

INTRODUCTION

- The Ancestral Pueblo were a tribe of Native Americans that resided in New Mexico in the Four Corners region of the United States.
- They were a very well-functioning society that had a very organized way of living. They lived, primarily, in Chaco Canyon. Chaco Canyon is an archaeological site in New Mexico.
- They lived in a very well designed site that seemed to be able to aid in the seemingly unified society, which was very influential to all the other groups around them.
- The Ancestral Pueblo are believed to have settled in the area between AD 750 and 900, and the group quickly grew to be a huge, coercive society.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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RESEARCH QUESTION

- Were the people of the Ancestral Pueblo practicing cannibalism as part of their culture, or did certain events, such as crop failure, force them to turn to cannibalism?

DEFINITIONS

- **Cannibalism:** the—usually ritualistic—eating of human flesh by a human being
- **Coprolite:** fossilized excrement

BACKGROUND AND LITERATURE REVIEW

- Articles have been written about the cannibalistic activities that are evident in the archaeological record.
- I am looking at the background of the culture to compare the different—and, at times, conflicting—findings reported by many archaeologists.
- This society is said to have been a very well-functioning agricultural society. I would like to know what caused the cannibalistic behaviors.

METHODS

- I am doing my research almost solely through library research. In addition to books, I am looking at published, scholarly articles. I would also like to take a trip to the Four Corners region to get a better picture of the area, and how life might have been for the Ancestral Pueblo. I hope to gain knowledge that might not be available here in California.
- I plan to look at many different articles published by different archaeologists specializing in the Ancestral Pueblo. I plan to compare and contrast the many theories already out there, in order to produce a well-grounded theory of my own.
- I also plan to define and discuss the different categories of cannibalistic practices and the different cultures who practice each category. These include religious practices, to demonstrate power, or purely out of necessity.

LOCATION



EXPECTED RESULTS

- I expect to find a very controversial dialogue around this topic. Because cannibalism is taboo in most cultures, people tend to get uncomfortable with the subject. This is especially true when it is one's ancestors in question.

COPROLITE



SIGNIFICANCE

- I am doing this research because I think it is fascinating that a society could go from functioning so well to a society that was either forced to turn to cannibalism or chose to turn to cannibalism.

REFERENCES

1. Gibbons, Ann. "Archaeologists Rediscover Cannibals." American Association for the Advancement of Science (1997): 635-637. Print.
2. Marlar, Richard A., et al. "Biochemical evidence of cannibalism at a prehistoric Puebloan site in southwestern Colorado." Nature Vol. 407 (2000): 74-78. Print.
3. Reinhard, Karl J. "A Coprological View of Ancestral Pueblo Cannibalism." American Scientist (2006): 254-261. Print.
4. www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/coprolite
5. www.wikiwand.com/en/Chaco_Culture_National_Historical_Park (Picture in background)