



WHAT MAKES A CULTURE?

OSAGE VS. NAVAJO

What is culture?

Culture is defined as “the customs, arts, social interactions, and achievements of a particular nation, people, or other social group.” Culture is what makes different groups of people unique!

Let's look at the differences between two cultures represented in the Woolaroc Museum: the Osage and the Navajo.

OSAGE

Where do they live?

Historically, near the Mississippi and Missouri rivers.
Now, mostly Oklahoma.

What did they eat?

Hunting and agriculture base: Deer, bear, and bison;
also corn, beans, squash, and pumpkins

What were their religious beliefs?

Believed in Wah-kon-tah—a single, life-giving force.

Role of Men/Women

Men: hunters, fighters, crafters (weapons and tools)
Women: harvesters, cooks, crafters (clothing, baskets, and hides)

What did they wear?

Deerskin and buffalo robes

What were their homes like?

Round earth lodges and tipis when travelling

NAVAJO

Where do they live?

The Four Corners region: Arizona, New Mexico,
Utah, and Colorado.

What did they eat?

Agriculture based: corn, beans, and squash

What were their religious beliefs?

Earth is a spiritual mother and sacred sites help
govern people's relationship to the Earth.

Role of Men/Women

Men: hunters, warriors, and community leaders
Women: harvesters, crafters, and story-tellers

What did they wear?

Deerskin or yucca plant clothes

What were their homes like?

Hogans: traditional earth houses

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Now that you know more about traditional Osage and Navajo culture, let's compare your daily life to theirs!

The Osage people live in Oklahoma. The Navajo live in Arizona, Utah, New Mexico and Colorado. Where do YOU live? _____

The Osage people ate animals like bison and deer, as well as corn, beans, and squash. The Navajo people ate corn, beans, and squash. What do YOU like to eat? _____

The Osage people believe in one spirit, Wah-Kon-Tah. The Navajo believe in an earth mother and the power of sacred sites. What do YOU believe in? _____

Men in the Osage culture hunted, fought, and made tools. Men in the Navajo culture were hunters, warriors, and community leaders. Osage women were harvesters, cooks, and crafters. Navajo women were harvesters, crafters, and story-tellers. What are some things men and women do where YOU live? _____

Osage people wore deerskin and buffalo robes. Navajo people wore clothes made of deerskin and yucca. What kind of clothes do YOU wear? _____

Osage people lived in earth lodges and tipis. Navajo people lived in Hogans. What does YOUR house look like? _____