FLASHFEED STUDY GUIDE

History of Arizona

Study guide by FlashFeed

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History of Arizona: study guide

From mammoth hunters and Hohokam canals to copper booms, Geronimo's surrender, statehood, Hoover Dam, and the modern sunbelt — Arizona's story, told in cards.

Edition	November 2026 (2026-11-21)
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Contents	12 lessons · 615 cards in the app · 273 self-test questions · 51 pictures
In the app	flashfeedlearningapp.com/packs/arizona-history

How to use this guide

Take one lesson at a time: read the study guide, then go over any key facts. Where a lesson has a self-test, try it from memory before you check the answer key at the back. Follow the Go deeper links when you want more.

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LESSON 1 OF 12

Lesson 1: Before Europeans

Part 1: First Arizonans · Part 2: Ancestral Puebloans & Hohokam · Part 3: Mogollon, Sinagua & the Mystery

WHAT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO

- Identify when Paleo-Indians reached Arizona, their small mobile bands, the megafauna they hunted, and their atlatls and Clovis points.
- Recognize the saguaro as the Sonoran Desert's emblem and the Three Sisters that anchored Southwest farming.
- Identify the Ancestral Puebloans, their Four Corners homeland, and the kiva ceremonial chamber.
- Describe the Hohokam canal builders and their four-story earthen tower Casa Grande.
- Identify the Mogollon by Mimbres pottery and Kinishba, the Sinagua by their name and Montezuma Castle, and the cultures' later dispersal.

Part 1: First Arizonans

Long before statehood, Arizona was home to big-game hunters who arrived at the end of the last Ice Age and, over thousands of years, became farmers. This part traces that arc — and two desert landmarks that frame the deep-time backdrop.

Arizona, briefly

Arizona is the **48th state** — the last of the contiguous United States to join the Union, admitted on **Valentine's Day, 1912**. The long delay came from disputes over its mining wealth and a proposed merger with New Mexico that Arizonans rejected. Its recorded story runs from Ice Age mammoth hunters and the cliff-dwelling Ancestral Puebloans through Spanish missions, territorial copper booms, and today's fast-growing Sunbelt cities.

The first Arizonans

Humans first reached what is now Arizona roughly **10,000 to 12,000 years ago**, at the close of the Pleistocene. These **Paleo-Indians** traveled in small, mobile bands of about 20–50 people, following the herds. They left behind finely worked stone spear points — the Clovis and Folsom styles — that are among the oldest human artifacts in the Southwest.

Hunting megafauna

The Paleo-Indians hunted Pleistocene giants — **mammoths**, mastodons, and an ancient long-horned bison — driving stone-tipped spears into animals many times their own size. When that megafauna went extinct around 10,000 years ago, the hunters adapted to smaller game: mule deer, antelope, waterfowl, and fish, taken with **atlatls** (spear-throwers that multiply a throw's force) and woven nets.

The Archaic shift

Beginning around **10,000 years ago**, Arizonans shifted from chasing big game to a seasonal round built around wild plants — the long **Archaic period**, marked by the earliest **grinding slabs** (manos and metates), used to mill wild seeds into flour for gruels and breads. It was a slower, steadier way of life that set the stage for farming.

Corn comes north

Corn arrived from central Mexico late in the Archaic period — it did not grow wild here — and was planted near permanent water. **Beans and squash** followed, completing the *three sisters*: corn gives the stalk, beans climb it and fix nitrogen, squash shades the soil. Together they anchored Southwest agriculture for thousands of years and made permanent villages possible.

The saguaro

The **saguaro** cactus grows only in the **Sonoran Desert**, which covers southern Arizona — making it the region's living emblem. It grows famously slowly, sprouting its first arm only after about **70 years** and sometimes living 150–200 years. Its spring flowers and summer fruit were a vital food and calendar marker for the desert peoples who came after the first hunters.

Meteor Crater

Meteor Crater, on the high plateau near Winslow, was punched into the rock about **50,000 years ago** by an iron-nickel meteorite — and is **nearly a mile across**. Arizona's dry climate has preserved it so well that it became the first proven impact crater on Earth and a training ground for Apollo astronauts.

Part 2: Ancestral Puebloans & Hohokam

Once farming took hold, distinct cultures rose across Arizona and built in stone and earth on a scale that still stands today. Two of the greatest were the cliff-dwelling Ancestral Puebloans of the north and the canal-building Hohokam of the south.

Ancestral Puebloans

Sometimes called the *Anasazi*, the **Ancestral Puebloans** flourished from about **200 to 1450 CE** across the **Four Corners** — the only place in the US where Arizona, Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico meet. They progressed from simple pit houses to multi-story stone **pueblos** and the famous **cliff dwellings** tucked into sandstone alcoves, defensible homes reached by ladders and hand-and-toe holds. Their descendants are today's Hopi and other Pueblo peoples — they did not vanish.

The kiva

A **kiva** is a round, often partially underground room the Ancestral Puebloans used for ceremonies, councils, and gatherings. You entered not by a door but down a **ladder through a hole in the roof**, which doubled as the smoke vent. Many kivas held a small floor-niche called a *sipapu* — a symbolic portal representing the place where the people first emerged into this world. The kiva remains central to Pueblo religious life.

The Hohokam canal builders

The **Hohokam** thrived from roughly **300 to 1450 CE** in the southern deserts where Phoenix now stands. Their signature achievement was an enormous system of irrigation **canals** — hundreds of miles of them — dug across the Salt and Gila river valleys to water corn, beans, cotton, and agave. Remarkably, they engineered this network **without metal tools or pack animals**, using stone, wood, and human labor; modern Phoenix canals follow some of the same lines.

Casa Grande

Casa Grande ("Great House") is a **four-story earthen tower** the Hohokam raised around **1350 CE** near modern Coolidge, Arizona — built from caliche mud, not stone. Its purpose is still debated: an astronomical observatory, a ceremonial center, or an administrative landmark? Openings in its upper walls align with the sun and moon at key dates, hinting at a calendar function. It is one of the largest prehistoric structures in North America.

Part 3: Mogollon, Sinagua & the Mystery

Beyond the Puebloans and Hohokam, two more cultures shaped prehistoric Arizona — the artistic Mogollon and the adaptive Sinagua — before all of the great Southwest cultures dispersed in one of archaeology's enduring puzzles.

Mogollon

The **Mogollon** culture (about **200 to 1450 CE**) occupied the rugged, forested border country of present-day Arizona, New Mexico, and Sonora — named for the mountains that still bear the name. In popular imagination they are most famous for **Mimbres pottery**: striking **black-on-white bowls** painted with people, animals, and geometric designs. Many were ritually "killed" with a punched hole and buried with the dead, and their bold imagery makes them some of the most prized prehistoric art in North America.

Sinagua

The **Sinagua** — Spanish for "without water," a nod to their dry country — lived in central Arizona from about **500 to 1425 CE**. Their territory ran from the volcanic highlands around **Flagstaff** down through the **Verde Valley** near Sedona. They left elegant cliff dwellings, most famously **Montezuma Castle** (a name that is doubly wrong — it was neither Aztec nor a castle), and they prospered after the eruption of nearby Sunset Crater enriched the soil.

Kinishba Ruins

Kinishba is a massive Mogollon great house of **over 600 rooms**, abandoned around **1400 CE**, whose sandstone walls still stand near Whiteriver, Arizona. A village that size — larger than most medieval European castles — is a reminder that "ruins" in the Southwest were once busy stone towns.
It was partially reconstructed in the 1930s and is now a National Historic Landmark on the Fort Apache Reservation.

The 15th-century mystery

Around the **15th and 16th centuries**, the great cultures — Ancestral Puebloan, Hohokam, Mogollon, and Sinagua — **all dispersed**, leaving their great houses empty. Prolonged **drought**, soil exhaustion, salinized fields, conflict, and migration toward more reliable water are the leading explanations, probably acting together. Crucially, the people did not disappear: they moved and regrouped into the Hopi, Zuni, O'odham, and Pueblo nations. So when **Spanish conquistadors arrived in the 1500s, the great houses were already abandoned** — they conquered no one here.

Key concepts

Corn

- A crop that arrived from central Mexico late in the Archaic period, since it did not grow wild in Arizona.
- Planted near permanent water, it helped make permanent farming villages possible across the Southwest.
- In the three sisters, it provides the tall stalk that beans climb and squash shelters.

Beans

- One of the three sisters, a trio of crops that anchored Southwest farming for thousands of years.
- This crop was planted to climb the cornstalk, using it for support.
- It fixes nitrogen in the soil, enriching the ground for corn and squash.

Squash

- The third of the three sisters of Southwest agriculture, grown near permanent water.
- This low-growing crop was planted among the taller corn and climbing beans.
- It shades the soil to keep it cool and moist, while corn gives the stalk and beans fix nitrogen.

Key facts



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The kiva

A **kiva** is a round, often partially underground room used by Ancestral Puebloans for ceremonies and gatherings. Their entrances were typically a ladder through a hole in the roof — and many had a small floor-niche called a *sipapu* representing the place of emergence.



Sirrobin33 at English Wikipedia · CC BY-SA 3.0

The Hohokam canal builders

The **Hohokam** thrived from roughly 300 to 1450 CE in southern Arizona, where Phoenix now stands. They are best known for an enormous system of irrigation **canals** — hundreds of miles of them — that watered crops across the Salt and Gila valleys.



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Casa Grande

Casa Grande ('Great House') is a four-story earthen tower the Hohokam built around 1350 CE near modern Coolidge, Arizona. Its purpose is still debated — astronomical observatory? Ceremonial center? — but it was tall enough to dominate the desert flats.



Library of Congress · Four Corners Monument, marking the only spot in the United S · No known restrictions (verify at source)

The Four Corners homeland

The Ancestral Puebloans made their home in the Four Corners region, where the borders of Arizona, Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico all meet.



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Sinagua

The **Sinagua** (Spanish for 'without water', a nod to their arid country) lived in central Arizona from about 500 to 1425 CE. Their territory ran from Flagstaff down through the Verde Valley near Sedona — including the cliff dwelling at Montezuma Castle.



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The 15th-century mystery

Around the 15th and 16th centuries, the great cultures — Ancestral Puebloan, Hohokam, Mogollon, Sinagua — **all dispersed**. Drought, soil exhaustion, conflict, and migration are the leading theories. By the time Spanish conquistadors arrived, the great houses were already empty.



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Not Aztec, not a castle

Montezuma Castle isn't Aztec and isn't a castle — it's a Sinagua cliff dwelling in central Arizona.

Self-test

Answer each question from memory, then check your work against the answer key.

1. About how long ago did humans first reach what is now Arizona?

- A 10,000 to 12,000 years ago
- B 2,000 to 3,000 years ago
- C 500 years ago
- D 50,000 years ago

2. After the megafauna died out, Arizona's hunters took smaller game using nets and a spear-thrower that multiplies a throw's force. What is that device called?

- A Metate
- B Clovis point
- C Bola
- D Atlatl

3. The Paleo-Indians who first reached Arizona traveled in mobile bands of roughly what size?

- A 200–500 people
- B 1,000–2,000 people
- C 20–50 people
- D 2–5 people

4. Which Pleistocene giant did Arizona's Paleo-Indians hunt with stone-tipped spears?

- A Giant moa
- B Mammoth
- C Tyrannosaurus
- D Woolly rhinoceros

5. Which stone spear-point styles did Arizona's first Paleo-Indians leave behind?

- A Manos and metates
- B Clovis and Folsom
- C Acheulean and Mousterian
- D Obsidian and flint

6. Only grows in the ___ — and only sprouts its first arm after about 70 years.

A Sonoran Desert
B Great Basin Desert
C Mojave Desert
D Chihuahuan Desert

7. Which trio makes up the 'three sisters' that anchored Southwest agriculture?

A Wheat, beans, and chiles
B Corn, cotton, and agave
C Squash, sunflowers, and potatoes
D Corn, beans, and squash

8. In the three sisters, which plant-and-role pairing is NOT correct?

A Beans — fix nitrogen in the soil
B Squash — shades the soil
C Squash — climbs the corn stalk
D Corn — provides the stalk

9. Beyond food, what did the saguaro's spring flowers and summer fruit provide for the desert peoples?

A A marker of the season, like a calendar
B Timber for pit-house roof beams
C A dye for black-on-white pottery
D Fiber for weaving hunting nets

10. Where did the corn grown by late Archaic Arizonans come from?

A It was introduced by Spanish missions
B It grew wild in the Sonoran Desert
C It was traded east from California
D It was brought north from central Mexico

11. Which region did the Ancestral Puebloans inhabit?

A The Great Lakes basin
B The Four Corners — where Arizona, Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico meet
C The Gulf Coast of Texas
D The Pacific Northwest

12. Sometimes called the *Anasazi*, the **___** flourished from about 200 to 1450 CE across the Four Corners region. They built pit houses, grand pueblos, and the famous **cliff dwellings** carved into sandstone alcoves.

