

Universal Concepts:

Teamwork, Community

Tangibles:

- Cliff dwelling
- Arizona Sycamore trees

Intangibles:

- Family
- Community
- Teamwork

Theme:

The Sinagua culture survived in a cooperative, teamwork based society.

Supplies:

- Sycamore stump
- Ax artifact
- Raffia/Yarn
- Baggies
- Pipe cleaners/BBQ skewers
- Sizzors
- Table Cloths
- Yucca artifacts

Vocabulary

- Ingenuity
- Misnomer
- Alcove
- Community
- Thrive
- Bountiful
- Inaccessibility
- Cavates
- Heritage

**Arizona State Standards
Social Studies 4th Grade.
American History**

- Strand 1 Concept 1 PO 4
- Strand 1 Concept 2 PO1,2,3
- Strand 4 Concept 2 PO1, Concept 4 PO3, Concept 5 PO1

Ladders of Success

A Community of TEAM WORK

Discussion Topic:

Survival of the Sinagua Culture depended on communities of people working together as a team to accomplish everyday tasks. Talk about the number of family members and community members it took to farm, get water, chop and deliver wood for the fire pits and other daily tasks. Discuss the labor intensive chore of making a ladder: Charring the base of the tree and then making the ax, chopping the sycamore trees (how many times it must have taken to chop a tree before it was cut), collecting the yucca, preparing the yucca, making the rope and creating the ladder. Feel free to elaborate as you wish.

Ranger Instructions and Preparations:**The day before or one hour prior to tour:**

Prepare one zip lock bag per student attending. Contents of bag should include two pipe cleaners that are cut to 4 1/4 inches long for vertical and one pipe cleaner cut to 3 inches long for the horizontal.

Note: These lengths can be made out of one pipe cleaner. Cut four strands of yarn or raffia 12 inches long. These strands then will be cut in half. Divide the cut yarn into two groups of four and knot together at one end. This yarn will be Yucca twisted into a rope for tying the rung on the ladder. (See attached Yucca twisting instructions) Put pipe cleaners and yarn/raffia into zip lock bag. Each bag will have materials for building a one-rung ladder. Have extra yarn/raffia and pipe cleaner available for students who would like to make a bigger ladder.

Setup- 15 minutes prior to arrival:

1. Collect Yucca artifacts and materials: Yucca basket, sandal, mat, rope, demonstration ladder and other available Yucca artifacts. Also include: Sycamore stump and rock ax head.
2. For demonstration: bring four 12 inches strands of raffia to

demonstrate the braiding of Yucca; 3 pipe cleaners (full length) to demonstrate the making of the ladder (2 vertical and one horizontal).

3. Bring 2 tablecloths to put on two large picnic tables in the picnic area. These cloths are needed so ladder project materials will not fall through the top of the table.
4. Bring History Detective Journals and pencils for all students, teachers and volunteers attending.
5. Put tablecloths and other materials into a box and take to the picnic area.

Activity:

Start with full class meeting at the Picnic Area. This is where the Ranger will give a welcome and discussion of the tour will take place. Next explain that the group will be split in half with the teacher leading one group on a detective search for clues and the other group will stay with the Ranger for a “build like a Sinagua” ladder project. Explain that finding clues is what archeologists do everyday to learn about ancient cultures.

Teacher: Take half the class on a tour of the castle. Stop at each interpretive sign on the trail and have students take turns reading the signs to find the answers to the questions in the History Detective Journal. Upon completion of the Journal take your group of students back to the picnic area.

Ranger:

1. Have students split into groups of 2 or 3.
2. Ask them to sit around the tables with the tablecloths in view of your demonstration area.
3. If needed explain again the importance of ladders to the Sinagua and how they were made with a tremendous amount of teamwork and patience.
4. Explain and demonstrate with the raffia how yucca was prepared, twisted and braided into rope. Then demonstrate with the pipe cleaner as to how the ladders should be made.
5. Pass out the baggies of ladder materials to each student.
6. Continue with the ladders, having each student help the other hold the yarn/raffia while the other one twists and braids. Tie off the bottom of the braided section. Help the students learn how to tie the “rope” securely.
7. The Ranger and adult volunteers should assist students as needed.

When the teacher returns with the Detective group the two groups should switch. The ladder builders will go with the teacher to search for clues and the detective group should stay for the ladder project.

After both groups have done the detective clue search and all the students are back in the picnic area, the Ranger should conclude the tour and thank them for coming to Montezuma Castle.



Answers to History Detective Journal

1. Old Timer sign: Creosote Bush
2. Creekside Community sign: Limestone
3. Creekside Community sign: Community
4. Creating a Home sign: Mud
5. Creating a Home sign: Alacove
6. Cycles of Care sign: Inaccessibility
7. A loft but not Alone sign: Bountiful
8. Forest Flour sign: protein
9. People Next Door sign: Castle A
10. Alcoves and Cavates sign: Wind and Water

