

PATHS OF LIFE

American Indians of the Southwest

The Yaqui 6th Grade and Up 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.

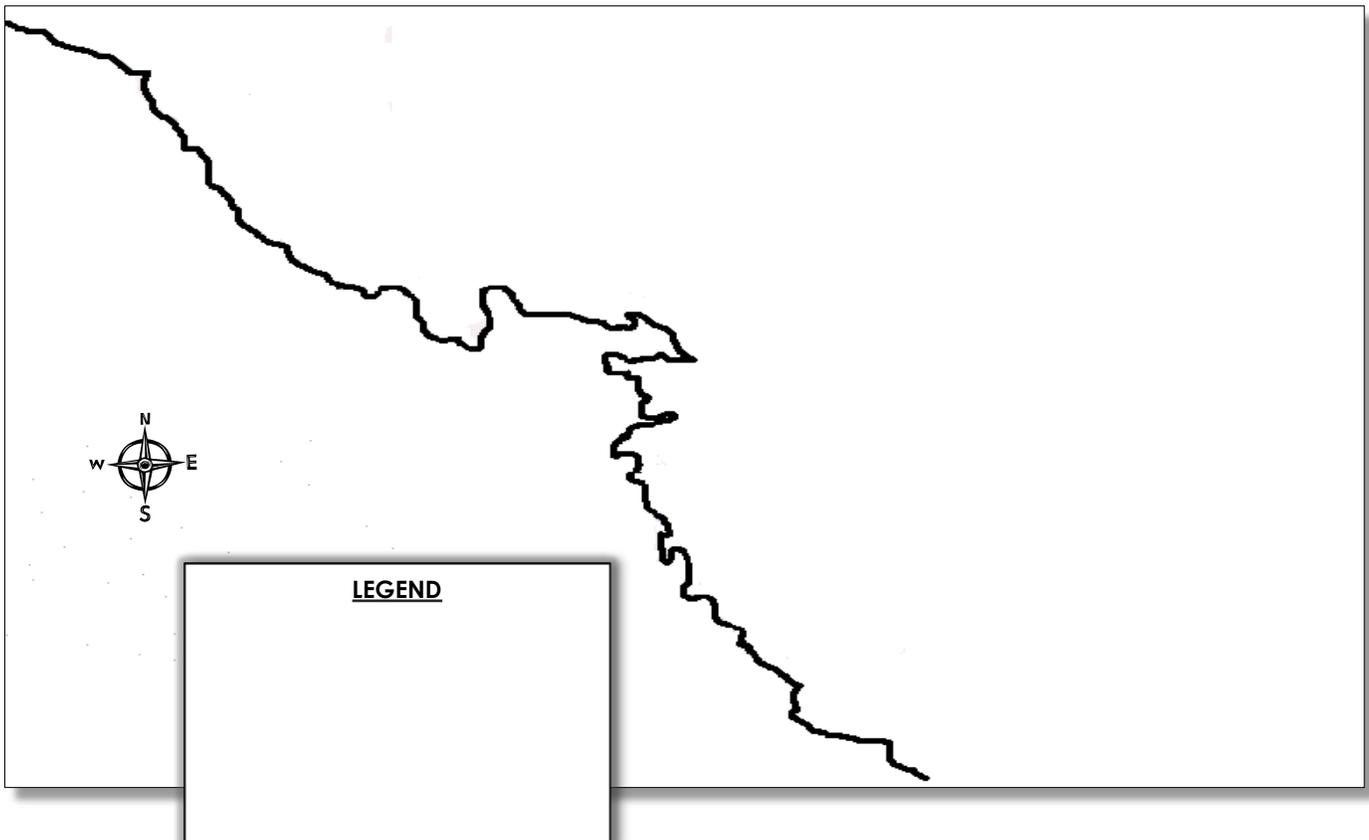


The Yaqui Lands

The Yaqui homeland is called the *Hiakim*. When the Spanish Jesuits arrived, bringing with them Christianity and new farm crops and techniques, they were given permission by the Yaqui to establish missions along the Rio Yaqui. The Yaqui accepted Christianity and blended the religion with their own beliefs. The Jesuits and the Yaqui believed that the Yaqui lands were sacred and were given to the Yaqui by God.

