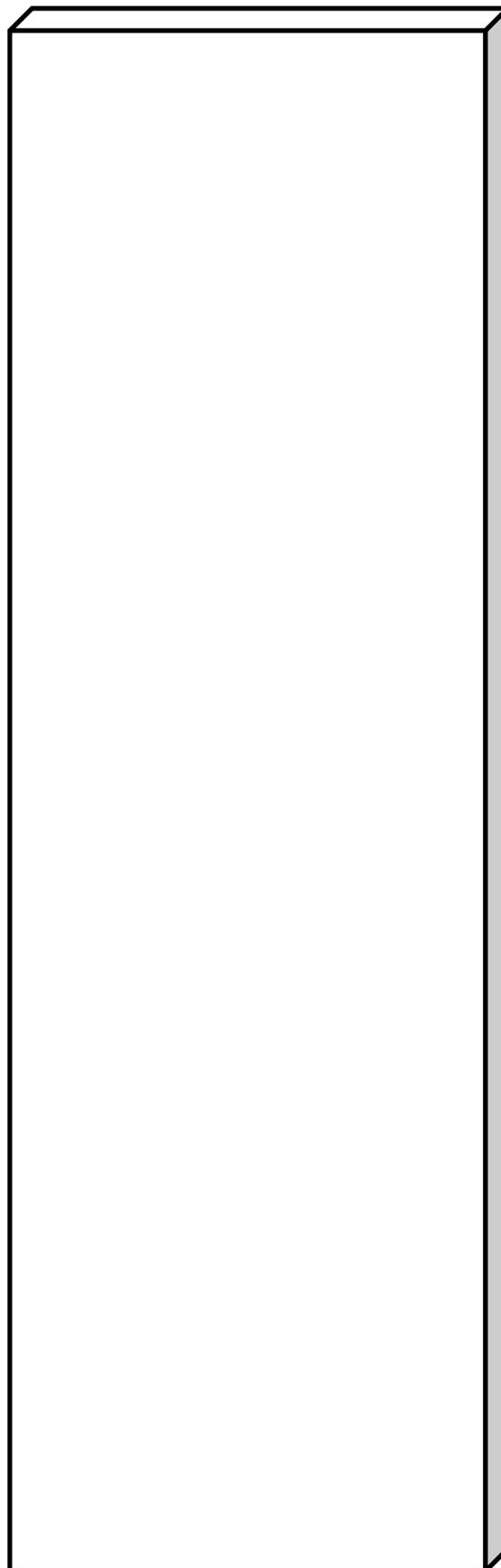
*Look at the case about the Nawait ceremony and notice all the items the O'odham use to prepare for the ceremony. What fruit do they use in the ceremony? Do you see the tool they use to knock the fruit down? What is it made out of?*

*Next, in the same case, find the calendar stick. In the 1800s, the O'odham used calendar sticks to keep track of their history.*

*The Nawait ceremony, which happens in July, begins the O'odham year. Each rectangle stands for one year and the symbol in each rectangle stands for an important thing that happened in that year.*



Create your own calendar stick! Mark 12 rectangles on the calendar stick to represent the 12 months in a year. (Start with January at the top and move down until you finish with December.) Draw a symbol in each rectangle that reminds you of something you do during that month that is important to you. For example, draw a picture of yourself in the month you were born.



## O'odham Baskets

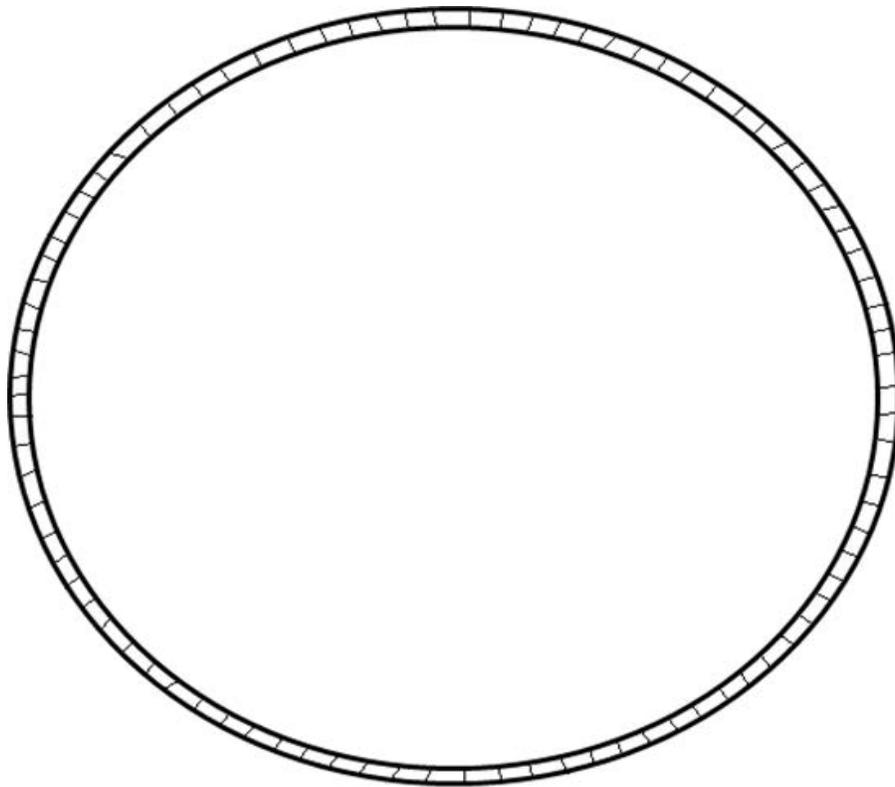


Look in the case that holds Tohono and Akimel baskets. Read some of the labels to find out what things were used to make them.

What images, shapes, and symbols do you see in the baskets? Tohono O'odham basket makers like to use images, shapes, and symbols that remind them of the desert.

In the case, do you see a basket NOT made out of a type of grass or root? What is it made out of? There is an example of this type of basket on a stand in the middle of the exhibit – you can touch it!

Design your own basket below. Decorate it with images and shapes found where you live!



Can you find the basket with the *Man in the Maze* design on it? The *Man in the Maze* design is the symbol of the Tohono O'odham Nation. It represents the choices we make and the experiences we have in life.

In life, we follow a path, sometimes traveling up, sometimes traveling down, and sometimes arriving at a place where we have to turn around and go in a different direction. We keep going and going until we reach the center and have learned many things about ourselves and the world in which we live.