

HOW DOES ENVIRONMENT EFFECT CULTURE?

Environment: “the surroundings or conditions in which a person lives”

Look closely at this painting, *The Lookout* by William R. Leigh. Discuss some of the ways that environment shaped how the Anasazi people lived.



The Lookout, William R. Leigh, Woolaroc Museum

TEMPERATURE: Does this environment look hot or cold? How can you tell?

LANDSCAPE: Talk about the landscape in this image. Do the people live somewhere dry or wet? How can you tell?

SUBSISTANCE: Do these people eat more plants or animals? How can you tell?

HOUSING: What kind of houses do these people live in? Why do you think they live there?

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Parent/Teacher Discussion Guide

Temperature

Talk about temperature by looking at the clothes worn by the people in the image (would the people wear those clothes if it was cold?). Be sure to discuss the green grasses and plant life (if it was cold, would the plants be green?). Students may also note the desert appearance of the landscape.

Landscape

Talk to students about how people that live in desert environments settle close to bodies of water. The environment they live is probably hot and dry, but the small river in the canyon provided the people with water and food.

Subsistence

Ask students if they see more animals or more vegetation in this image. Because there are more plants, ask the students if they think the people eat plants or animals. Be sure to note the painting of a deer on the wall—these people probably saw deer and other animals because of their proximity to a water supply, so they likely ate meat when they could.

Housing

Discuss why the Anasazi built their houses in the walls of the canyons. Discuss how it may have flooded, how it would have been very hot, and how the people (and especially their children!) would have been susceptible to animal attacks on the valley floor.