

# American Indians of the West

## Battling the Elements



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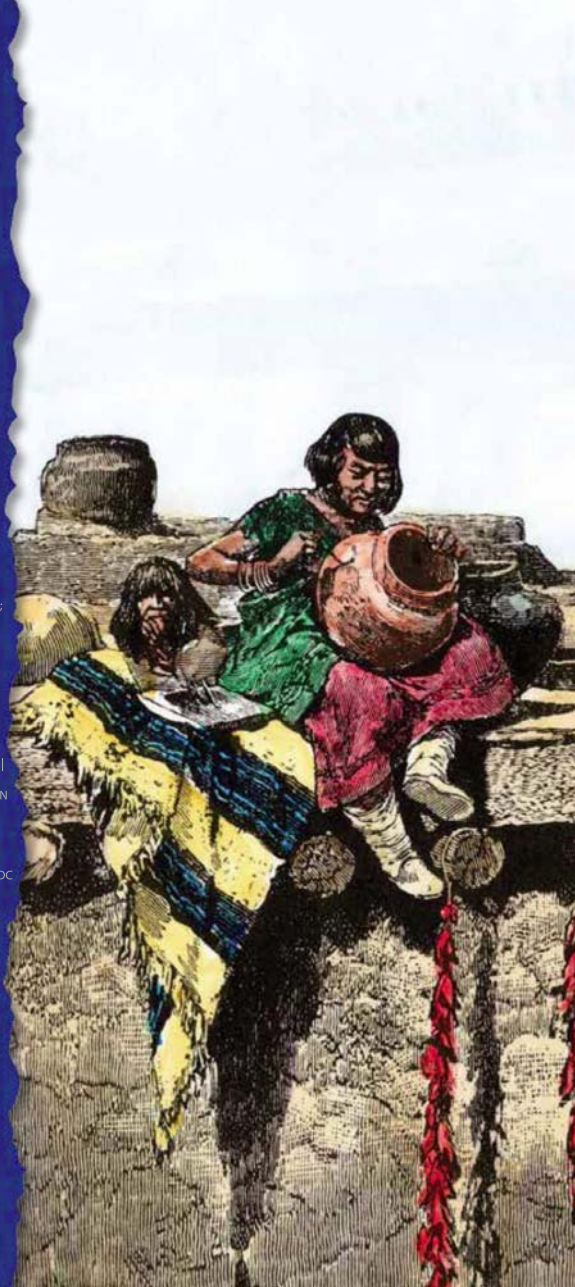
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# Surviving the West



Wheeler Peak, Nevada

Long before Europeans found North and South America, millions of people already lived there. These people were American Indians. Their **ancestors** came to the area thousands of years ago. They lived in many different **tribes**. A tribe is a group of people who share a **culture**. Each tribe had its own traditions, beliefs, and ways of life.

American Indians lived in almost every part of North America. All western tribes had very different ways of life. This is because the West is a **diverse** region. There are towering mountains, dry deserts, fertile valleys, and miles of jagged coastline. It may seem difficult to live in some of these places. But, Western tribes found ways to thrive in all these environments.

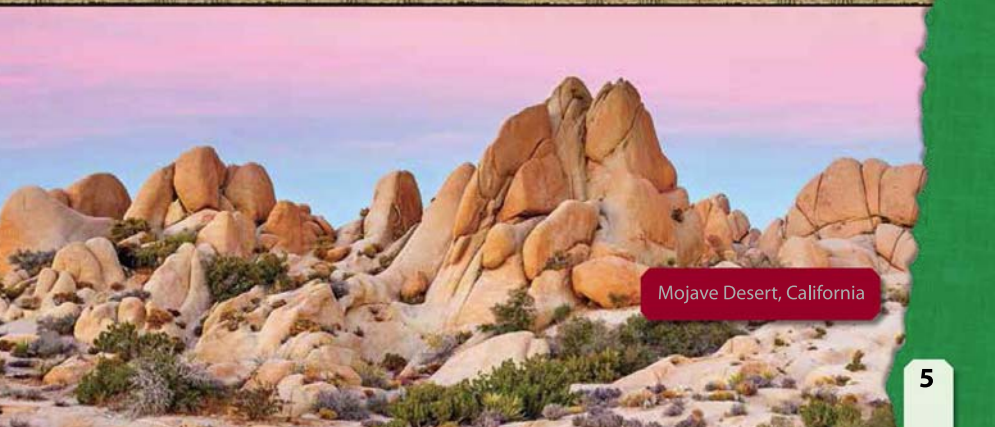




Reynolds Mountain, Montana



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Mojave Desert, California

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