

# PATHS OF LIFE

## American Indians of the Southwest

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### The Yaqui 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Discovery Hunt



The Yaqui call themselves Yoemem, meaning “People” in their language. Up until the late 1800’s, the Yaqui mainly lived in Sonora Mexico. Today, they live in Mexico, Tucson, Phoenix, and parts of California. Look at the map at the start of the Yaqui exhibit to understand where the Yaqui’s traditional homeland is located.



## The Yaqui Flower World



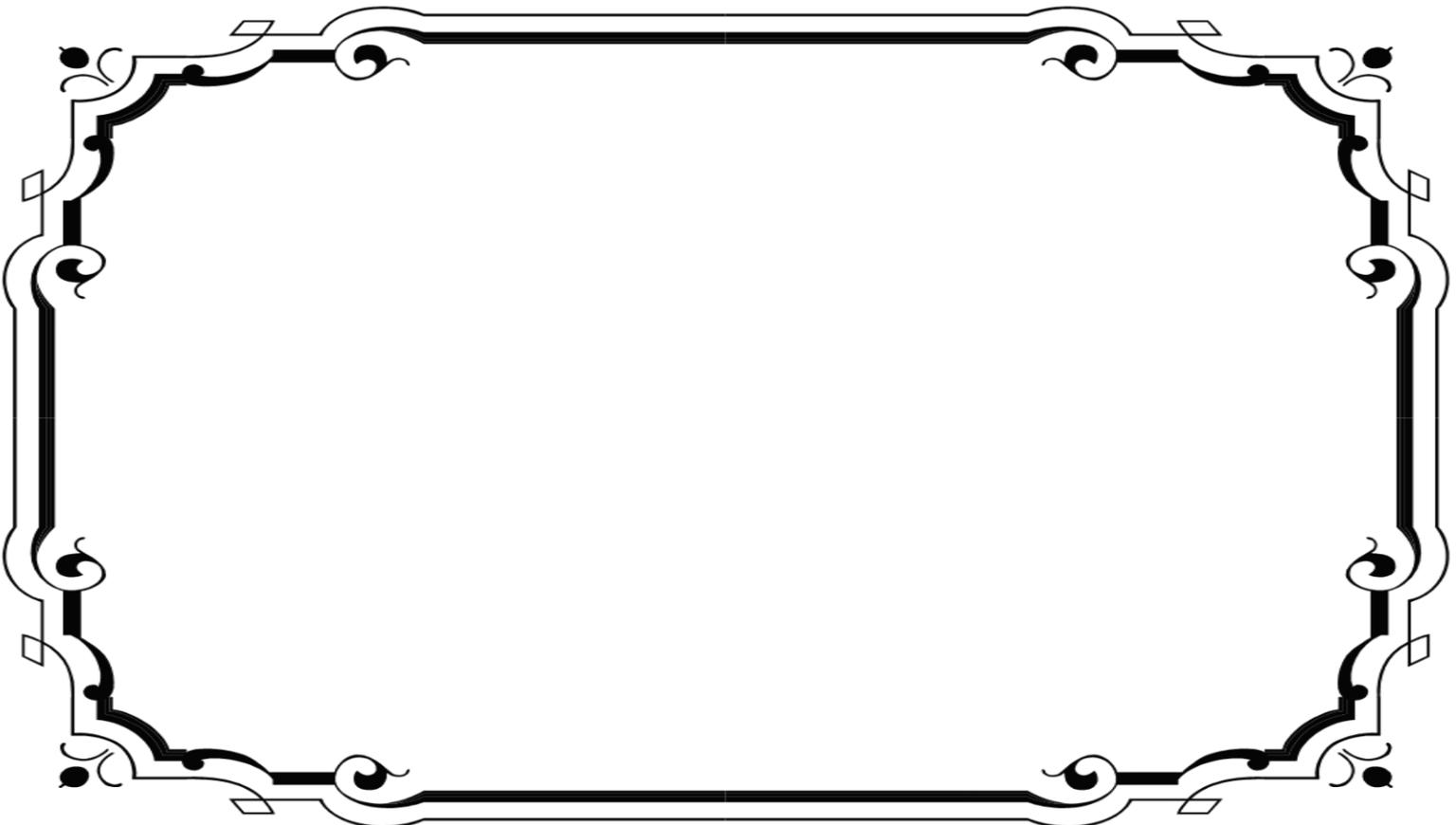
*Find the large painting showing a beautiful world full of flowers and animals. The painting is illustrating the Flower World or Sea Ania, one of the five enchanted worlds in which the Yaqui believe.*

*The Flower World is home to Little Brother Deer (half man, half deer). He brings blessings from the Flower World to the Yaqui people. Can you find him in the painting? Besides Little Brother Deer, what else do you see in the painting?*

*Now, close your eyes and imagine that you are in the Flower World. What sounds do you hear? What do you smell? How do you feel?*

*To learn about the four other enchanted worlds in which the Yaqui believe, read the panel to the left of the painting.*

The Yaqui Flower World is a very pretty, peaceful place. If you could create your own Flower World, what would it be like? What plants and creatures would live in it? What would the weather be like? What would the land be like? Would there be mountains or rivers? Use the space below to draw your special Flower World.



## Hiak Pahko



Find a display case (diorama) of Yaqui dancers, singers, and musicians performing in a Hiak Pahko. A Hiak Pahko is a Yaqui ceremony performed on special occasions and it celebrates the Flower World.

