

Name: _____ Date: _____

Master 1-2

Scenarios from the Past

The 1930s

On a farm outside Fresno, California

Mother: Miguel, will you take these eggshells out to the compost heap and bring me back the bowl? Ana, will you take this bucket of scraps out to the pigs?

Ana: Do I have to?

Father: Ana, remember, those pigs give us food, so we should give them food.

Ana: I know, waste not, want not. I hope we can get garbage pickup soon. Suzanne's family lives in the city and they have a truck that comes and picks up trash every week.

Father: That may be convenient, but all the trash they pick up is going to the new landfill in town. That seems like a waste of good land when we can give so much to the pigs and the compost heap.

Miguel: Not to mention, I think it is fun to burn the other trash, like the waxed paper, bread wrappers, and paper lunch sacks.

Mother: Speaking of, Ana, I would also like you to clean the windows with that newspaper. Then put the paper in the pile for Miguel to burn later.

Father: Someone also needs to collect the tin cans. I am going to use some of them as containers for my nails and bolts in. There may be a few left over in the pile to take to the dump.

Miguel: Yes! We haven't been to the dump in *months*! I want to go.

Father: Not so fast, young man. We need to have at least a few bags full to go to the dump. You may need to wait a while before we have enough garbage to make it worth the trip.



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Dorothea Lange, photographer

Name: _____ Date: _____

The 1890s
Somewhere in Arizona

Sarah: I am so tired of this trip from New York. I hope settling the Arizona territory is going to be worth it. Now that we have finished lunch, it is time to get back in the wagon.

Martha: I agree. But the sooner we get back in the wagon, the sooner we will be there. Is there anything we need to pack up from lunch?

Sarah: I am taking the skin from the rabbit we ate so that I can make a warm cover later. I will just leave the bones here.

Martha: I will leave the tin can from the beans as well. I am glad we were able to pick up those beans at the last fort. It has made lunch better!

Sarah: I agree. I think that is all the trash that we had. Did I tell you that I had a letter from Julia waiting at the fort?

Martha: No! What is the news from New York?

Sarah: Well, speaking of trash, did you know that New York built a garbage incinerator to burn trash? It was built a few years ago. Julia said that the incinerator is being used a lot. I am glad. There was so much trash piling up on the streets before. It is good that they have one place to burn it all now.

Martha: That is one advantage to moving to the Arizona territory. We do not have much trash or many people, so we can still leave the trash as we move along.

Sarah: That is true. Julia also mentioned that New York is about to start something called a recycling center. I heard that they will be able to collect paper and metal and reuse them.



Corel

Name: _____ Date: _____

The 1500s
London

Father: Nicholas, you need to do your chores.

Nicholas: Father, I have done them! I took the vegetable scraps out to the sewer ditch already.

Father: I still smell a chamber pot from using the bathroom last night. Did you empty that as well?

Nicholas: No, I did not do that.

Father: Well, get to it.

Nicholas: Yes, sir. I am taking the chamber pots to the ditch now.

Father: You need to empty the dirty water from the bath as well. Do that last. It will make it easier to clean the sewer ditch in front of the house. The water will wash everything else down the ditch to the river.

Nicholas: Do I really need to do that? We could probably still use the bath water a few more times.

Father: I know it seems like a waste of water. But the king has said that everyone has to clean the ditch in front of their house each week. We need to make sure we are doing what the king bids.

Nicholas: Yes, I suppose so.

Father: And for heaven's sake, watch out for rats. Be sure to come right back inside, too. I heard that there is another outbreak of the plague.



Engraving by Nathaniel Whittock (1849); orig. drawing by Antony van den Wyngaerde (ca 1543-50)

Name: _____ Date: _____

Ancestral Puebloans

A talk presented at a conference for archaeologists

Good afternoon. I am here today to talk about some recent findings from our study of the ancestral Puebloan people. For those of you who are not familiar with the ancestral Puebloans, these people lived in what is now the Four Corners region. This is the area where Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, and Utah meet. The Puebloans settled there around the year 550 and lived there for several hundred years.

Many of the Puebloans lived in dwellings they built under the overhangs of cliffs. They lived in small villages. We know that they developed many skills over the time they lived in this area.

My work has been focused on what we can learn about these people from their garbage. From what we can tell, the small villages had garbage heaps. The Puebloans tossed their garbage off the cliffs where they lived. These heaps tell us a lot about them. We have found many fragments of pottery. The Puebloans were very skilled at making pottery, but whenever the pottery broke, they tossed it over the cliff and into the garbage.

We have also found broken tools in the garbage heaps. We know the Puebloans used tools. Food scraps were thrown into the garbage. The Puebloans were farmers. They grew beans, corn, and squash. They also gathered wild plants and hunted deer, rabbit, and squirrel. These were resourceful people. We know from the garbage heaps that some of their tools were made from the bones of those animals. They also wore clothes made from the hides of the animals they killed.

The Puebloans did not have metal, so we have not found any metal in the garbage heaps. In addition to the bone tools, we have found tools made from stone and wood. We have found fibers from baskets they wove. Some of these fibers are lined with a tar-like substance that made the baskets waterproof. We have also found stones in some baskets. We think the Puebloans cooked by dropping hot stones into the food.

As you can see, we have learned a lot about the ancestral Puebloan people based on their garbage heaps, which are very different from the landfills of today. No plastic bags or bottles found here!



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