A Mogollon
B Hohokam
C Ancestral Puebloans
D Sinagua

13. Which best describes the Ancestral Puebloan structure used for ceremonies, councils, and gatherings?

A An open rectangular plaza ringed by walls
B A four-story earthen tower
C A round, often partially underground room
D A ladder-reached granary in a cliff face

14. How did Ancestral Puebloans typically enter a kiva?

A Through a low doorway in the side wall
B Down a ladder through a hole in the roof
C Through a tunnel from a neighboring pueblo
D By hand-and-toe holds cut into the outer wall

15. Many kivas held a small floor-niche called a sipapu. What did it symbolize?

A. The place where the people first emerged into this world
B. The direction of the summer solstice sunrise
C. The burial place of a clan ancestor
D. The four corners of the Puebloan homeland

16. What is Casa Grande?

A. A modern shopping mall in Phoenix
B. A 19th-century mining town
C. A Spanish mission near Tucson
D. A four-story Hohokam earthen tower built around 1350 CE

17. What was the signature achievement of the Hohokam?

A. Terraced hillside farms in the Mogollon Rim country
B. Hundreds of miles of irrigation canals across the Salt and Gila valleys
C. Sandstone cliff dwellings in the Four Corners
D. Black-on-white painted burial bowls

18. What makes the Hohokam canal network especially remarkable to engineers?

A. It was dug by hand with stone and wooden tools
B. It used cast-bronze sluice gates
C. It relied on windmills to lift water uphill
D. It was built in under a single decade

19. Casa Grande was built from which material?

A. Volcanic basalt
B. Fired clay brick
C. Caliche mud
D. Quarried sandstone blocks

20. The Hohokam thrived from roughly 300 to 1450 CE in which part of Arizona?

A. The volcanic highlands around Flagstaff
B. The forested Mogollon border country
C. The Four Corners plateau country
D. The southern deserts where Phoenix now stands

21. What was the Hohokam's signature engineering achievement in the Salt and Gila river valleys?

A. A system of paved roads linking desert villages
B. A chain of fortified hilltop watchtowers
C. A network of cliff dwellings tucked into sandstone alcoves
D. An extensive irrigation canal system watering their crops

22. How did the Hohokam build their vast canal network across the desert?

A. With iron tools and ox-drawn plows
B. With stone and wood tools, no metal or pack animals
C. With enslaved labor and iron machinery
D. By trading labor with the Ancestral Puebloans to the north

23. What is the Mogollon culture most famous for in popular imagination?

A. Black-on-white Mimbres pottery depicting people and animals
B. Bronze metalwork
C. Stone obelisks
D. Salt mining

24. Approximately how many rooms did the Mogollon great house at Kinishba have?

A. Exactly 12
B. About 250
C. Over 600
D. About 40

25. The central Arizona culture known as the Sinagua took its name from Spanish. What does the name mean?

A. Without stone
B. People of the pines
C. Sunless canyon
D. Without water

26. Montezuma Castle is best described as which of the following?

A. A Mogollon pottery workshop in Sonora
B. A Sinagua cliff dwelling in central Arizona
C. An Aztec fortress built by Montezuma's army
D. A Hohokam canal headgate near Phoenix

27. What did Spanish conquistadors find when they arrived in the 1500s?

A. Kinishba still occupied by 600 households
B. Thriving Hohokam cities along the canals
C. The great houses were already abandoned
D. Mogollon potters selling Mimbres bowls

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LESSON 2 OF 12

Lesson 2: Spanish & Mexican Eras

Part 1: First European Eyes · Part 2: Presidios & Mexican Sonora

WHAT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO

- Explain the Spanish search for the Seven Cities of Cibola under Marcos de Niza (1539) and Coronado (1540).
- Identify Father Kino, Pimeria Alta, and Mission San Xavier del Bac as Arizona's oldest European structure.
- Define a presidio and identify Tubac (1752) and the Tucson presidio (1775, Hugo O'Conor).
- Explain how Arizona became part of Mexican Sonora after 1821 and how Apache raids emptied the ranches.

Spanish and Mexican Eras

The first Europeans to walk into Arizona were chasing a rumor. The next three centuries — Spanish missions, Spanish forts, then a brief Mexican period — never really pacified the territory. By the time the United States showed up to buy it, much of the country was still Apache.

First European Eyes

In **1539** the Franciscan friar **Marcos de Niza** led the first documented European expedition into Arizona. He was chasing the **Seven Cities of Cíbola** — a Spanish fantasy of pueblos paved with gold. The following year, in **1540**, **Francisco Vásquez de Coronado** followed with hundreds of soldiers and the same map of nonsense. He found pueblos, not gold, and limped back to Mexico bankrupt and disgraced — though a detachment he sent ahead became the first Europeans to see the Grand Canyon. The "cities" turned out to be the Zuni Pueblos — real, impressive, and made of mud and stone.

Spain didn't try again seriously for a century and a half. Starting in **1691**, the Italian Jesuit **Father Eusebio Francisco Kino** began founding missions among the O'odham people in southern Arizona, mapping the region the Spanish called *Pimería Alta* — "upper Pima country," the desert straddling what is now southern Arizona and northern Sonora. **Mission San Xavier del Bac**, which Kino founded in 1692 and which was rebuilt in brilliant white stucco between 1783 and 1797, still stands south of Tucson — Arizona's oldest European structure and still an active Catholic parish.

Presidios and Mexican Sonora

After a deadly Pima uprising in 1751, Spain put a garrison on the ground. A **presidio** is a Spanish frontier military fort, and **Tubac**, founded in **1752**, was the first one in Arizona. The **Tucson presidio** followed in **1775**, established by an Irish-born officer in the Spanish army named Hugo O'Conor — its adobe walls enclosed the town that is now Arizona's second-largest city.

Mexico won independence from Spain in 1821, and from **1822 onward** what is now Arizona was part of the **Mexican state of Sonora**. On paper. In practice, Mexico City's control over the distant frontier was thin to nonexistent. **Apache raids** drove most ranchers out of southeastern Arizona during the Mexican period. By the 1840s the abandoned ranges were running with **wild cattle** — feral descendants of fled herds, hunted for hides by anyone passing through. When the Americans arrived a few years later, they were not exactly displacing a settled population.

Key concepts

Marcos de Niza

- A Franciscan friar who in 1539 led the first documented European expedition into what is now Arizona.
- He was chasing the Seven Cities of Cíbola, a Spanish fantasy of pueblos paved with gold.
- His glowing reports lured a much larger gold-seeking expedition to follow him north the very next year.

Francisco Vásquez de Coronado

- In 1540 this leader marched north with hundreds of soldiers on a fruitless hunt for cities of gold.
- He found the Zuni pueblos of mud and stone; a detachment he sent ahead became the first Europeans to gaze into the Grand Canyon.
- He straggled back to Mexico bankrupt and disgraced, a year after a friar's tales had sent him north.

Father Eusebio Francisco Kino

- An Italian Jesuit who, starting in 1691, founded a chain of missions across southern Arizona.
- He worked among the O'odham people and mapped the desert the Spanish called Pimería Alta.
- In 1692 he founded Mission San Xavier del Bac, which still stands south of Tucson.

Hugo O'Conor

- An Irish-born officer serving in the Spanish army on Arizona's frontier.
- In 1775 he established a presidio — a Spanish military fort — on the site of a future major city.
- His adobe walls enclosed the settlement that grew into Tucson, now Arizona's second-largest city.

Key facts



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The Seven Cities of Cíbola

The **Seven Cities of Cíbola** were a Spanish fantasy: fabulously wealthy pueblos in the Southwest, supposedly built of gold. The legend pulled in Marcos de Niza, then Coronado. What they found was the Zuni Pueblos — impressive, but very much not gold.



NPS Photo · Public domain

Father Kino

Father Eusebio Francisco Kino was an Italian Jesuit missionary who began founding missions in southern Arizona in **1691**. He worked among the O'odham people, established mission churches along the Santa Cruz River, and mapped much of the region the Spanish called *Pimería Alta*.



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San Xavier del Bac

Mission San Xavier del Bac, founded by Father Kino in 1692 and rebuilt as a brilliant white church between 1783 and 1797, still stands south of Tucson — an active Catholic parish, and the oldest European structure in Arizona.

> ### Tubac, the first presidio
>
> A **presidio** is a Spanish military fort. **Tubac**, founded in **1752** south of present-day Tucson, was the first European settlement in Arizona to be defended by a garrison — Spain's response to a deadly Pima uprising the year before.

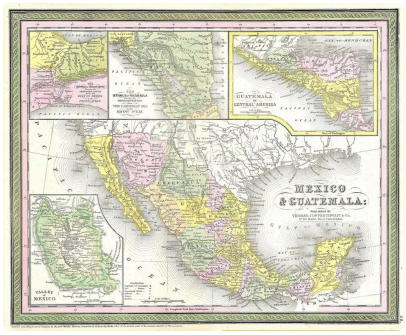


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Tucson founded

The **Tucson presidio** was established in **1775** by Hugo O'Conor, an Irish-born officer in the Spanish army. Its adobe walls enclosed a small garrison; the town that grew around them is now Arizona's second-largest city.

> **Pimería Alta**
>
> **Pimería Alta** ('upper Pima country') was the Spanish name for the desert region straddling what is now southern Arizona and northern Sonora — home of the Akimel and Tohono O'odham peoples, and the territory where Kino built his missions.



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Arizona becomes Mexican

Mexico won independence from Spain in 1821. From **1822 onward**, the lands now called Arizona were part of the **Mexican state of Sonora** — though Mexico City's actual control over the distant frontier was thin.

> **Apache raiders empty the ranches**
>
> During the Mexican period, **Apache raids** drove most ranchers out of southeastern Arizona. By the 1840s, the abandoned ranges were running with **wild cattle** — feral descendants of fled herds, hunted for hides by anyone passing through.

Self-test

Answer each question from memory, then check your work against the answer key.

1. In **1539**, the Franciscan friar **Marcos de Niza** led the first documented European expedition into Arizona. He was chasing a rumor — the legendary ___ of Cíbola, said to be paved with gold.

A) Seven Cities
B) Sacred Cities
C) Golden Cities
D) Lost Cities

2. In what year did Coronado lead his expedition into the Southwest?

A) 1776
B) 1540
C) 1492
D) 1607

3. Coronado's expedition was the first European party to lay eyes on which Arizona landmark?

A The Petrified Forest
B Meteor Crater
C The Grand Canyon
D Monument Valley

4. The fabled cities of gold the Spanish hunted for in the Southwest turned out to be which real places?

A The Casa Grande ruins
B The Tohono O'odham villages
C The Hopi mesas
D The Zuni Pueblos

5. Which of these is NOT true of Coronado's expedition?

A He returned to Mexico enriched by the gold he found
B He was hunting for fabled pueblos paved with gold
C He found pueblos rather than a golden city
D He marched in with hundreds of soldiers

6. **___ del Bac**, founded by Father Kino in 1692 and rebuilt as a brilliant white church between 1783 and 1797, still stands south of Tucson — an active Catholic parish, and the oldest European structure in Arizona.

A Mission Calabazas
B Mission Guevavi
C Mission San Xavier
D Mission Tumacácori

7. To which religious order did Father Eusebio Francisco Kino belong?

A Augustinian
B Dominican
C Franciscan
D Jesuit

8. What did the Spanish name Pimería Alta refer to?

A The Zuni and Hopi pueblo country
B The desert region of southern Arizona and northern Sonora
C The pine highlands of the Mogollon Rim
D The Colorado River delta

9. In which decade did Father Kino begin founding missions among the O'odham of southern Arizona?

A The 1820s
B The 1750s
C The 1540s
D The 1690s

10. Which of these is NOT part of Father Kino's legacy in Arizona?

A Maps of the region the Spanish called Pimería Alta
B The adobe walls of the Tucson presidio
C Missionary work among the O'odham people
D Mission churches along the Santa Cruz River

11. When was the presidio of Tubac, Arizona's first European settlement with a military garrison, established?

A 1821
B 1912
C 1752
D 1492

12. The **Tucson presidio** was established in **1775** by ___, an Irish-born officer in the Spanish army. Its adobe walls enclosed a small garrison; the town that grew around them is now Arizona's second-largest city.

A. Hugo O'Conor
B. Juan Bautista de Anza
C. Bernardo de Gálvez
D. Teodoro de Croix

13. What is a presidio?

A. A Spanish mission church
B. A Spanish land grant for ranching
C. A Spanish colonial town council
D. A Spanish frontier military fort

14. Which event prompted Spain to put a garrison on the ground at Tubac?

A. A deadly Pima uprising
B. Apache raids on Tucson
C. Coronado's search for Cíbola
D. Mexican independence from Spain

15. In which decade did Spain establish the Tucson presidio?

A. The 1820s
B. The 1770s
C. The 1690s
D. The 1750s

16. After Mexican independence, what is now Arizona was administered as part of which Mexican state?

A. Nuevo México
B. Baja California
C. Sonora
D. Chihuahua

17. During the Mexican period, what drove most ranchers out of southeastern Arizona?

A. Apache raids
B. Pima uprisings
C. Spanish tax collectors
D. A prolonged drought

18. By the 1840s, what were the abandoned ranges of southeastern Arizona running with?

A. Wild horses, rounded up for the army
B. Nothing — the land had gone to desert scrub
C. Sheep left behind by Spanish missions
D. Wild cattle, hunted for their hides

19. How is Mexico's actual authority over the Arizona frontier best characterized in this period?

A. Shared jointly with Spain until 1848
B. Nominal on paper, thin to nonexistent in practice
C. Firm, enforced by large standing garrisons
D. Delegated entirely to the Apache leadership

20. In what year did Mexico win its independence from Spain?

A. 1848
B. 1810
C. 1821
D. 1836

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LESSON 3 OF 12

Lesson 3: Becoming American

Part 1: Guadalupe Hidalgo & the Gadsden Purchase · Part 2: Civil War in the Desert

WHAT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO

- Explain the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo (1848) and the Mexican cession of northern Arizona.
- Describe the Gadsden Purchase by its year, $10 million price, and southern-railroad motive.
- Recognize the Confederate Territory of Arizona, the Battle of Picacho Pass, and the California Column.
- Identify the 1863 creation of Arizona Territory and its wandering territorial capital.

