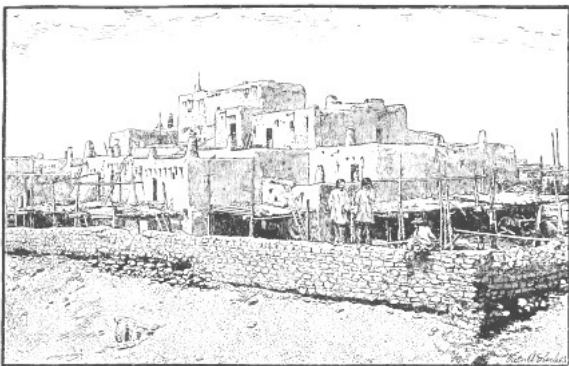


The Little Pueblo Prince

Far out on the great western plain, many miles north of the home of Montezuma II, lived a little Pueblo prince. He did not live in a wigwam, or in a hut, as some Native Americans did, nor in a palace like that of Montezuma.

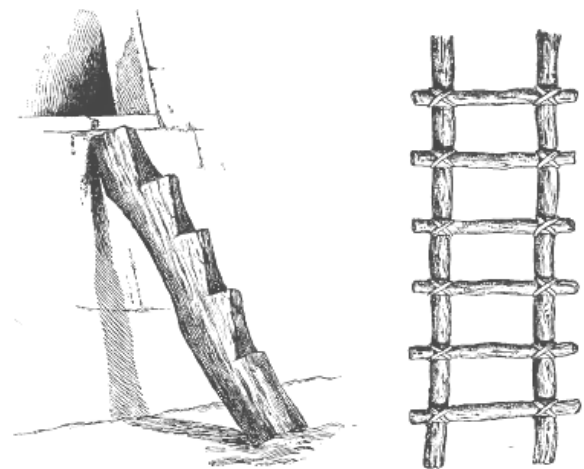
The Pueblo Indians of what is now New Mexico—called the *Zuni*—built houses large enough for a whole tribe to live in. We now call those houses *pueblos*, from the Spanish word for "village." These pueblos were built of stone and clay, and were many stories high. The roof of one story made a piazza for the people in the story above.

pueblo



The pueblo of Taos in New Mexico.

The Pueblo Indian had to climb into his home in a strange way. First, he must climb up to the second story by means of a ladder. These ladders were made in different ways, as you see in the picture below. Then he must draw the ladder up after him; for if he did not, an enemy might climb into the pueblo. Then he must go up another ladder to another story. Then up another and another, until he reached the piazza above his own home. By still another ladder, he must go down through a trap door in his own roof. Then, at last, he was in his house.

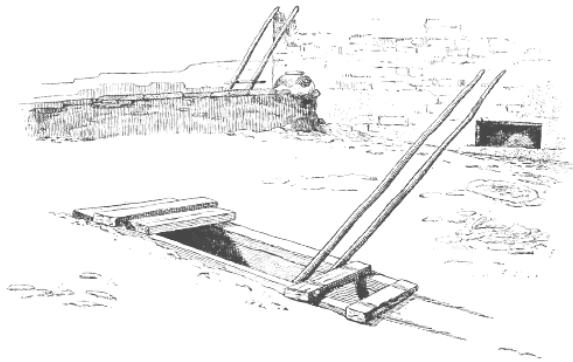


Below is a picture of the roof, showing the trap door and the end of a ladder sticking out of it. This was not an easy way to get into one's home.

The Pueblo Indians had found it, however, a very safe way to live. In those days, they thought of safety first of all.

1. Pueblo Indians entered their homes using a ____.

- a. bridge
- b. elevator
- c. ladder
- d. rope



The chimneys, also, of these houses were very odd compared to chimneys today. They looked like towers, for they were made of one or more bottomless jars, set one upon another. These jars were fastened firmly together with clay, and often were handsomely decorated. The drawing below is of a real pueblo chimney.

chimney



In such a home, then, this little Pueblo prince was born. Proud indeed was the Pueblo king when he was told that a little prince was born; and away he hurried to tell the glad news to his good old mother. Then, the king's mother hurried to the home of the new little prince.