Study the 2 maps – the one located at the start of the exhibit and the one on the panel titled “Spiritual Ties” – and then complete the map below.

1. Label Mexico and the Sea of Cortez.
2. Outline with a dotted line the traditional land of the Yaqui.
3. Outline and lightly shade in the modern territory of the Yaqui.
4. Place a dot to locate the city of Guaymas and label it.
5. Draw in the Rio Yaqui and the Rio Mayo.
6. Place a cross to locate the following missions and label them: Belem, Huirivis, Rahum, Potam, Vicam, Bacum, Cocorit, and Torim.
7. Create the legend using the symbols you used to create the map.
For example: - - - - - = Yaqui traditional land



Conflict and Change

Due to competition over the land and resources, intense and brutal fighting broke out between the Yaqui and the Mexican government. Study the panel titled “Attempted Genocide” to learn more about the conflict. Then, complete the map and answer the questions found below.

1. Label Mexico, the United States, and the states of Arizona, New Mexico, and California.
2. Place a dot to locate the following cities and label them: Los Angeles, Tucson, Zuni Pueblo, Merida, Nogales, Vera Cruz, San Blas, and Yuma.
3. Place a star to locate the general area of the Hiakim and label it.
4. From the Hiakim, draw dotted lines to places where the Yaqui sought refuge.
5. From the Hiakim, draw solid lines to places where the Yaqui were deported.
6. Create the legend using the symbols you used to create the map.
For example: - - - - - = sought refuge



Why was the Mexican government so interested in the Hiakim?

For how many years were the Yaqui in resistance? _____

Who was the leader of the Yaqui rebels? _____

Why did some Yaqui voluntarily leave their homeland?

To where were the Yaqui deported? _____

To what cities did the Yaqui flee? _____

Yaqui Traditional Beliefs and Ceremonies

Find the large painting depicting a beautiful world full of flowers and animals. The painting is showing the Flower World or Sea Ania, one of the five enchanted worlds in which the Yaqui believe. The other four worlds are: Huya Ania, Yo Ania, Tuka Ania, and Tenku Ania. To communicate with these worlds, the Yaqui use song and dance.

Read the label to the Flower World painting (located at the bottom corner of the panel that is to the left of the painting). The Flower World is home to Little Brother Deer (the deer/man figure in the painting) and is a land of life and great beauty.

On the lines below, describe what you see in the painting and how the painting makes you feel.

Find the diorama of a Hiak Pahko. This is a Yaqui ceremony performed on special occasions and it celebrates the Flower World. If you look closely, you can find several symbols of the Flower World on the dancers and the musicians.

There are many people involved in a Hiak Pahko and each person plays an important role. Go to the stand located in front of the diorama - it provides information on the roles or jobs of the various people seen in the diorama. Using the information on the stand, pick 3 people involved in the ceremony who interest you, and complete the table below.

| | <u>JOB</u> | <u>JOB DESCRIPTION</u> | <u>2 CEREMONIAL ITEMS USED BY PERSON</u> |
|---|------------|------------------------|--|
| 1 | | | |
| 2 | | | |
| 3 | | | |

Pahkola Masks

Find the case containing Yaqui pahkola masks. Masks like these are worn by the pahko'olam, as you saw in the Hiak Pahko diorama. The masks represent humans, goats, and canines. Usually, the pahkola masks are made from a soft wood, like cottonwood, and are decorated using paints and animal hair (goat, horse, or cow hair).

Then, pick your favorite mask and draw it below. On the line below the mask, state what or who the mask is supposed to represent – a human, goat, or canine.