Becoming American

Arizona became part of the United States in two pieces — half by war, half by checkbook — and then almost immediately got tangled in the Civil War. By the time the dust settled, the territory had its own borders, its own capital, and a habit of moving the capital around.

Guadalupe Hidalgo and the Gadsden Purchase

The **Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo** (1848) ended the Mexican-American War. Mexico ceded a vast territory — including the northern **70% of present-day Arizona**, above the Gila River — to the US for $15 million. The **Gila River** became the southern border. That meant Tucson, Tubac, and most of the future state's population centers were still in **Mexico**.

The line lasted five years. In **1853** President Pierce sent **James Gadsden** to Mexico City to buy a strip of land south of the Gila — flat enough to lay a southern transcontinental railroad on. The US paid **$10 million** for what is now southern Arizona and a slice of New Mexico. That is the **Gadsden Purchase**, and it is why Tucson is American.

Meanwhile, the **California Gold Rush** had been pulling people across Arizona since 1849. Perhaps **50,000 emigrants** crossed on the Southern Emigrant Trail, and the Pima villages along the Gila fed and watered the half-starved wagon trains — a kindness without which many would not have reached California at all.

Civil War in the Desert

The Civil War reached Arizona faster than you'd expect. In **March 1861**, residents of southern New Mexico Territory declared for the Confederacy and asked Richmond to organize a **Confederate Territory of Arizona**. Jefferson Davis proclaimed it in 1862. It lasted less than a year.

On **April 15, 1862**, Union and Confederate cavalry clashed at **Picacho Pass** north of Tucson — the **westernmost Civil War battle with fatalities**. Three Union soldiers died. As battles go, it was tiny; it remains Arizona's only true Civil War engagement. By August the **California Column** — 2,300 Union

volunteers under James Henry Carleton — had marched east across the desert and finished the Confederate territory.

On **February 24, 1863**, **Lincoln signed the act** creating the Arizona Territory, splitting it from New Mexico along a north-south line. The territorial government first set up at Fort Whipple before the capital settled at **Prescott** in 1864, picked for its central location and Union loyalty. The seat then wandered: **Prescott → Tucson (1867) → back to Prescott (1877) → Phoenix (1889)** — each move tracking shifting political weight inside the territory.

Key facts

> **Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo**
>
> The **Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo** (1848) ended the Mexican-American War. Mexico ceded a vast territory — including the northern **70% of present-day Arizona**, above the Gila River — to the United States in exchange for $15 million.



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The Gila as a border

After 1848, the **Gila River** was the southern boundary of the US. Tucson, Tubac, and most of the future state's population centers were still in **Mexico**. That awkward line lasted only five years.

> **The Southern Emigrant Trail**
>
> During the **California Gold Rush of 1849**, perhaps **50,000 emigrants** crossed Arizona on the Southern Emigrant Trail. The Pima villages along the Gila River fed and watered the half-starved travelers — a kindness without which many wagon trains would not have reached California.



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The Gadsden Purchase strip

After the 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo set the border at the Gila River, the U.S. bought the land to its south in the 1853 Gadsden Purchase — ~30,000 sq mi that became southern Arizona, Tucson, and a southern railroad route.

Confederate Arizona

In **March 1861**, residents of southern New Mexico Territory — including Tucson and Mesilla — declared for the Confederacy and asked Richmond to organize a **Confederate Territory of Arizona**. Jefferson Davis proclaimed it in 1862. It existed for less than a year.



Crunchy Footsteps (Openverse) · by 2.0

Battle of Picacho Pass

On **April 15, 1862**, Union and Confederate cavalry clashed at **Picacho Pass** north of Tucson — the **westernmost Civil War battle with fatalities**. Three Union soldiers died. It's small as battles go, but it's Arizona's only true Civil War engagement.

Arizona Territory created

On **February 24, 1863**, President **Lincoln signed the act** creating the Arizona Territory — splitting it off from New Mexico Territory along a north-south line. The territorial government first set up at Fort Whipple before the capital settled at **Prescott** in 1864, chosen for its central location and Union loyalty.

Self-test

Answer each question from memory, then check your work against the answer key.

1. The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ended which war?

- A The American Civil War
- B The Spanish-American War
- C The War of 1812
- D The Mexican-American War

2. How much did the United States pay Mexico under the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo?

- A $15 million
- B $7 million
- C $10 million
- D $25 million

3. Roughly what share of present-day Arizona did Mexico cede to the US under the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo?

- A The northern 30%
- B The northern 70%
- C All of it
- D The southern 50%

4. In 1850, a traveler standing at Tubac, south of the Gila River, was inside which country?

- A The United States
- B Spain
- C Mexico
- D The Republic of Texas

5. In what year was the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo concluded?

A 1848
B 1863
C 1821
D 1853

6. When was the Gadsden Purchase treaty signed?

A 1869
B 1812
C 1898
D 1853

7. Why did the US push for the Gadsden Purchase?

A To suppress slavery in Mexico
B To control Mississippi shipping
C To secure a flat route for a southern transcontinental railroad
D To gain access to Pacific ports

8. How much did the United States pay Mexico for the Gadsden Purchase?

A $7 million
B $10 million
C $20 million
D $15 million

9. Which president sent James Gadsden to Mexico City to buy the strip of land south of the Gila River?

A Abraham Lincoln
B James K. Polk
C James Buchanan
D Franklin Pierce

10. Which present-day Arizona city is American because of the Gadsden Purchase rather than the 1848 treaty?

A Winslow
B Tucson
C Prescott
D Flagstaff

11. What is the historical significance of the Battle of Picacho Pass?

A It ended the war
B It was the largest battle west of the Mississippi
C It was the westernmost Civil War battle with fatalities
D It is where Geronimo surrendered

12. On what date did Union and Confederate cavalry clash at Picacho Pass?

A April 15, 1862
B March 1, 1861
C August 10, 1864
D February 24, 1863

13. Who proclaimed the Confederate Territory of Arizona in 1862?

A Franklin Pierce
B James Gadsden
C Abraham Lincoln
D Jefferson Davis

14. The California Column — about 2,300 Union volunteers — marched east across the desert in 1862 under which commander?

A James Gadsden
B James Henry Carleton
C Jefferson Davis
D Franklin Pierce

15. Which sequence puts Arizona's Civil War events in the correct order?

A California Column arrives → Picacho Pass → Southern declaration for the Confederacy
B Picacho Pass → Southern declaration for the Confederacy → California Column ends Confederate Arizona
C Southern declaration for the Confederacy → Picacho Pass → California Column ends Confederate Arizona
D Southern declaration for the Confederacy → California Column ends Confederate Arizona → Picacho Pass

16. Which president signed the act creating the Arizona Territory?

A Abraham Lincoln
B Ulysses S. Grant
C Jefferson Davis
D Franklin Pierce

17. On what date was the Arizona Territory created by act of Congress?

A March 1, 1861
B February 24, 1863
C April 15, 1862
D February 14, 1912

18. Which town was Arizona's first territorial capital, picked for its central location and Union loyalty?

A Yuma
B Phoenix
C Tucson
D Prescott

19. Which sequence correctly traces the moves of Arizona's territorial capital?

A Prescott → Tucson → Prescott → Phoenix
B Prescott → Phoenix → Tucson → Prescott
C Tucson → Phoenix → Prescott → Tucson
D Tucson → Prescott → Phoenix → Prescott

20. Arizona Territory was split off from which existing territory along a north-south line?

A Colorado Territory
B Nevada Territory
C New Mexico Territory
D Utah Territory

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LESSON 4 OF 12

Lesson 4: Conflict on the Frontier

Part 1: The Navajo Long Walk · Part 2: Apaches, Geronimo & the Forts

WHAT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO

- Identify Fort Defiance and Manuelito's 1860 assault that led Washington to subdue the Navajo.
- Explain Kit Carson's 1863 campaign and the Long Walk of about 9,000 Navajo to Bosque Redondo.
- Recognize Geronimo's 1886 surrender ending the Apache Wars and the Buffalo Soldiers at Fort Huachuca.
- Identify Fort Apache (1870) and Fort Huachuca (1877) as the frontier forts of the Apache wars.

Conflict on the Frontier

After the Civil War, the US Army turned its attention to the people who actually lived in Arizona. Two long campaigns define the period: the breaking of the Navajo in the early 1860s, and the much longer Apache wars that did not end until 1886.

The Navajo Long Walk

Fort Defiance, established on **September 18, 1851** by Colonel Edwin V. Sumner, was the first US military post in Arizona — built deep inside Navajo country as a deliberate provocation. The Navajo tried more than once to wipe it out. In **April 1860**, the war chief **Manuelito** led around **1,000 warriors** in a dawn assault. The garrison held, and Washington concluded the Navajo would have to be subdued.

In **1863** Colonel **Kit Carson** marched into Navajo country and waged a scorched-earth campaign — burning hogans, slaughtering sheep, destroying the peach orchards in Canyon de Chelly. By 1864 starving Navajo families were surrendering by the thousands. About **9,000 Navajo** were then force-marched roughly 300 miles to **Bosque Redondo** in eastern New Mexico — the **Long Walk**. Hundreds died on the way. The reservation itself was a disaster of bad water, failed crops, and disease. In **1868** the US signed a treaty letting the survivors return to a reservation carved from their own homeland, where they have lived ever since.

Apaches, Geronimo, and the Forts

The Apache wars lasted much longer. **Cochise** led the Chiricahua Apache through more than a decade of guerrilla war after the 1861 Bascom Affair, in which soldiers hanged members of his family. He fought to a stalemate and signed peace in 1872. **Geronimo**, a medicine man and war leader, kept fighting after most Apache had been confined. His final group of about 35 men, women, and children evaded thousands of US and Mexican soldiers for over a year before surrendering in **1886** — the end of the Apache Wars.

The forts that fought them are still landmarks. **Fort Apache** (founded **1870**) saw little major combat — chiefly an Apache attack on the post in September 1881 — and closed in 1923. **Fort Huachuca** (founded **1877**) became the base for operations against Apache raiders crossing from Mexico — and, after closing for several years following World War II, was reactivated in the 1950s and remains an active Army post as of 2026. From **1913 to 1933** Huachuca hosted the all-Black **10th Cavalry Regiment**, the famous **Buffalo Soldiers**, who patrolled the Mexican border during the Pancho Villa years.

Key concepts

Fort Defiance

- The first US military post established in what is now Arizona.
- Built in 1851 deep inside Navajo country as a deliberate provocation.
- In 1860 the war chief Manuelito led about 1,000 warriors in a dawn assault on it, but its garrison held.

Bosque Redondo

- A bleak reservation in eastern New Mexico, the endpoint of a brutal 300-mile forced march.
- About 9,000 Navajo were driven here in 1864 in the ordeal remembered as the Long Walk.
- Plagued by bad water, failed crops, and disease, it was abandoned when an 1868 treaty let survivors return home.

Fort Apache

- A US Army post in Arizona, founded in 1870.
- Despite its fearsome reputation, it saw little major combat — chiefly an Apache attack on the post in September 1881.
- It shut down in 1923, unlike a sister post to the south that remains active as of 2026.

Key facts

> **Fort Defiance**
> Established **September 18, 1851** by Colonel Edwin V. Sumner deep inside Navajo country, **Fort Defiance** was the first US military post in what is now Arizona. The name was a deliberate provocation — and the Navajo tried more than once to wipe it out.



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The Navajo treaty of 1868

In **1868**, after four miserable years at Bosque Redondo, the US signed a treaty allowing the Navajo to **return** to a reservation carved out of their original homeland. They walked home — and over the next century built it back into the largest reservation in the country.

Fort Apache

Fort Apache was established in **1870** in the White Mountains of eastern Arizona to control the surrounding Apache bands. It saw only one small fight — three soldiers wounded in September 1881 — and closed in 1923, turned over to the Bureau of Indian Affairs once the Army judged it militarily obsolete.



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Fort Huachuca

Fort Huachuca, founded **1877** southeast of Tucson, was the base for US Army operations against Apache raiders crossing from Mexico. The post closed for several years after World War II before being reactivated in the 1950s — as of 2026 it remains an active Army post and houses the US Army Intelligence Center.



Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve (Openverse) · pdm 1.0

Buffalo Soldiers at Huachuca

From **1913 to 1933**, the all-Black **10th Cavalry Regiment** — the famous **Buffalo Soldiers** — was stationed at Fort Huachuca. They patrolled the Mexican border during the Pancho Villa years.



Phil Venditti from University Place, Washington, USA · CC BY 2.0

Cochise

Cochise led the Chiricahua Apache through more than a decade of guerrilla war against the US Army after a 1861 incident (the Bascom Affair) where soldiers hanged members of his family. He fought to a stalemate and signed peace in 1872 — and died in his mountain stronghold two years later.