She brought a nice soft blanket to wrap around the baby. But first he must be bathed in a big bowl of warm water in which yucca root had been boiled.

yucca root

Next she brought a pan of soft, warm, moist ashes, and pasted the baby with ashes from head to foot. She took great pains to leave a thick paste on the baby's face; for this, she said, would give him a beautiful complexion by and by.

A bed of warm sand had been made for the baby. On this his grandmother laid the prince, and

covered him over with the soft blanket that she had brought.

Every morning for ten days, the little prince was bathed by his grandmother in the juice of the yucca root and powdered with ashes, and laid in the warm sand to sleep.

2. Who bathes the baby each day for ten days?

On the morning of the tenth day, a change took place in the prince's life. After he had been bathed and powdered, his grandmother carried him down the ladders of the pueblo, out upon the plain. Here his face was turned toward the rising sun. For these Pueblo people were sun worshippers, and they took great care that every Pueblo baby should behold the sun the very first time he was taken out of the house.

After the prayers were said, and the sun had smiled down upon the prince, he was taken back into the house. He was then bathed in yucca-root water but never again was he to sleep in the little sand bed. A cradle was ready for him now — a nice little

cradle with a hood-like top to shield the baby's head from the wind.

The parents thought it was a great day when the Pueblo baby was placed in his cradle. But the baby would rather have been left to sleep away his days and nights in the sand bed. Now his little arms and legs were straightened out and bound round and round and strapped to the cradle. He could move neither hand nor foot; and there he must lie for days and weeks. Indeed, he must lie there until he was able to creep or walk about and take care of himself.

cradle

After that, he was turned out to play with the other Pueblo children on the piazzas or on the plain round about the pueblo.

For a time the little Pueblo prince's life was quite like the life of any happy little Indian boy. But by and by something remarkable happened to him.

A Pueblo priest came to the door of the house and said to the prince's mother, "What is the name of this young prince?"

"He has no name," the mother replied. "Give him, priest, a name, and

pray that the sun may bless him all the days of his life."

Then the priest made ready for a grand ceremony. He went into the great square of the village and sprinkled sacred meal and offered up prayers to the sun. At one side of the square, he sprinkled yellow meal, at another white meal, at another red meal, and at another blue meal. In the center of the square, he sprinkled black meal, and meal of all colors.

Then the godfather of the little prince came into the square. With him were the godfathers of all the other little boys of the prince's age. These godfathers carried the boys on their backs, wrapped in tanned buffalo hides. They passed before the line of priests, and as they passed, each priest gave each child a sharp blow with a yucca switch. Now the boys might show how brave they were, and how well they could bear pain.

godfather

Next, eagle feathers were placed in the boys' scalp locks, and they knelt in front of their godfathers. Then, with a loud cry, the priests ran by the boys, and each priest gave each boy four more sharp blows with the yucca switches.

Of course the yucca switches tingled, but no Pueblo prince would cry out, no matter how badly he was hurt. His godfather would be ashamed of him if he did, and the whole tribe would call him a coward.

3. Imagine that you are a little boy going through this ceremony. How might you react?

[illegible]

While this little prince and his playfellows were growing up, the Spaniards were making plans to march into the Pueblo country.

"We are told that there are seven wonderful cities of gold on the great plain," the Spaniards said. "Let us go and find them."

4. The Spaniards were looking for ____.

- a. farms
- b. gold
- c. slaves
- d. water

So one day, Francisco Vásquez de Coronado, a Spanish general, set out with a fine army of Spaniards to find these seven cities. For days and days they marched, till at last they came upon the very Pueblo in which this little prince lived. On this day in 1540, the boys were out upon the plain playing at battle, and were "making believe" shoot each other with their arrows.

Coronado

Suddenly the little prince saw something away out on the plain.

"What is that?" he cried. All the Pueblo boys stopped playing and

looked in the direction the prince was looking.

First, they saw something which looked like a great cloud on the horizon. Then it began to glisten in the sunlight. And at last the boys could see the bright colors of the Spanish uniform.

"It is an enemy!" shouted the prince. And away the boys sped toward the pueblo, and up the ladders to their homes.

"Enemy! Enemy!" cried the boys. The Pueblo fathers came out from the trap doors to see what it was.