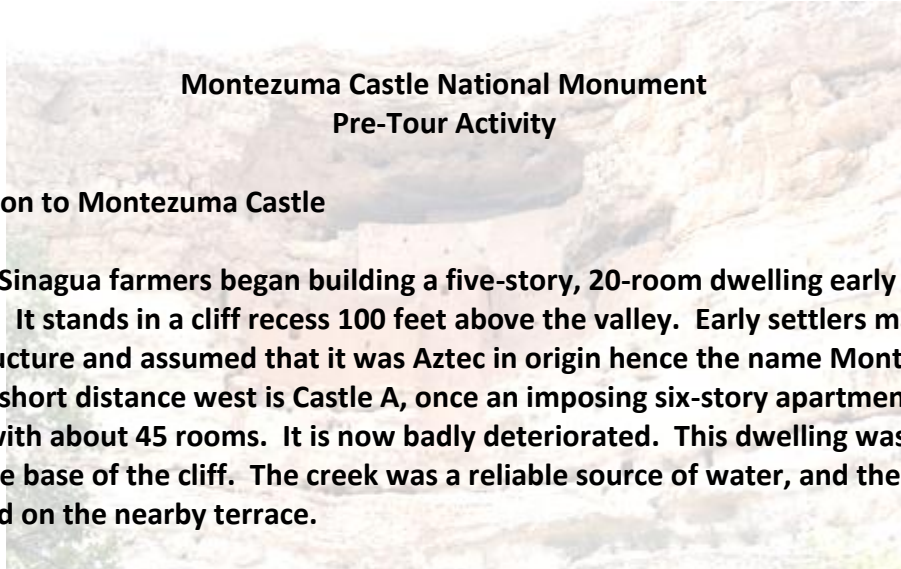
Pre and Post Activities:

The Pre activity will introduce the students to Montezuma Castle and the words they will be using in their tour project. The Post activity is a project supporting the information that was learned on the tour. The teacher can be as creative as he/she wishes and assign the writing style that matches the state standards being met. Please see pages below for the activities.

References:

- Montezuma Castle interpretive waysides.
- National Park Service Resource Department and Interpretive Rangers,
- Yucca Jr. Ranger Camp Journal – Yucca: One-Stop-Shop

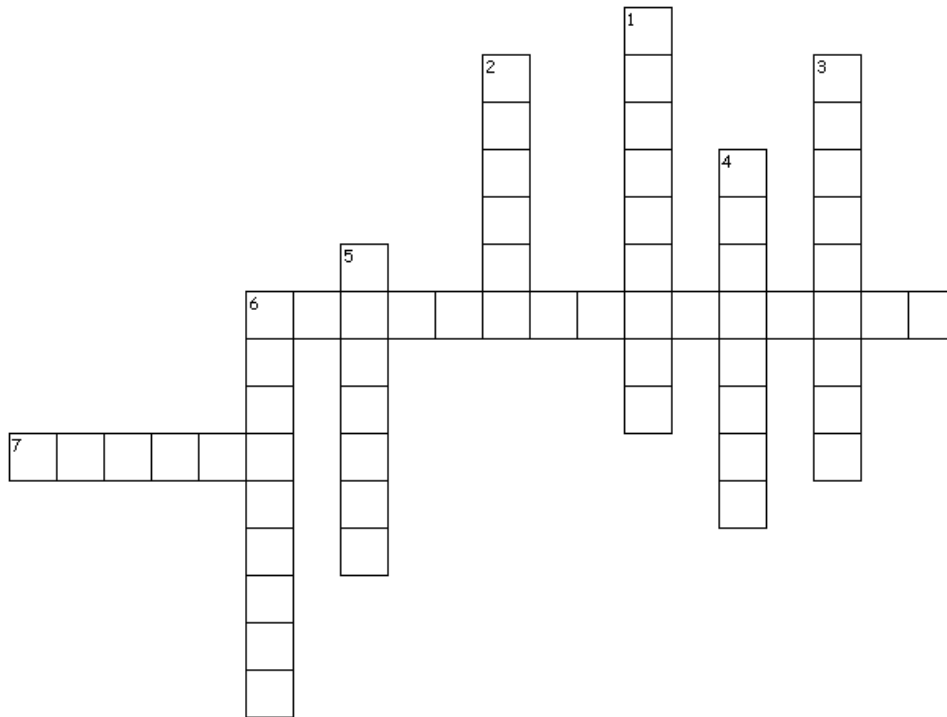




**Montezuma Castle National Monument
Pre-Tour Activity**

Introduction to Montezuma Castle

Southern Sinagua farmers began building a five-story, 20-room dwelling early in the 1100s AD. It stands in a cliff recess 100 feet above the valley. Early settlers marveled at the structure and assumed that it was Aztec in origin hence the name Montezuma Castle. A short distance west is Castle A, once an imposing six-story apartment-like building with about 45 rooms. It is now badly deteriorated. This dwelling was built against the base of the cliff. The creek was a reliable source of water, and there was fertile land on the nearby terrace.



Across

- 6. Not easy to get to
- 7. A natural cave made by wind and water

Down

- 1. A group of people joined together by commonalities
- 2. To grow strong
- 3. Abundance/Plenty
- 4. Customs and traditions
- 5. Small natural caves
- 6. To figure something out it often takes



**Montezuma Castle National Monument
Pre-Tour Activity: Teacher Answers**

Answers to the Crossword:

6. Across Inaccessibility

7. Across Alcove

1. Down Community

2. Down Thrive

3. Down Bountiful

4. Down Heritage

5. Down Cavates

6. Down Ingenuity



Montezuma Castle National Monument
Post Tour Activity:

MONTEZUMA CASTLE.....SHARE THE EXPERIENCE!

Write about how the Sinagua families and communities are different than our families and communities today. Then write about how the Sinagua families and communities are like our families and communities today.

Now draw a picture to go along with what you learned about Sinagua families.