Step by step

The path from peace to the Navajo Long Walk

1. Fort Defiance is established in 1851 inside Navajo country, escalating tensions.
2. Manuelito leads about a thousand warriors against the fort in April 1860; the attack fails.
3. The Civil War temporarily empties the fort, but Union forces return in 1863.
4. Kit Carson begins a scorched-earth campaign: burning crops, hogans, and orchards.
5. Starving and besieged, Navajo families begin surrendering by the thousands in 1864.
6. Roughly 9,000 Navajo are force-marched about 300 miles to Bosque Redondo in eastern New Mexico.
7. After four years of crop failures, disease, and death, a treaty in 1868 lets the survivors return to a reservation carved from their homeland.

The 1868 reservation was a fraction of the Navajo's original territory but grew over the following century into the largest Native American reservation in the United States.

Self-test

Answer each question from memory, then check your work against the answer key.

1. Which US officer established Fort Defiance, the first US military post in what is now Arizona?

- A Colonel Kit Carson
- B Colonel Edward Canby
- C General George Crook
- D Colonel Edwin V. Sumner

2. On what date was Fort Defiance established?

- A April 12, 1860
- B June 1, 1863
- C September 18, 1851
- D June 1, 1868

3. Roughly how many warriors did Manuelito lead in the April 1860 dawn assault on Fort Defiance?

- A About 300
- B About 1,000
- C About 35
- D About 9,000

4. Which statement about Fort Defiance is NOT true?

- A Manuelito's warriors captured and destroyed it in 1860
- B Its name was a deliberate provocation
- C It was the first US military post in what is now Arizona
- D It was built deep inside Navajo country

5. What did Washington conclude from the boldness of Manuelito's 1860 assault on Fort Defiance?

A. That the Apache were the more urgent threat
B. That the fort should be relocated closer to Tucson
C. That the Navajo should be offered a treaty at once
D. That the Navajo would have to be subdued

6. Roughly how many Navajo people were forced on the Long Walk?

A. About 6,000
B. About 9,000
C. About 3,000
D. About 19,000

7. Which of these was NOT part of Kit Carson's 1863 scorched-earth campaign in Navajo country?

A. Bombarding Fort Defiance with artillery
B. Destroying the peach orchards in Canyon de Chelly
C. Burning hogans
D. Slaughtering sheep

8. Roughly how far were the Navajo force-marched on the Long Walk?

A. About 1,000 miles
B. About 150 miles
C. About 300 miles
D. About 600 miles

9. In what year did Colonel Kit Carson march into Navajo country with orders to break Navajo resistance?

A. 1863
B. 1860
C. 1851
D. 1868

10. Where was Bosque Redondo, the reservation the Navajo were marched to?

A. The White Mountains of eastern Arizona
B. Eastern New Mexico
C. Canyon de Chelly
D. East of Tucson

11. In what year did Geronimo finally surrender, ending the Apache Wars?

A. 1900
B. 1912
C. 1868
D. 1886

12. The Buffalo Soldiers stationed at Fort Huachuca belonged to which all-Black regiment?

A. The 7th Cavalry Regiment
B. The 1st Cavalry Regiment
C. The 10th Cavalry Regiment
D. The 5th Infantry Regiment

13. During which years were the Buffalo Soldiers stationed at Fort Huachuca?

A. 1877 to 1886
B. 1913 to 1933
C. 1886 to 1913
D. 1933 to 1945

14. How large was Geronimo's final group of men, women, and children that evaded pursuit before surrendering?

A About 35
B About 1,000
C About 9,000
D About 350

15. What set Geronimo's resistance apart from that of other Apache leaders?

A He led the largest Apache force ever assembled
B He never fought the US Army, only Mexican troops
C He kept fighting after most Apache had already been confined to reservations
D He signed a peace treaty in 1872 and then broke it

16. In what year was Fort Apache established in the White Mountains of eastern Arizona?

A 1886
B 1877
C 1851
D 1870

17. In what year was Fort Huachuca founded, southeast of Tucson?

A 1913
B 1870
C 1851
D 1877

18. As of 2026, which frontier fort remains an active US Army post and houses the US Army Intelligence Center?

A Fort Apache
B Fort Defiance
C Fort Huachuca
D Fort Bowie

19. Which statement about Fort Apache is NOT true?

A It saw heavy combat throughout the Apache Wars
B It closed in 1923
C It was built to control the surrounding Apache bands
D It was established in the White Mountains of eastern Arizona

20. Fort Huachuca was established as the base for US Army operations against whom?

A Navajo warriors in Canyon de Chelly
B Apache raiders crossing from Mexico
C Cheyenne warriors from the northern Plains
D Comanche raiders out of Texas

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LESSON 5 OF 12

Lesson 5: The Wild West Era

Part 1: Mining Booms · Part 2: Tombstone & the O.K. Corral · Part 3: Railroads, Ranching & Population

WHAT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO

- Explain Ed Schieffelin's 1877 silver strike and how Tombstone got its name and boomed.
- Describe Arizona's copper boom at Bisbee and Jerome, driven by the electrical revolution.
- Identify the O.K. Corral gunfight participants (Earps, Doc Holliday, Clanton) and its 1881 date.
- Recognize the aftermath of the gunfight — Wyatt Earp's Vendetta Ride and the fires that gutted Tombstone's business district.
- Explain how the 1880 railroad drove population growth and fueled the cattle boom-and-bust.

The Wild West Era

In the 1880s Arizona briefly became the Wild West of every later movie. Silver came out of the ground at Tombstone, copper at Bisbee and Jerome, and a railroad linked it all to the rest of the country. The cattle herd exploded and then collapsed. And in the middle of one boom-town afternoon, three cowboys were shot dead in thirty seconds.

Mining Booms

In **1877**, prospector **Ed Schieffelin** went searching for silver in Apache country. As the story goes, he was warned he'd find nothing but his own tombstone. He found silver, and named the strike **Tombstone**. By **1881–82** the town's population was estimated at 6,000 to 10,000 people, depending on the source — with saloons, gambling halls, opera houses, four churches, and dozens of brothels.

Copper was the longer story. **Bisbee**'s first copper smelter went up around **1880**, and by the time mining ended in 1975 the district — anchored by the Copper Queen mine — had produced over 8 billion pounds of copper. The **United Verde Copper Company** was incorporated in **1883**, and named its camp on Cleopatra Hill **Jerome** — perched on a 30-degree slope, one of the richest copper towns in the country. Copper boomed because America was wiring itself up: the **electrical revolution** suddenly made copper a strategic commodity, and Arizona was where it came from.

Tombstone and the O.K. Corral

Wyatt Earp and his brothers Virgil and James arrived in Tombstone in **1879** for the boom; Morgan followed in **1880**. They bought mining shares, gambling concessions, water rights. Virgil and Wyatt became lawmen. On **October 26, 1881**, the Earps and **Doc Holliday** — a Georgia dentist turned tubercular gunfighter — faced off against the McLaurys and Billy Clanton in a dusty lot near the O.K. Corral. The fight lasted **30 seconds**. Three cowboys died. It became the most famous shootout in American history.

The aftermath was nastier than the fight. Virgil was ambushed and crippled; Morgan was shot dead while playing pool. Wyatt's response — the **Vendetta Ride** of March 1882 — hunted down the men he held responsible, and then he quietly left the territory. Fire also swept the wooden boomtown in **June 1881** and again in **May 1882**, destroying much of its business district; Tombstone rebuilt each time. What ended Tombstone's mines wasn't gunfire or those town fires but **water**: the shafts had been flooding since the early 1880s, and after the mine pumping plant burned in **1886** and silver prices fell, the flooded mines weren't worth pumping out.

Railroads, Ranching, and Population

Arizona's remoteness ended in **1880** when the **Southern Pacific** reached Tucson from California, having crossed the Colorado River at Yuma in 1877. It reached El Paso in 1881. Mines could ship ore, ranchers could ship cattle, settlers could arrive in days. The population leapt from **9,658 in 1870 to 40,440 in 1880** — a 319% jump that coincided with the railroad's arrival.

The cattle boom was spectacular and brief. Between **1873 and 1891**, Arizona's herd grew from **40,000 to 1.5 million** head. Then a **drought from 1891 to 1893** killed more than half of those cattle and stripped the grasslands bare. Overgrazing had primed the disaster; the drought finished it. Much of Arizona's range never recovered to pre-boom productivity.

Key concepts

Doc Holliday

- A Georgia dentist whose tuberculosis drove him west, where he remade himself as a gunfighter.
- He stood with the lawmen of Tombstone in the town's most famous fight.
- On October 26, 1881, he faced the McLaurys and Billy Clanton in the 30-second shootout near the O.K. Corral.

Virgil Earp

- One of the brothers who arrived in Tombstone in 1879 for the silver boom, buying up mining shares and gambling concessions.
- He and his brother pinned on badges and became the town's lawmen.
- In the violent aftermath of the O.K. Corral fight, he was ambushed and left crippled.

Morgan Earp

- One of the brothers who joined the family in Tombstone in 1880, drawn by its silver boom.
- He was swept up in the deadly reckoning that followed the town's most famous gunfight.
- He was shot dead while playing a game of pool.

Billy Clanton

- A young cowboy in Tombstone during its silver heyday.
- He lined up alongside the McLaury brothers, opposite the town's lawmen.
- He was one of three cowboys shot dead in the 30-second fight near the O.K. Corral.

Key facts



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Jerome, the billion-dollar copper camp

The **United Verde Copper Company** was incorporated in **1883**, and the camp on Cleopatra Hill was named **Jerome** after Eugene Jerome, a New York financier who backed the company. Perched on a 30° slope, it became one of the richest copper towns in the country before it nearly emptied in the 1950s.



Joseph Janney Steinmetz · Public domain

Why copper boomed

Arizona's copper boom rode the **electrical revolution**. As America wired up — power lines, telephones, electric motors — copper was suddenly a strategic commodity. The territory's mines and smelters scaled up to meet the demand.

Gunfight at the O.K. Corral

On **October 26, 1881**, the Earps and **Doc Holliday** faced off against a faction of cowboys — Billy Clanton and the McLaurys — in a dusty lot near the O.K. Corral. The fight lasted **30 seconds**. Three cowboys died. It became the most famous shootout in American history.

The Earp Vendetta Ride

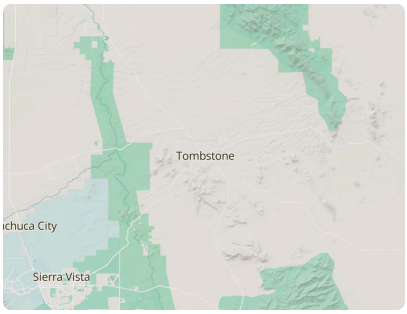
After the O.K. Corral, Virgil Earp was ambushed and crippled. Then Morgan Earp was assassinated while shooting pool. Wyatt responded with the **Vendetta Ride** of March 1882, hunting down and killing the men he held responsible — and then quietly leaving the territory.

Doc Holliday

Doc Holliday was a Georgia dentist who became a gambler and gunfighter after tuberculosis sent him west. Witty, drunk, deadly, and dying — he was Wyatt Earp's closest friend and stood at his side at the O.K. Corral. He died of TB in 1887 in a Colorado sanatorium.

Tombstone burns, twice

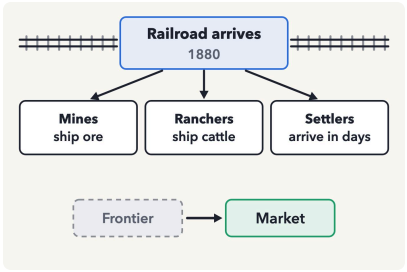
Fire destroyed much of Tombstone's business district in **June 1881** and again in **May 1882**. The wooden boomtown was rebuilt each time. What ended Tombstone's mines was **water** — they began flooding as shafts went deeper, and after the pumping plant burned in **1886** and silver prices fell, the flooded mines were not worth pumping out.



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Tombstone: the town too tough to die

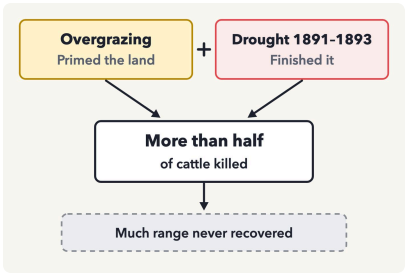
Ed Schieffelin struck silver here in 1877, and by 1881 Tombstone had exploded into one of the Southwest's biggest boomtowns — an estimated 6,000 to 10,000 people. On October 26, 1881, the Earps and Doc Holliday faced the Clantons and McLaurys near the O.K. Corral in the most famous gunfight of the Old West.



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The railroads arrive

Arizona's remoteness ended in **1880** when the **Southern Pacific** crossed the territory from California, reaching El Paso the following year. Suddenly mines could ship ore profitably, ranchers could ship cattle, settlers could arrive in days instead of weeks. The desert was no longer the frontier — it was a market.



FlashFeed original diagram · CC-BY-4.0

The 1891–1893 die-off

A brutal **drought from 1891 to 1893** killed **more than half** of Arizona's cattle and stripped the grasslands. Overgrazing during the boom had primed the land; the drought finished it. Much of Arizona's range never recovered to pre-boom productivity.



Library of Congress · Arizona, Maricopa. Southern Pacific Railroad station · No known restrictions (verify at source)

Ore, cattle, and rails

The Southern Pacific Railroad crossed Arizona from California in 1880, reaching El Paso the following year — finally letting mines ship ore and ranchers ship cattle at a profit.