"Enemy! Enemy!" And the boys pointed to the glittering soldiers.

enemy

Then the Pueblo echoed from story to story with the Pueblo war cry. Every warrior got ready his arrow and his tomahawk. There were stones already heaped up on the piazzas ready to throw down upon any enemy who should attack the pueblo.

attack

Meantime, Coronado and his soldiers were coming nearer and nearer. The Pueblo Indians could now see that these men were not like any enemy that had ever come upon the village before.

soldiers

Then, too, the Spaniards rode upon horses, and the Pueblo Indians had never seen horses. They had never seen a warrior mounted upon an animal of any kind, and it was no wonder that the horses terrified them more even than the Spaniards did.

"This must be one of the seven cities," Coronado said. He called a halt, and he and his men examined the strange building before them.

"The people have seen us coming," said Coronado. "For there they are, hundreds of them, and they stand ready for an attack."

The soldiers rode straight up to the walls of the pueblo and fired their guns at the warriors. The warriors poured down their arrows and stones. But they could not hold out against the Spanish gunpowder and shot.

The Spaniards soon scaled the walls and stood face to face with the terror-stricken Indians.

"Surrender your city," was Coronado's order to the king of the Pueblo. There was nothing for the poor king to do but to surrender.

surrender

Then the Spaniards feasted upon the corn that they found in the pueblo. In a few days they marched away, taking with them the little prince and some of his playmates.

"These are fine boys," said Coronado. "We will teach them to speak our language; then they will be a great help to us. They may know where we can find gold."

By and by the Spaniards saw another pueblo in the distance. "Let us hope this will be a rich city!" Coronado said.

The Indians had seen the Spaniards coming, and by the time the Spaniards reached the pueblo, were ready to fight. But Coronado soon took their city and marched on again.

In some parts of the country there were high cliffs. In these cliffs there were caves, and some of the Indians used these caves for homes.

They first made their homes among the cliffs to escape from their enemies. Then they liked their lofty houses so well that they went on living

there, and would never go down into the plain except to hunt and fish.

cliffs

It is said that often, a baby girl born in one of these cave homes would grow old and die without ever going down into the plain. But a warrior could not stay in a cave all his life, for he must bring food to his family.

It was not easy to climb up and down the cliffs. But the cave dweller had learned to make his way very well



by means of notches cut into the rock. In the picture below, a cave dweller is shown making his way up to his home.

To one of these cliff homes, Coronado came.

"Go and tell them to surrender to Spain!" said Coronado to the little prince. The prince gave the cave dwellers Coronado's message.

"We will fight!" was the answer they sent back.

Coronado and his men were nearly starved. They had no more food, and could hardly drag themselves along.

"We must take this city," Coronado said. "It is stored with corn, and we must have it."

Now there was only a stone stairway leading up the cliff, and it seemed a hopeless task to climb it. But the Spaniards were starving, and they dared try anything. So up this staircase they charged, and again the horses and the powder so frightened the Indians that they soon begged for mercy.

5. Why are the Spaniards eager to take the city?

The cave dwellers were driven out from their homes, and the Spaniards entered. For days they rested and feasted.

One day the prince told Coronado of a great city in the north. "It is greater than any pueblo, and the people are very rich," he said. "The chief of this city wears a robe of gold.

There is a river six miles wide, and the people have gold canoes with silver oars."

"Let us hurry on," the Spaniards said.

For weeks they marched. It was a hard journey, but in time the place was reached. Alas, how bitter was Coronado's disappointment! The city was a small village of wooden huts. The river was a muddy stream, and there were only a few little canoes upon it.

disappointment

Coronado was discouraged, and angry, too. "Why did you bring us to such a village as this?" he asked the Pueblo prince.

discouraged

The prince and his comrades began to leap and dance. "We knew there was no gold!" they cried. "We knew there was no river!"

6. The Pueblo prince tricked Coronado.

a. True

b. False

Coronado seized the prince by his scalp lock. "What do you mean?" he cried.

"We hoped you would starve in crossing the desert. We hoped the journey would kill you!"

The prince shouted and danced to show how glad he was. He was so happy to pay the Spaniards back for attacking his people.

Coronado had now only a hundred poor, worn out, half-starved men; and as he looked at them, he pitied them.

"Let us go home before we all starve," they said. So they went back to Mexico.

These soldiers had found wonderful cities, to be sure. But they had hoped to find gold; and to them, cities without gold were not worth finding.