There are many people involved in a Hiak Pahko and each person has an important job to do. Go to the stand located in front of the diorama – it gives you information on the jobs of the different people in the diorama.

Let's play a game! Below, four different Hiak Pahko jobs are described. Read the descriptions to figure out the four jobs. Once you figure out the job, write its name on the line. Use the information on the stand in front of the diorama to help you with this game.

I am a dancer.  
I wear the sounds of insects around my ankles.  
On my waist I wear deer spirits that have kept us from hunger.  
I play gourd rattles.  
I wear the symbol of the deer that we honor.  
I live in the Flower World.

Who am I? \_\_\_\_\_

I have an instrument in my hands.  
I do not play the harp or the violin.  
I am also a dancer.  
I wear the sounds of insects around my ankles.  
I wear a colorful mask.

Who am I? \_\_\_\_\_

I play my music for the dancers.  
My instruments are made of wood and hide.  
I can play both my instruments at the same time.  
The dancers wear their masks on the front of their faces when I play.

Who am I? \_\_\_\_\_

We are the keepers of the deer songs.  
We are musicians and singers.  
Our sounds represent the breath and the heartbeat of the deer.  
We are seated on the ground.

Who are we? \_\_\_\_\_



Watch the video to the right of the diorama to see Yaqui men and boys practice for a Hiak Pahko.

## Pahkola Masks



Find the case that has Yaqui pahkola masks inside. Masks like these are worn by the pahko'olam, as you saw in the Hiak Pahko diorama.

The Yaqui carve these masks from wood, then paint them with designs and add animal hair, such as horse, cow or goat hair. There are several symbols on each mask that represent many different things, like nature, people, and tears. The Yaqui also put crosses on the forehead of each mask to represent the 4 directions, stars, or Christianity.

Read the labels in the case to learn more about each of the masks.

Look at the masks below. How are they alike? How are they different? What are some words you can use to describe the masks? Create your own mask with symbols and draw it below. Be creative!



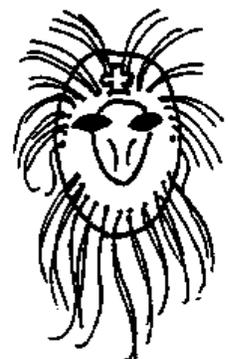
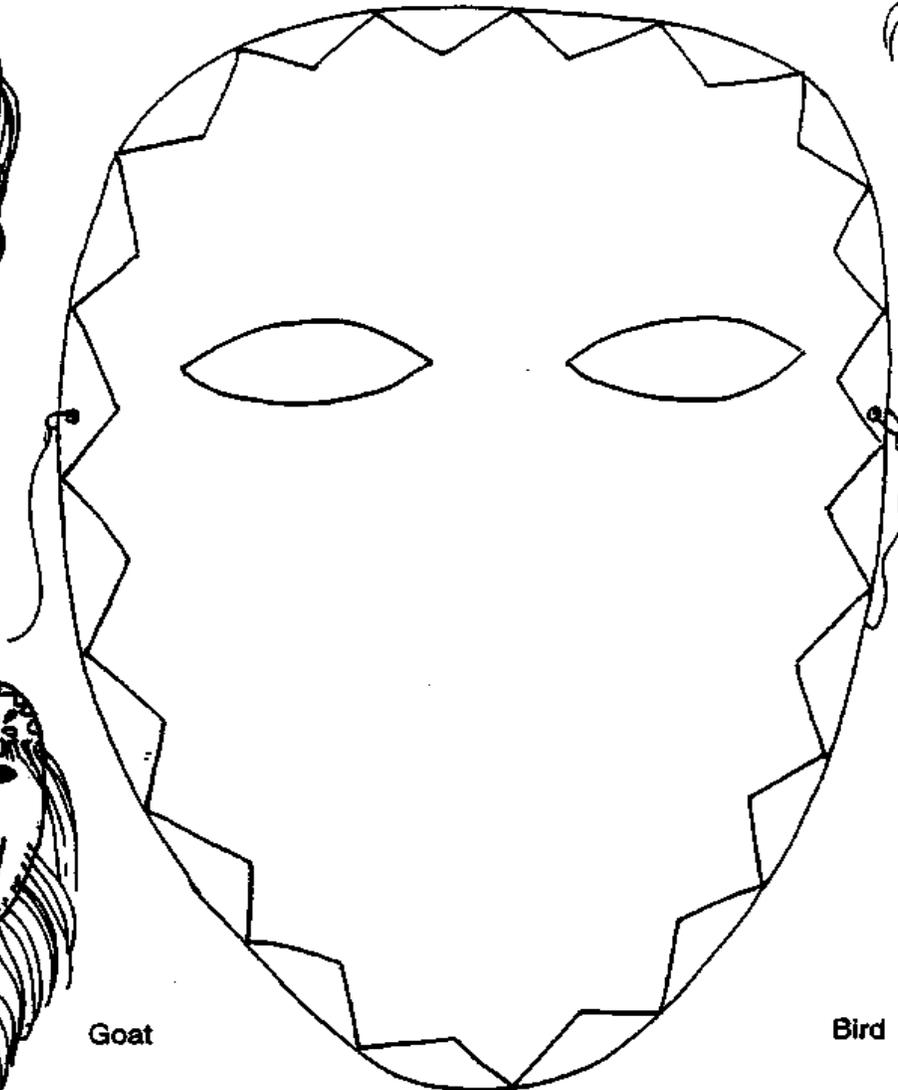
Human



Human



Goat



Bird