Self-test

Answer each question from memory, then check your work against the answer key.

1. About how large was Tombstone at its peak in 1881?

- A) About 100,000 people
- B) About 6,000 to 10,000 people
- C) About 500 people
- D) Fewer than 200 people

2. In what year did Ed Schieffelin make his silver strike in southeastern Arizona?

- A) 1877
- B) 1891
- C) 1885
- D) 1863

3. Why did Schieffelin choose the name he gave his silver strike?

- A) The ore veins were shaped like grave markers
- B) He named it for the grave of a partner killed in the strike
- C) He was warned that was all he'd find in Apache country
- D) It was the name of a New York investing family

4. Which of these was NOT a feature of boom-era Tombstone in 1881?

- A) Dozens of brothels
- B) Opera houses
- C) Four churches
- D) A copper smelter

5. In **1877**, prospector **___** went searching for silver in the Apache country of southeastern Arizona. As the story goes, he was warned he'd find nothing but his own tombstone. He found silver — and named his strike **Tombstone**.

- A) Henry Wickenburg
- B) Charles Poston
- C) Ed Schieffelin
- D) Jacob Waltz

6. What development made copper a strategic commodity and drove Arizona's copper boom?

- A) The spread of steam-powered mills
- B) The invention of the automobile
- C) The Civil War's demand for munitions
- D) The electrical revolution

7. In what year did the first copper smelter open in Bisbee?

- A) 1880
- B) 1891
- C) 1885
- D) 1877

8. Which company was incorporated in 1883 and developed the copper camp on Cleopatra Hill?

- A) Copper Queen Consolidated
- B) United Verde Copper Company
- C) Phelps Dodge Corporation
- D) Arizona Copper Company

9. The Bisbee mining district produced over how much copper before operations shut down in 1975?

A) 80 billion pounds
B) 800 million pounds
C) 8 billion pounds
D) 8 million pounds

10. A mining camp sits on a 30-degree slope on Cleopatra Hill and was named for a New York investing family. Which town is it?

A) Jerome
B) Bisbee
C) Tombstone
D) Wickenburg

11. When did the Gunfight at the O.K. Corral take place?

A) April 15, 1862
B) October 26, 1881
C) February 14, 1912
D) July 4, 1876

12. How long did the Gunfight at the O.K. Corral last?

A) Nearly an hour
B) About 5 minutes
C) Roughly 3 minutes
D) 30 seconds

13. Who was the Georgia dentist turned tubercular gambler and gunfighter who stood with the Earps at the O.K. Corral?

A) Henry Wickenburg
B) Lewis Williams
C) Ed Schieffelin
D) Doc Holliday

14. Which man faced the Earps as part of the cowboy faction rather than fighting alongside them?

A) Billy Clanton
B) Doc Holliday
C) Virgil Earp
D) Morgan Earp

15. In what year did Wyatt Earp and his brothers arrive in Tombstone?

A) 1881
B) 1879
C) 1877
D) 1885

16. What was Wyatt Earp's Vendetta Ride?

A) A cattle drive he led out of the territory
B) A prospecting expedition into Apache country
C) A hunt to kill the men he blamed for attacking his brothers
D) A campaign to be elected territorial sheriff

17. What happened to Morgan Earp after the gunfight?

A) He was elected town marshal of Tombstone
B) He died of tuberculosis in Colorado
C) He was assassinated while shooting pool
D) He rode east and was never heard from again

18. In what year did Wyatt Earp's Vendetta Ride take place?

A) 1886
B) 1883
C) 1881
D) 1882

19. What ultimately ended Tombstone's boom?

A. A drought killed off the surrounding cattle herds
B. The mines flooded and silver prices fell
C. The railroad bypassed the town entirely
D. The two fires destroyed the town beyond rebuilding

20. Which Earp brother was ambushed and left crippled after the gunfight?

A. Virgil
B. Wyatt
C. Warren
D. James

21. In what year did the Southern Pacific Railroad reach Tucson, ending the territory's remoteness?

A. 1900
B. 1854
C. 1880
D. 1912

22. Arizona's population leapt from **9,658 in ___ to 40,440 in 1880** — a **319% jump** that coincided with the railroad's arrival. Growth stayed strong through statehood in 1912, though it never matched that decade's pace again.

A. 1863
B. 1870
C. 1846
D. 1879

23. Between **___ and 1891**, Arizona's cattle herd grew from **40,000 to 1.5 million** head. Texans brought open-range methods to a territory finally pacified after the Apache wars. The land could not support it.

A. 1873
B. 1866
C. 1849
D. 1882

24. Which railroad ended Arizona's remoteness by reaching Tucson from California?

A. Union Pacific
B. Santa Fe Railway
C. Central Pacific
D. Southern Pacific

25. What ended Arizona's cattle boom, and how severe was the loss?

A. The 1880 railroad's freight rates halved the herd
B. An Apache uprising scattered more than half the herd
C. An 1891–1893 drought killed more than half the herd
D. An 1891–1893 drought killed about a tenth of the herd

Go deeper

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LESSON 6 OF 12

Lesson 6: Statehood & Early 20th Century

Part 1: The Road to Statehood · Part 2: Carl Hayden · Part 3: The Grand Canyon Becomes an Icon

WHAT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO

- Identify Arizona's Valentine's Day 1912 admission as the 48th state, signed by President Taft.
- Recognize Arizona's Progressive constitution and its 1912 women's suffrage initiative.
- Describe Carl Hayden's 56-year congressional career, his sheriff past, and the Central Arizona Project.
- Explain how the Santa Fe Railroad and Fred Harvey brought tourism to the Grand Canyon.
- Identify Powell's 1869 descent, Roosevelt's advocacy, and the 1919 designation of Grand Canyon National Park.

Statehood and Early 20th Century

Arizona became a state on Valentine's Day, 1912 — the last in the contiguous United States. The constitution it brought with it was unusually radical for the era, and the politicians it sent to Washington were unusually durable.

The Road to Statehood

President **William Howard Taft signed Arizona into statehood on February 14, 1912** — the **48th state**. New Mexico had beaten it by six weeks.

Arizona's constitution was drafted in Phoenix in **1910** by a convention of **52 delegates**; only one of them, **Carlos Jácome** of Pima County, was Hispanic, and he and the rest of Pima's Republican delegation refused to sign it. What they produced was a Progressive showcase: **initiative, referendum, recall** of officials (including judges), and direct election of senators. President Taft objected specifically to letting voters recall judges — Arizona stripped that provision to get admitted, then restored it by referendum months later. Women's suffrage came separately, by a 1912 initiative. By **November 1912** Arizona women had won the vote by state referendum — **eight years before** the Nineteenth Amendment. Congress had also floated admitting Arizona and New Mexico as **one combined state** to keep Senate numbers down. New Mexico was open to it; Arizonans voted it down. They wanted their own star on the flag.

Carl Hayden

Carl Hayden represented Arizona in Washington for **56 years** — first in the House from statehood in 1912, then in the Senate from 1927 to 1969. He held the seniority record in Congress and chaired Appropriations for fourteen years. Before Congress he had been **Maricopa County Sheriff** (1907-1912), and led the 1910 pursuit that captured two train robbers, the Woodson brothers, chasing them across

the desert partly by automobile. His longest legislative project was the **Central Arizona Project**, a 336-mile aqueduct to bring Colorado River water to Phoenix and Tucson. He championed it from its 1947 proposal and finally got it authorized in 1968, just months before he retired in January 1969.

The Grand Canyon Becomes an Icon

The **Santa Fe Railroad** reached the South Rim in **1901**, and tourism arrived in a flood. By 1905 the El Tovar Hotel — a Harvey House lodge built by the Santa Fe Railway and run by the **Fred Harvey Company**, which operated the West's first restaurant chain along the Santa Fe and staffed it with the famed Harvey Girls — was hosting guests overlooking the canyon. The scientific groundwork had been laid earlier: **John Wesley Powell**, a one-armed Civil War veteran, led the first known descent of the Colorado through the Grand Canyon in **1869**. Theodore Roosevelt visited in 1903 and called it "one of the great sights which every American, if he can travel at all, should see." He made it a national monument in 1908; **Congress made it a national park in 1919**.

Key concepts

William Howard Taft

- This U.S. president had the final say on admitting the last of the contiguous states to the union.
- He signed the admission document on Valentine's Day, February 14.
- In 1912 his signature made Arizona the 48th state, six weeks after New Mexico slipped in.

Fred Harvey

- This entrepreneur ran the West's first restaurant chain, strung along the Santa Fe Railroad.
- His famous uniformed waitresses became icons of rail-travel hospitality.
- By 1905 his company had opened the El Tovar Hotel overlooking the Grand Canyon's South Rim — four years after Harvey's own death.

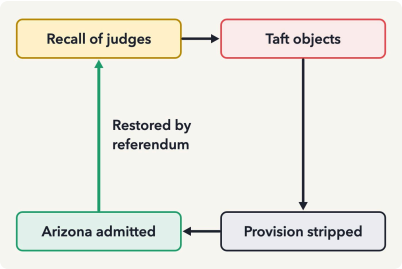
John Wesley Powell

- A one-armed Civil War veteran who became an explorer of the American West.
- In 1869 he led the first known boat descent of a great river through a mile-deep gorge.
- His expedition ran the Colorado River through the length of the Grand Canyon.

Theodore Roosevelt

- This U.S. president visited northern Arizona in 1903 and urged Americans to see its greatest sight.
- He praised a mile-deep gorge as 'one of the great sights which every American, if he can travel at all, should see.'
- In 1908 he made the Grand Canyon a national monument.

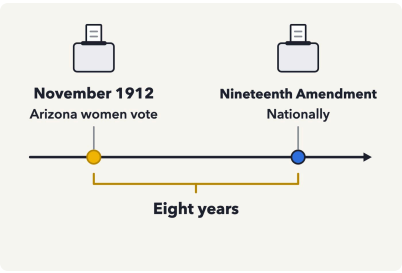
Key facts



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A radical constitution

Arizona's first proposed constitution was a Progressive showcase: **initiative, referendum, recall** of officials (including judges), and direct election of senators. President Taft objected specifically to letting voters recall judges — Arizona stripped that provision, got admitted, then restored it by referendum months later. Women's suffrage came separately, by a 1912 initiative.



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Women voted before federal suffrage

Arizona women won the right to vote in **November 1912** by state referendum — **eight years before** the Nineteenth Amendment did the same nationally. The state constitution had been amended within months of statehood.

An Anglo-dominated convention

Of the **52 delegates** at Arizona's 1910 constitutional convention, only one — Carlos Jácome of Pima County — was Hispanic, and he joined his county's delegation in refusing to sign. The early state government was overwhelmingly Anglo, despite Arizona's deep Spanish and Mexican roots.

The 'jointure' idea

Some in Congress proposed admitting Arizona and New Mexico as **one combined state** to keep Senate numbers manageable. New Mexicans were open to it. **Arizonans hated the idea** and voted it down — they wanted their own star on the flag.

Carl Hayden's record

Carl Hayden represented Arizona in Washington for **56 years** — first in the House from statehood in 1912, then in the Senate from 1927 to 1969. He held the seniority record in Congress and chaired the powerful Appropriations Committee for 14 years.

Sheriff to senator

Before Congress, Hayden was **Maricopa County Sheriff** — and in 1910 led the pursuit that captured two train robbers, the Woodson brothers, chasing them across the desert partly by automobile. The story made him famous statewide.



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Hayden's 21-year water crusade

Hayden's biggest legislative cause was the **Central Arizona Project** — a 336-mile aqueduct to carry Colorado River water to Phoenix and Tucson. He championed it from its **1947** proposal, finally getting it authorized in 1968, just months before he retired in January 1969.



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From House to Senate

Carl Hayden entered the U.S. House in 1912, the year Arizona became a state, then moved to the Senate in 1927 and served there until 1969.



United States Senate Historical Office · Public domain

Hayden's Appropriations chairmanship

Carl Hayden chaired the powerful Appropriations Committee — one of Congress's most influential posts — for 14 years.

Fred Harvey

Fred Harvey built the West's first restaurant chain along the Santa Fe Railroad — clean dining rooms staffed by the famed **Harvey Girls**. His hotels at the Grand Canyon set the standard for American national-park lodging.

Powell maps the canyon

John Wesley Powell, a one-armed Civil War veteran, led the first known descent of the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon in **1869**. His subsequent reports made the canyon famous and laid the scientific groundwork for federal water policy in the West.



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National park status

President Theodore Roosevelt visited the Grand Canyon in 1903 and called it 'one of the great sights which every American, if he can travel at all, should see.' He made it a national monument in 1908; **Congress made it a national park in 1919**.

Tourism came before the park

A rail line reaching the South Rim turned the Grand Canyon from a remote curiosity into a mass tourist destination — national park status came later, riding the wave of tourism rather than starting it.

Self-test

Answer each question from memory, then check your work against the answer key.