"That prince was brave," Coronado used to say. And as long as they lived, the soldiers never forgot the little Pueblo prince.



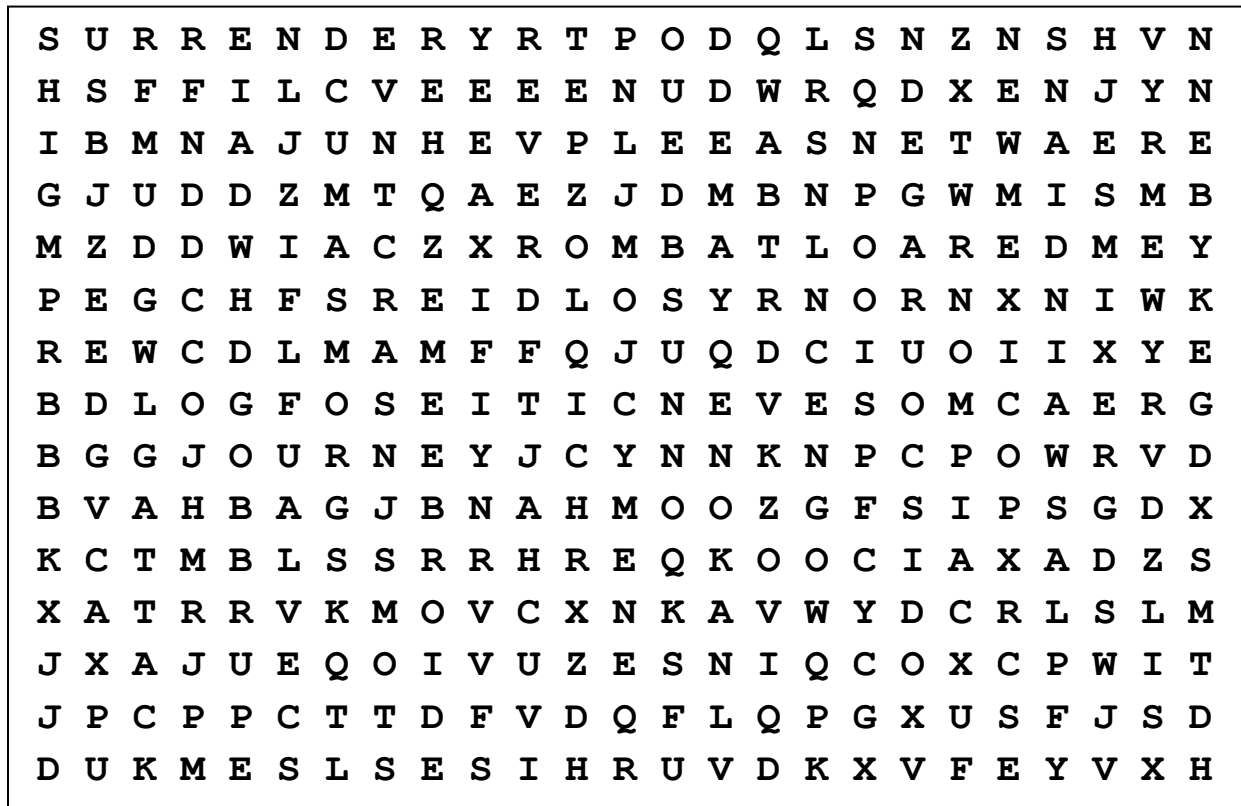
This is a modern map that shows the southwestern United States and northern Mexico.

- 7. Coronado began his journey in Mexico. Color Mexico blue.**
- 8. The Zuni Indians of this story lived in New Mexico. Color New Mexico orange.**
- 9. When Coronado led Spanish soldiers from Mexico into New Mexico, he was traveling ____.**
 - a. east**
 - b. north**
 - c. south**
 - d. west**
- 10. What large body of water lies west of Mexico?**
 - a. Atlantic Ocean**
 - b. Gulf of Mexico**
 - c. Lake Ontario**
 - d. Pacific Ocean**

11. Imagine that you are the Pueblo prince in this story. What would you have done when Coronado took you with him on his journey?

[illegible]

Find each of the terms below in the word search puzzle.



attack

chimney

cliffs

Coronado

cradle

disappointment

discouraged

enemy

godfather

Indians

journey

ladder

New Mexico

pueblo

seven cities of gold

soldiers

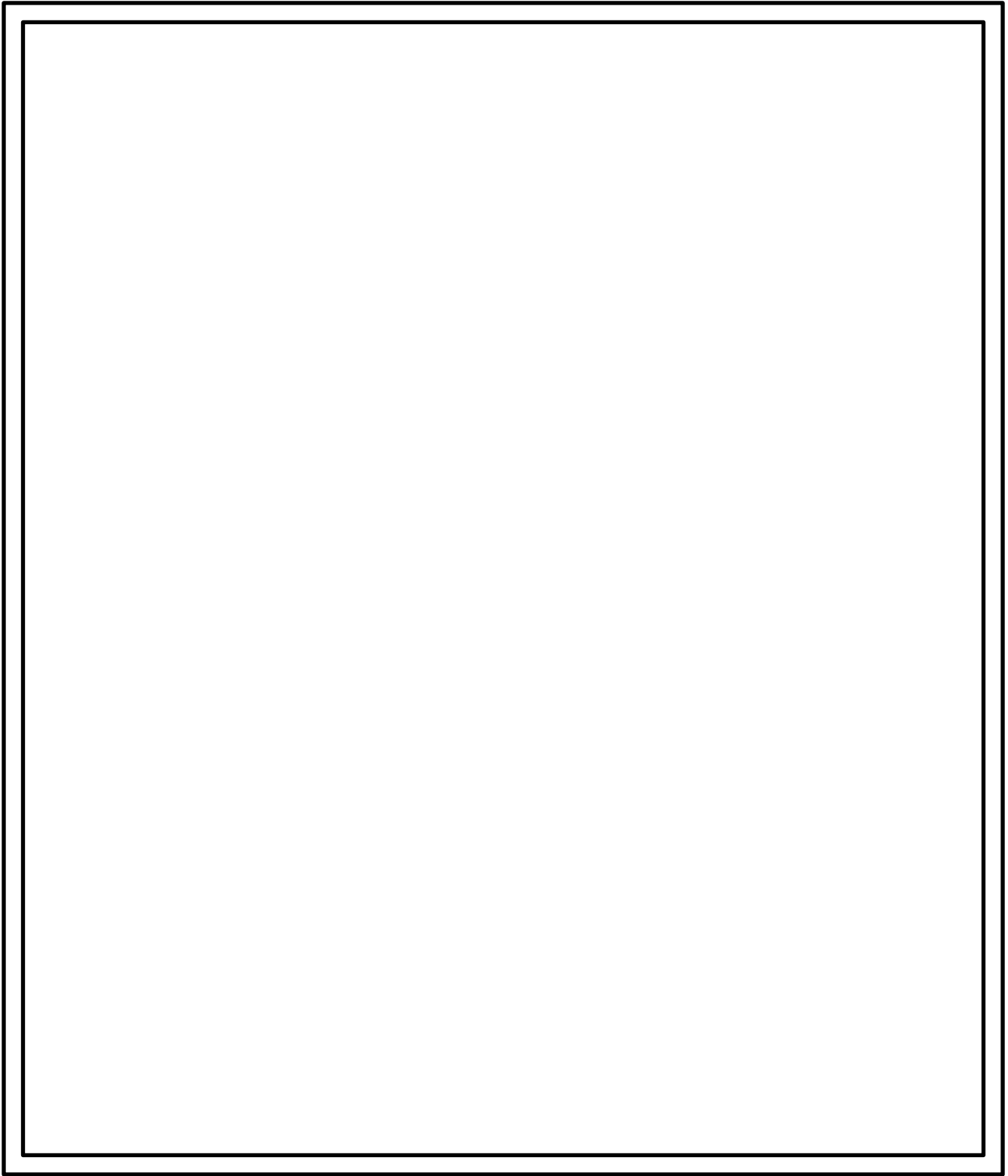
Spaniards

surrender

yucca root

Zuni

Illustrate a scene from the life of the Pueblo prince.

A large rectangular box with a double border, intended for a student to draw a scene from the life of the Pueblo prince.

Click here for the workbook answer key: <http://bit.ly/1p4BYiv>