1. On what date did Arizona become a US state?

- A July 4, 1876
- B February 14, 1900
- C February 14, 1912
- D December 7, 1941

2. Arizona entered the Union as which numbered state?

- A The 47th
- B The 46th
- C The 49th
- D The 48th

3. Which president signed Arizona into statehood?

- A Woodrow Wilson
- B William Howard Taft
- C Theodore Roosevelt
- D William McKinley

4. Which state was admitted to the Union just six weeks before Arizona?

- A New Mexico
- B Utah
- C Oklahoma
- D Nevada

5. Arizona is often called the last state admitted, yet Alaska and Hawaii joined later. What makes both statements true?

- A Alaska and Hawaii were admitted together in one act of Congress
- B Alaska and Hawaii count as territories rather than full states
- C Arizona was the last state admitted within the contiguous US
- D Arizona was the last state carved out of a federal territory

6. Arizona women won the right to vote in **November 1912** by state referendum — **eight years before** the ___ did the same nationally. The state constitution had been amended within months of statehood.

- A Nineteenth Amendment
- B Fifteenth Amendment
- C Twentieth Amendment
- D Eighteenth Amendment

7. Which of these was NOT part of the Progressive constitution Arizona drafted in 1910?

- A The referendum
- B Women's right to vote
- C The initiative
- D Recall of officials, including judges

8. What made Arizona's original 'recall' provision unusually radical for 1910?

- A It applied only to appointed department heads
- B It required a two-thirds legislative vote to recall anyone
- C It let voters recall only the territorial governor
- D It let voters recall any official, including judges

9. Besides recall of officials and the initiative/referendum, what else was in Arizona's original constitution?

- A A state lottery to fund public schools
- B Mandatory jury duty for all adult women
- C Term limits on the governor's office
- D Direct election of US senators

10. President Taft objected to Arizona's recall of judges. How did Arizona still win statehood?

- A It traded judicial recall away for federal water funding
- B It refused to change anything and waited Taft out
- C It stripped the offending provisions, won admission, then restored them
- D It let the Supreme Court overrule Taft's objection

11. How many years did Carl Hayden serve in Congress?

- A 36
- B 56
- C 8
- D 20

12. Before Congress, Hayden was **___** — and in 1910 led the pursuit that captured two train robbers, the Woodson brothers, chasing them across the desert partly by automobile. The story made him famous statewide.

- A Maricopa County Sheriff
- B US Marshal
- C Justice of the Peace
- D Territorial Governor

13. Hayden's biggest legislative cause was the **___** — a 336-mile aqueduct to carry Colorado River water to Phoenix and Tucson. He championed it from its **1947** proposal, finally getting it authorized in 1968, just months before he retired in January 1969.

A. Roosevelt Dam
B. Boulder Canyon Project
C. Central Arizona Project
D. Salt River Project

14. Carl Hayden's congressional service is best described as which sequence?

A. Senate from 1912 to 1968, never in the House
B. House from 1912, then Senate from 1927 to 1969
C. House from 1912 to 1969, never in the Senate
D. Senate from 1912, then House from 1927 to 1969

15. Which committee did Hayden chair, and for how long?

A. Finance, for 14 years
B. Armed Services, for 8 years
C. Appropriations, for 56 years
D. Appropriations, for 14 years

16. **___** built the West's first restaurant chain along the Santa Fe Railroad — clean dining rooms staffed by the famed **Harvey Girls**. His hotels at the Grand Canyon set the standard for American national-park lodging.

A. Fred Harvey
B. Charles Crocker
C. Henry Flagler
D. George Pullman

17. In what year did the Santa Fe Railroad reach the Grand Canyon's South Rim, opening the floodgates for tourism?

A. 1869
B. 1912
C. 1901
D. 1919

18. Which luxury Harvey House lodge was hosting guests overlooking the Grand Canyon by 1905?

A. The Hassayampa Inn
B. The El Tovar Hotel
C. The Hotel Monte Vista
D. La Posada

19. What changed at the Grand Canyon that turned it from a remote curiosity into a mass destination?

A. A railroad line reached the rim, replacing long overland trips
B. Powell's expedition opened a river route for visitors
C. Federal promotion followed its designation as a national park
D. Congress funded a paved highway all the way to the rim

20. Which statement about Fred Harvey's operations is NOT true?

A. His clean dining rooms were staffed by the famed Harvey Girls
B. His Grand Canyon hotels set the standard for national-park lodging
C. He built the West's first restaurant chain
D. He owned the Santa Fe Railroad and built its line to the rim

21. When did Congress make Grand Canyon a national park?

A 1903
B 1872
C 1919
D 1956

22. Who led the first known descent of the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon in 1869?

A Fred Harvey
B John C. Frémont
C Theodore Roosevelt
D John Wesley Powell

23. Place these Grand Canyon milestones in correct chronological order.

A Presidential visit, first river descent, park status, monument status
B First river descent, presidential visit, monument status, park status
C First river descent, monument status, presidential visit, park status
D Monument status, first river descent, presidential visit, park status

24. In 1908, a president used his own authority to give the Grand Canyon what federal designation?

A National monument
B National park
C National recreation area
D National forest

25. Which president visited the Grand Canyon in 1903 and called it one of the great sights every American should see?

A Woodrow Wilson
B Benjamin Harrison
C William Howard Taft
D Theodore Roosevelt

Go deeper

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LESSON 7 OF 12

Lesson 7: Depression, War & Water

Part 1: Hoover Dam & the Depression · Part 2: Arizona in World War II · Part 3: Postwar Water & Industry

WHAT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO

- Explain the 1922 Colorado River Compact and Arizona's disputed 37% lower-basin allocation.
- Describe Hoover Dam's 1931-1936 construction in Black Canyon on the Arizona-Nevada border.
- Recognize Arizona as a WWII training ground and the loss of the USS Arizona at Pearl Harbor.
- Identify Arizona's two large Japanese American internment camps, Poston and Gila River.
- Explain the Central Arizona Project, the 1980 Groundwater Management Act, and postwar high-tech growth.

Depression, War, and Water

The middle of the 20th century reshaped Arizona around three things: a dam, a war, and a canal. Each one was an enormous federal project, and together they set up the boom that came next.

Hoover Dam and the Depression

The **1922 Colorado River Compact** divided the river's water among seven states, but only as far as the basin line: **7.5 million acre-feet a year** to the upper basin and 7.5 to the lower, leaving the three lower-basin states to split their own half. The **1928 Boulder Canyon Project Act** set that split — California **4.4 million acre-feet**, Arizona **2.8**, Nevada **0.3**, or about **59%**, **37%**, and **4%** of the lower basin. Arizona was furious that California had taken the lion's share and refused to ratify the compact until 1944. (Arizona's 2.8 is also often quoted as **19%** — that is its share of the river's full 15 million acre-feet, not of the lower basin.)

The dam itself went up anyway. **Hoover Dam** — originally Boulder Dam — was built from **1931 to 1936** in the Black Canyon of the Colorado on the Arizona-Nevada border. At **726 feet** it was the **tallest dam in the world** when completed, a record it held until 1957. About 21,000 workers built it; 96 died. The concrete in the arch is so massive that estimates say it would take about 125 years to cool naturally — engineers instead ran refrigerated water through embedded pipes to set it in months.

The dam mattered politically as much as physically. The Depression had wrecked Arizona's copper and cattle economy. By 1932 local relief was exhausted, and the **New Deal** poured in: CCC camps, road work, dam jobs. Federal spending — capped by Hoover Dam — pulled the state out of crisis.

Arizona in World War II

World War II turned the state into a giant training ground. Arizona offered clear flying weather, empty land, cheap labor, and proximity to California aviation plants. **Davis-Monthan Field** outside Tucson became the main training center for Army Air Forces bomber crews; as of 2026 it hosts the famous

"Boneyard," a 2,600-acre yard of retired military aircraft. **Fort Huachuca** ballooned to **25,000 soldiers** and became home of the **92nd and 93rd Infantry Divisions** — two of the few large all-Black combat divisions in the US Army.

Arizona also hosted **two of the largest Japanese American internment camps** — **Poston** on the Colorado River and **Gila River** south of Phoenix — confining over **30,000 people**, most of them US citizens, from 1942 to 1945. And the battleship **USS Arizona** was destroyed at **Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941**, taking **1,177 sailors** with her. Her hull still rests in the harbor.

Postwar Water and Industry

The **Central Arizona Project** — the 336-mile aqueduct Carl Hayden championed from its 1947 proposal — was authorized in **1968** and finally completed in **1993**. It lifts Colorado River water out of Lake Havasu and pumps it uphill some 2,900 feet to Phoenix and Tucson, making it one of the largest electricity consumers in the state.

In **1980** Governor **Bruce Babbitt** pushed through the **Groundwater Management Act**, forcing cities and farms toward "safe yield" — using no more groundwater than nature replenishes — and requiring new developments to prove a 100-year water supply. Meanwhile manufacturing was reshaping Phoenix: jobs jumped from **49,000 in 1960 to 183,000 in 1985**. Motorola, Hughes, Honeywell, IBM, and Goodyear Aircraft all opened operations. The desert was becoming a high-tech corridor.

Key concepts

Davis-Monthan Field

- This site outside Tucson trained Army Air Forces bomber crews during World War II.
- As of 2026 it hosts the famous aircraft 'Boneyard.'
- Its 2,600-acre yard holds thousands of retired military aircraft.

Fort Huachuca

- During World War II this Arizona army post swelled to 25,000 soldiers.
- It was the home base of two of the US Army's few large all-Black combat divisions.
- The 92nd and 93rd Infantry Divisions were stationed here.

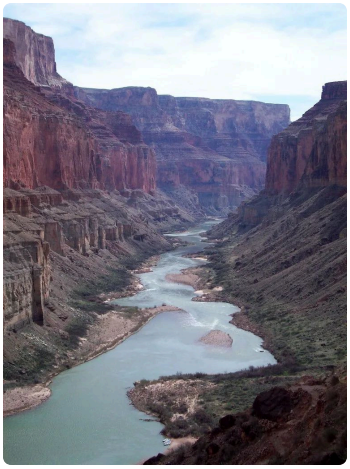
Poston

- One of the two large World War II camps where Arizona confined Japanese Americans.
- Over 30,000 people, most of them US citizens, were held here and at a sister camp from 1942 to 1945.
- It stood in western Arizona, on the Colorado River.

Gila River

- This was one of Arizona's two major Japanese American internment camps in World War II.
- Together with a camp on the Colorado River, it confined more than 30,000 people, mostly US citizens.
- It lay just south of Phoenix.

Key facts



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The Colorado River Compact

The **1922 Colorado River Compact** split the river between an upper and a lower basin — 7.5 million acre-feet a year each. Dividing the lower half left California **59%**, Arizona **37%** (2.8 million acre-feet), and Nevada **4%**. Arizona refused to ratify until 1944.



Christian David · CC BY-SA 4.0

Engineering scale

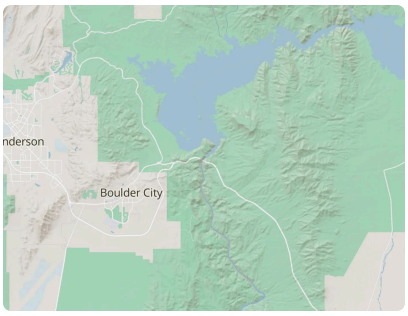
Hoover Dam was the **tallest dam in the world** when completed in 1936. Roughly 21,000 workers built it; 96 died on the project. The concrete in its arch is so massive that estimates say it would take about 125 years to cool naturally — engineers instead ran refrigerated water through embedded pipes to set it in months.



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Arizona in the Depression

The Depression hit Arizona's copper and cattle economy hard. By 1932 local relief was exhausted and the **New Deal** poured in: CCC camps, dam projects, road work. Federal spending — capped by Hoover Dam — pulled the state out of crisis.



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Hoover Dam tames the Colorado

Built 1931–1936 in Black Canyon on the Arizona–Nevada line, Hoover Dam was a Depression-era engineering marvel. Its reservoir, Lake Mead, is the largest in the United States by capacity — and made large-scale settlement of the modern Southwest possible.

Why the military came to Arizona

World War II turned Arizona into a giant training ground. The state offered **clear flying weather, empty land, cheap labor, and proximity to California aviation plants**. Bases, airfields, and proving grounds spread across the desert — and most of them stayed after the war.

Davis-Monthan Field

Davis-Monthan Field outside Tucson became the main training center for Army Air Forces bomber crews. After the war it kept growing — it now hosts the famous 'Boneyard', a 2,600-acre yard where the US military's retired aircraft sit in the dry air.

Fort Huachuca expands

During WWII, **Fort Huachuca** ballooned into the home of the **92nd and 93rd Infantry Divisions** — two of the few large all-Black combat divisions in the US Army. At its peak the post held **25,000 soldiers**.

Japanese American internment

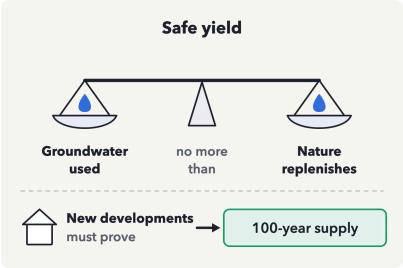
Arizona hosted **two of the largest War Relocation camps**: **Poston** on the Colorado River and **Gila River** south of Phoenix. Over **30,000 Japanese Americans** — most of them US citizens — were confined in them from 1942 to 1945.



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The Central Arizona Project

The **Central Arizona Project** is a 336-mile concrete aqueduct that lifts Colorado River water out of Lake Havasu and pushes it uphill to Phoenix and Tucson. Carl Hayden championed it from its 1947 proposal to its authorization in **1968**; it took until **1993** to complete.



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The Groundwater Management Act

In **1980**, Governor **Bruce Babbitt** pushed through the **Groundwater Management Act** — forcing cities and farms to reach 'safe yield' (using no more groundwater than nature replenished) and requiring new developments to prove a 100-year water supply.

Arizona's high-tech turn

After the war, Arizona's manufacturing jumped from **49,000 jobs in 1960 to 183,000 in 1985**. **Motorola, Hughes Aircraft, Honeywell, IBM, and Goodyear Aircraft** all opened Phoenix-area operations. By 1959 Hughes was building advanced missiles in Tucson with 5,000 workers.



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A 25-year wait

Congress authorized the Central Arizona Project in 1968, but the aqueduct wasn't finished until 1993 — a quarter-century of construction.



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Prove 100 years of water

Under Arizona's Groundwater Management Act, new subdivisions must prove a 100-year water supply and can pump no more groundwater than nature replenishes — a rule known as safe yield.

Self-test

Answer each question from memory, then check your work against the answer key.

1. In what year was the Colorado River Compact signed, dividing the river's water among seven states?

- A 1912
- B 1936
- C 1931
- D 1922

2. What share of the lower basin's Colorado River water was Arizona allocated?

- A 37%
- B 59%
- C 50%
- D 19%

3. Under the Boulder Canyon Project Act, which state received the largest share of the Lower Basin's Colorado River water?

- A Arizona
- B California
- C Nevada
- D Utah

4. Why did Arizona refuse to ratify the Colorado River Compact for more than two decades?

- A It demanded the compact cover only the upper basin states
- B It objected to the dam being named for Herbert Hoover
- C It believed California had taken the lion's share of the water
- D It wanted Nevada excluded from the lower basin entirely

5. In what year did Arizona finally ratify the Colorado River Compact?

- A 1944
- B 1968
- C 1936
- D 1922

6. When was Hoover Dam constructed?

- A 1912–1917
- B 1945–1950
- C 1900–1910
- D 1931–1936

7. What was Hoover Dam originally called?

- A Black Canyon Dam
- B Mead Dam
- C Boulder Dam
- D Glen Canyon Dam

8. How tall is Hoover Dam — the height that made it the tallest dam in the world when completed?

- A 480 feet
- B 726 feet
- C 255 feet
- D 1,050 feet

9. Hoover Dam was built in which canyon of the Colorado, on the Arizona-Nevada border?

A Marble Canyon
B Glen Canyon
C Black Canyon
D Boulder Canyon

10. The arch's concrete was so massive that, left alone, it would have taken about 125 years to cool naturally. How did engineers solve this?

A They poured the arch only during winter months
B They ran refrigerated water through pipes embedded in the concrete
C They mixed crushed ice into every batch of concrete
D They left ventilation shafts open through the dam's core

11. How many sailors died on the USS Arizona at Pearl Harbor?

A 2,403
B 429
C 703
D 1,177

12. What was Davis-Monthan Field outside Tucson primarily used for during World War II?

A Training Army Air Forces bomber crews
B Testing atomic weapons components
C Housing German prisoners of war
D Building B-17 airframes for the Pacific theater

13. Fort Huachuca became home to which two units — among the few large all-Black combat divisions in the US Army?

A The 1st and 2nd Armored Divisions
B The 92nd and 93rd Infantry Divisions
C The 442nd and 100th Infantry Regiments
D The 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions

14. Which was NOT one of the advantages that drew the wartime military to Arizona?

A Clear flying weather year-round
B Proximity to California aviation plants
C Deepwater ports for naval convoys
D Large stretches of empty land

15. On what date was the battleship USS Arizona destroyed?

A December 7, 1941
B September 2, 1945
C June 6, 1944
D December 7, 1942

16. Which two large Japanese American internment camps were located in Arizona?

A Manzanar and Tule Lake
B Topaz and Minidoka
C Heart Mountain and Amache
D Poston and Gila River

17. Which Arizona internment camp sat on the Colorado River, and which sat south of Phoenix?

A Gila River on the river; Poston south of Phoenix
B Gila River on the river; Davis-Monthan south of Phoenix
C Poston on the river; Gila River south of Phoenix
D Poston on the river; Fort Huachuca south of Phoenix

18. During which years did Arizona's two large internment camps confine Japanese Americans?

A 1942 to 1945
B 1946 to 1949
C 1931 to 1936
D 1939 to 1941

19. About how many Japanese Americans were confined in Arizona's two camps?

A About 300,000
B Over 30,000
C About 3,000
D About 1,200

20. Which statement about Arizona's internment camps is NOT true?

A They were among the largest War Relocation camps in the country
B They operated from 1942 to 1945
C Both were built in Arizona rather than in California
D Nearly all those confined were citizens of Japan, not the US

21. How long is the Central Arizona Project aqueduct?

A 10 miles
B 336 miles
C 50 miles
D 1,000 miles

22. The Central Arizona Project was authorized in 1968. When was the aqueduct finally completed?

A 1980
B 1972
C 2005
D 1993

23. Which governor pushed through Arizona's 1980 Groundwater Management Act?

A Raul Castro
B Jack Williams
C Bruce Babbitt
D George W. P. Hunt

24. A new subdivision must prove a 100-year water supply and pump no more than nature replenishes. Which principle is this?

A Safe yield, under the Groundwater Management Act
B Reclamation, under the Newlands Act
C Prior appropriation, under the Colorado River Compact
D Beneficial use, under the Central Arizona Project

25. Phoenix manufacturing jobs grew from 49,000 in 1960 to roughly what figure by 1985?

A 62,000
B 500,000
C 183,000
D 75,000

Go deeper

ONLINE This lesson on the web flashfeedlearningapp.com/study-guides/arizona-history/lesson-7-depression-war-and-water

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LESSON 8 OF 12

Lesson 8: The Sunbelt Boom

Part 1: Population Explosion · Part 2: Retirement Communities · Part 3: Politicians on the National Stage

WHAT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO

- Explain Arizona's sevenfold population boom (1950-2000), enabled by federal water, cheap land, and air conditioning.
- Identify Arizona's traditional Five C's — Copper, Cattle, Cotton, Citrus, and Climate.
- Describe the retirement-community model — Youngtown (1954), Del Webb's Sun City (1960), and the snowbirds.
- Identify Arizona's national politicians — Goldwater (1964), McCain (2008), and O'Connor (1981).
- Recognize Arizona statesmen Mo Udall and Bruce Babbitt.

The Sunbelt Boom

After 1950 Arizona stopped being a frontier state and started being a Sunbelt one. The population sevenfolded in fifty years. Whole new cities — and a new model of retirement — appeared on what had been desert. And an outsized share of the country's national politicians turned out to come from Phoenix.

Population Explosion

Arizona's population grew from **700,000 in 1950 to over 5 million in 2000** — a sevenfold jump, almost all of it concentrated around **Phoenix** with **Tucson** a distant second. Three things made it possible: federal water (Hoover Dam and later the CAP), cheap land, and **air conditioning**. Phoenix's average July high is about **106°F** (1991–2020 normals); without affordable AC starting in the 1950s, none of the boom would have happened.

The old economy gave ground. Phoenix's famous citrus groves — once a signature industry — were almost entirely paved over after 1950, because the land was worth more as suburban housing than as orchards. Cotton declined too. Generations of Arizona schoolchildren had learned the **Five C's** as the state's economic pillars: **Copper, Cattle, Cotton, Citrus, and Climate**. The first four built 20th-century Arizona. The fifth — air-conditioned, sunny climate — built the rest.

Retirement Communities

The boom invented a new American institution. **Youngtown**, founded in **1954** on 320 acres of farmland northwest of Phoenix, was the **first planned community in the United States dedicated exclusively to retirees**. No children allowed. It set the template.

Six years later, developer **Del Webb** opened **Sun City** in **1960** — an "active adult" community with pools, golf courses, and community centers. Opening weekend drew 100,000 visitors. Sun City became the

model for retirement living across the Sunbelt, and Arizona's warm winters drew a steady migration of **snowbirds** from the Northeast and Midwest with pensions, Social Security checks, and savings to spend.

Politicians on the National Stage

For a state with relatively few people, Arizona has produced an outsized share of national figures. **Barry Goldwater**, son of a Phoenix department-store family, was the **1964 Republican nominee for president**. He lost in a landslide to LBJ but reshaped the GOP into the conservative movement that produced Reagan. **John McCain**, a Navy pilot held prisoner in Vietnam for five and a half years, won Goldwater's old seat in 1986 and was the **2008 Republican nominee**.

Sandra Day O'Connor, raised on a remote Arizona cattle ranch, was appointed to the **US Supreme Court in 1981** — the **first woman ever to sit on the high court**. **Morris "Mo" Udall** represented Arizona's 2nd district from 1961 to 1991 — a liberal Democrat famous for his wit and his strong run for the 1976 Democratic nomination. **Bruce Babbitt** served as governor from 1978 to 1987, pushed the 1980 Groundwater Management Act, and later became Bill Clinton's Secretary of the Interior.

Key concepts

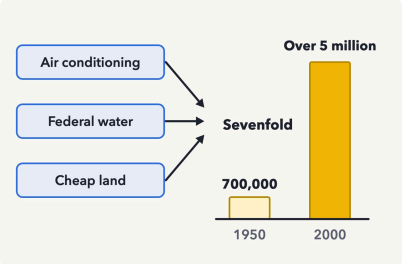
Morris "Mo" Udall

- A liberal Democrat who represented Arizona's 2nd district in the House from 1961 to 1991.
- He was famous on Capitol Hill for his wit and humor.
- He made a strong run for the 1976 Democratic presidential nomination.

Bruce Babbitt

- He served as governor of Arizona from 1978 to 1987.
- In 1980 he pushed through the state's landmark Groundwater Management Act.
- He later became Bill Clinton's Secretary of the Interior.

Key facts



FlashFeed original diagram · CC-BY-4.0

Sevenfold in fifty years

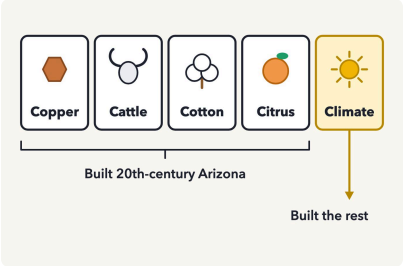
Arizona's population grew **from 700,000 in 1950 to over 5 million in 2000** — a sevenfold jump, almost all of it concentrated around **Phoenix** with **Tucson** a distant second. Air conditioning, federal water, and cheap land powered the boom.

Citrus groves to subdivisions

Phoenix's famous citrus groves — once one of the state's signature industries — were almost entirely paved over after 1950. The land was worth more as **suburban housing** than as orchards. Cotton declined too, as water restrictions and global competition squeezed margins.

Air conditioning made it possible

Phoenix's average July high is about **106°F** (1991–2020 normals). Without widespread **air conditioning** — affordable starting in the 1950s — the Sunbelt boom would have been unthinkable. The technology made desert living comfortable enough for retirees, factory workers, and chip fabs alike.



FlashFeed original diagram · CC-BY-4.0

Arizona's Five C's

Generations of Arizona schoolchildren learned the state's economic pillars as the **Five C's: Copper, Cattle, Cotton, Citrus, and Climate**. The first four built 20th-century Arizona; **Climate** — air-conditioned and sunny — built the rest.



Ken Lund (Openverse) · by-sa 2.0

Arizona's population boom

Arizona had about 700,000 residents in 1950. By 2000, that number had passed 5 million — a sevenfold increase in just fifty years.

The snowbirds

Arizona's warm winters and dry climate drew retirees from the **Northeast and Midwest** in growing numbers — the **'snowbirds'**. They brought pensions, Social Security checks, and savings.

Sun City's opening weekend

When Del Webb's Sun City opened in 1960 with pools and golf courses built for retirees, opening weekend alone drew 100,000 visitors.

Barry Goldwater

Barry Goldwater, son of a Phoenix department-store family, served five terms in the US Senate and was the **1964 Republican nominee for president**. He lost in a landslide to LBJ but reshaped the GOP into a conservative movement that produced Reagan.

John McCain

John McCain, a Navy pilot held prisoner in Vietnam for five and a half years, settled in Arizona and won Goldwater's old Senate seat in 1986. He was the **2008 Republican presidential nominee**, losing to Barack Obama. He served until his death from brain cancer in 2018.

Sandra Day O'Connor

Sandra Day O'Connor, raised on a remote Arizona cattle ranch and serving as a state appeals judge, was appointed to the **US Supreme Court in 1981** by President Reagan — the **first woman ever to sit on the high court**. She served until 2006.



David Jiang · CC BY-SA 4.0

Bruce Babbitt

Bruce Babbitt served as Arizona governor from **1978 to 1987** — pushing the groundwater law that shaped the state's modern growth. He later ran for the 1988 Democratic presidential nomination and served as US Secretary of the Interior under Bill Clinton.

Self-test

Answer each question from memory, then check your work against the answer key.

1. Arizona's population grew sevenfold between which years?

- A 1950 and 2000
- B 2000 and 2010
- C 1880 and 1900
- D 1912 and 1940

2. Arizona's population stood at about 700,000 in 1950. What had it reached by 2000?

- A About 2.5 million
- B Over 5 million
- C About 1.5 million
- D About 12 million

3. Three things made the postwar boom possible. Which was NOT one of them?

- A Cheap land
- B Affordable air conditioning
- C Federal water from Hoover Dam and later the CAP
- D A statewide exemption from income tax

4. The case that air conditioning was essential rests on Phoenix's July heat. What is Phoenix's average July high?

- A 96°F
- B 122°F
- C 106°F
- D 88°F

5. Which statement best describes where Arizona's 1950–2000 growth landed?

- A Split about evenly between the state's two largest metro areas
- B Almost all of it around one metro area, with Tucson a distant second
- C Mostly around Tucson, with Phoenix a distant second
- D Spread across rural counties rather than any metro area

6. Which of these is NOT one of Arizona's traditional 'Five C's'?

- A Computers
- B Citrus
- C Climate
- D Copper

7. Which list correctly gives Arizona's traditional Five C's?

A Copper, Cattle, Corn, Citrus, Climate
B Copper, Cattle, Cotton, Citrus, Canyons
C Copper, Chiles, Cotton, Cattle, Climate
D Copper, Cattle, Cotton, Citrus, Climate

8. Four of the Five C's built 20th-century Arizona. Which one is credited with building everything after 1950?

A Copper
B Citrus
C Climate
D Cattle

9. Which of the Five C's industries was almost entirely paved over around Phoenix after 1950?

A Cotton
B Copper
C Cattle
D Citrus

10. One of Arizona's Five C's is missing from this list: Copper, Cattle, Citrus, Climate. Which is it?

A Corn
B Cotton
C Cactus
D Canyons

11. Who developed Sun City, Arizona?

A Fred Harvey
B Carl Hayden
C Del Webb
D Wyatt Earp

12. In what year was Youngtown — the first US planned community dedicated exclusively to retirees — founded?

A 1954
B 1946
C 1972
D 1960

13. Which statement about Sun City is correct?

A It was marketed to young families priced out of Phoenix
B It was built by the federal government as a veterans' colony
C It opened in 1960, six years after Youngtown, with pools and golf courses
D It opened in 1948, the first US community built only for retirees

14. The retirees nicknamed 'snowbirds' migrated to Arizona mainly from which regions?

A Mexico and Central America
B The Deep South and Texas
C The Pacific Northwest and Alaska
D The Northeast and Midwest

15. Founded in 1954 northwest of Phoenix, Youngtown was the first US planned community dedicated exclusively to which group?

A Retirees
B Copper miners
C Veterans
D College students

16. When did Sandra Day O'Connor become the first woman on the US Supreme Court?

A 1964
B 1981
C 1955
D 2005

17. Barry Goldwater, son of a Phoenix department-store family, was the Republican presidential nominee in which year?

A 1972
B 1968
C 1964
D 1960

18. Which Arizonan — a Navy pilot held prisoner in Vietnam for five and a half years — was the 2008 Republican presidential nominee?

A John McCain
B Bruce Babbitt
C Morris 'Mo' Udall
D Barry Goldwater

19. Sandra Day O'Connor, raised on a remote Arizona cattle ranch, is remembered for which distinction?

A First woman nominated for president by a major party
B First woman elected to the US Senate from Arizona
C First woman to serve as US Attorney General
D First woman ever to sit on the US Supreme Court

20. Goldwater lost the presidency badly. What lasting effect is he nonetheless credited with?

A Founding Sun City as an 'active adult' retirement community
B Reshaping the GOP into the conservative movement that produced Reagan
C Writing Arizona's 1980 Groundwater Management Act
D Serving as Secretary of the Interior under Bill Clinton

21. Which option correctly matches each man to the office he held and his years in it?

A Udall: US House 1978–1987; Babbitt: governor 1961–1991
B Udall: US House 1961–1991; Babbitt: governor 1978–1987
C Udall: US Senate 1961–1991; Babbitt: governor 1988–1998
D Udall: governor 1961–1991; Babbitt: US House 1978–1987

22. Which of these was NOT part of Mo Udall's career?

A A strong run for the 1976 Democratic presidential nomination
B Three decades representing Arizona's 2nd congressional district
C A term as governor of Arizona
D A reputation as a liberal Democrat known for his wit

23. Mo Udall, a liberal Democrat famous for his wit, made a strong run for which nomination?

A The 1988 Democratic presidential nomination
B The 1964 Republican presidential nomination
C The 1980 Republican presidential nomination
D The 1976 Democratic presidential nomination

24. Which cabinet post did Bruce Babbitt hold under President Bill Clinton?

A Secretary of the Interior
B Secretary of Agriculture
C Attorney General
D Secretary of Energy

25. Which law did Governor Babbitt push, shaping Arizona's modern growth?

A The 1902 Reclamation Act
B The 1912 Enabling Act
C The 1980 Groundwater Management Act
D The 1968 Colorado River Basin Project Act

Go deeper

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LESSON 9 OF 12

Lesson 9: Modern Arizona

Part 1: Border & Immigration · Part 2: Tragedies & Crises

WHAT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO

- Explain SB 1070 (2010), signed by Governor Jan Brewer, and Arizona's border-immigration politics.
- Recognize the modern tragedies — the 2011 Giffords shooting and the 2013 Yarnell Hill Fire.
- Identify COVID-19's disproportionate impact on the Navajo Nation in 2020.

Modern Arizona

The 21st century brought Arizona to the center of two national arguments — over the southern border and over how the West handles fire, virus, and drought. Both are still going.

Border and Immigration

Arizona shares **372 miles of border with Mexico**, and through the 2010s and 2020s it has been one of the country's busiest crossing corridors. Cycles of migrant surges, deaths in the desert, fence construction, and asylum fights have been the steady political weather.

In **April 2010**, Governor **Jan Brewer** signed **Senate Bill 1070** — at the time the **toughest state-level immigration law in the country**. It required police to check immigration status during stops. Most of it was struck down by the Supreme Court in 2012 (*Arizona v. United States*) as preempted by federal authority over immigration; only a narrow "show me your papers" provision survived. Brewer had become governor in **2009** when Janet Napolitano left to head Homeland Security, and her tenure was defined nationally by SB 1070 and a famous airport-tarmac finger-wag at President Obama in 2012.

Tragedies and Crises

Three modern events keep coming up in Arizona's recent history. On **January 8, 2011**, Congresswoman **Gabrielle Giffords** was shot in the head at a constituent meet-and-greet outside a Tucson supermarket. **Six people died**, including a federal judge and a nine-year-old girl. Giffords survived; she resigned from Congress to focus on recovery and later founded a gun-control advocacy group.

On **June 30, 2013**, a wind shift in central Arizona overran the **Granite Mountain Hotshots**, an elite Prescott Fire Department crew, while they fought a wildfire near **Yarnell**. **Nineteen firefighters died** — the deadliest wildfire for U.S. firefighters since the 1933 Griffith Park Fire. Only one Hotshot survived, having been posted elsewhere.

The COVID-19 pandemic hit Arizona unevenly and hard. In **June and July 2020**, after Governor Doug Ducey ended the statewide lockdown, daily cases jumped from a seven-day average of 377 to **3,249** in two months. On July 8 the state reported as many new cases as the entire European Union, despite having one-sixtieth the population. Ducey refused a statewide mask mandate but let individual cities and

counties issue their own. The **Navajo Nation** had among the highest per-capita infection rates in the United States — a consequence of limited running water, crowded multigenerational housing, and few hospitals — and imposed some of the country's strictest curfews in response.

Key concepts

Jan Brewer

- She became Arizona's governor in 2009 after her predecessor left for a federal post.
- In 2010 she signed the toughest state-level immigration law in the country.
- She was known nationally for a tarmac finger-wag at President Obama in 2012.

Janet Napolitano

- She was serving as Arizona's governor in the late 2000s.
- In 2009 she left the governor's office for a post in President Obama's cabinet.
- She departed to head the Department of Homeland Security.

Gabrielle Giffords

- An Arizona congresswoman severely wounded in a 2011 attack.
- She was shot in the head at a constituent event outside a Tucson supermarket.
- She survived, resigned from Congress, and founded a gun-control advocacy group.

Doug Ducey

- He was Arizona's governor during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- In mid-2020 he ended the statewide lockdown, and daily case counts soared afterward.
- He refused a statewide mask mandate, letting cities and counties decide for themselves.

Key facts



Wikimedia Commons · The White House from Washington, DC · Public domain

SB 1070

In **April 2010**, Governor **Jan Brewer** signed **Senate Bill 1070** — at the time the **toughest state-level immigration law in the country**, requiring police to check immigration status during stops. Most of it was struck down by the Supreme Court in 2012.

> ### The southern border
>
> Arizona shares **372 miles of border with Mexico**. Through the 2010s and 2020s it has been one of the country's busiest crossing corridors, with cycles of migrant surges, deaths in the desert, fence construction, and political fights over enforcement and asylum.



Wikimedia Commons · Gage Skidmore from Surprise, AZ, United States of America · CC BY-SA 2.0

Jan Brewer

Jan Brewer became Arizona's governor in **2009** after Janet Napolitano left to head Homeland Security. She served until 2015 — defined nationally by SB 1070 and her famous airport-tarmac finger-wag at President Obama in 2012.



Wikimedia Commons · Joe Ravi · CC BY-SA 3.0

SB 1070 in court

In the 2012 case Arizona v. United States, the Supreme Court struck down most of SB 1070 as preempted by federal immigration authority — only the 'show me your papers' provision survived.

> **What SB 1070 couldn't do**
>
> SB 1070 let Arizona police check immigration status during stops, but it did not give them power to deport anyone — deportation remained a federal responsibility.



bill85704 (Openverse) · by 2.0

The Giffords shooting

On **January 8, 2011**, Congresswoman **Gabrielle Giffords** was shot in the head at a constituent meet-and-greet outside a Tucson supermarket. **Six people died**, including a federal judge and a nine-year-old girl. Giffords survived; she resigned from Congress to focus on recovery and later founded a gun-control advocacy group.



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Yarnell Hill Fire

On **June 30, 2013**, a wind shift in central Arizona overran the **Granite Mountain Hotshots**, an elite Prescott Fire Department crew, while they fought a wildfire near **Yarnell**. **19 firefighters died** — the deadliest wildfire for U.S. firefighters since the 1933 Griffith Park Fire. Only one Hotshot survived, having been posted elsewhere.

Arizona's COVID surge

In **June–July 2020**, after Governor Doug Ducey ended the statewide lockdown, Arizona's daily COVID cases jumped from a 7-day average of 377 to **3,249** in two months. On July 8, the state reported **as many new cases as the entire European Union** — despite having 1/60th the population.



Library of Congress · One of several art installations on the lands of the Navajo · No known restrictions (verify at source)

Hardest hit: the Navajo Nation

The **Navajo Nation** had among the highest per-capita COVID infection rates in the United States in 2020 — a consequence of limited running water, crowded multigenerational housing, and few hospitals. The Nation imposed some of the country's strictest curfews in response.



Wikimedia Commons · U.S. Department of Agriculture · Public domain

The lone survivor

At the Yarnell Hill Fire in 2013, an elite crew called the Granite Mountain Hotshots was overrun when the wind suddenly shifted. Only one Hotshot survived, having been posted elsewhere that day.

Self-test

Answer each question from memory, then check your work against the answer key.

1. When did Arizona pass SB 1070?

- A April 2010
- B January 2000
- C November 2016
- D March 1996

2. What did SB 1070 require Arizona police to do?

- A Deport anyone arrested without an ID
- B Staff checkpoints along the Mexican border
- C Check immigration status during stops
- D Report all traffic stops to Homeland Security

3. What happened to most of SB 1070 in 2012?

A. The legislature let it expire unrenewed
B. The Supreme Court struck it down as preempted by federal authority
C. Arizona voters repealed it by ballot measure
D. Governor Brewer suspended it by executive order

4. How did Jan Brewer become governor of Arizona in 2009?

A. She defeated Doug Ducey in the 2008 general election
B. She was appointed by the state legislature
C. She won a special election called after a recall
D. She succeeded Janet Napolitano, who left to head Homeland Security

5. Which statement about SB 1070 is NOT true?

A. It was the toughest state-level immigration law in the country when signed
B. Governor Jan Brewer signed it in April 2010
C. Most of it was struck down by the Supreme Court in 2012
D. It funded construction of a state-built fence along the border

6. How many firefighters died at the Yarnell Hill Fire in 2013?

A. 3
B. 100
C. 19
D. 6

7. Where was Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords shot on January 8, 2011?

A. At a campaign rally in downtown Phoenix
B. Outside a Tucson supermarket at a constituent meet-and-greet
C. In her congressional office in Washington, DC
D. At a fundraising dinner in Prescott

8. How many people were killed in the January 2011 Tucson shooting?

A. Six
B. Nineteen
C. Thirteen
D. One

9. Which crew was overrun by a wind shift near Yarnell on June 30, 2013?

A. The Granite Mountain Hotshots
B. The Coconino Rim Crew
C. The Prescott Smokejumpers
D. The Superstition Hotshots

10. Which statement about the Yarnell Hill Fire is NOT true?

A. It was the deadliest wildfire for U.S. firefighters since the 1933 Griffith Park Fire
B. Every member of the Granite Mountain Hotshots died in the fire
C. It happened on June 30, 2013
D. The crew belonged to the Prescott Fire Department

11. What distinguished the Navajo Nation's COVID-19 experience in 2020?

- A The first confirmed US case of the virus
- B The nation's earliest full vaccination rollout
- C The lowest infection rate of any tribal nation
- D Among the highest per-capita infection rates in the US

12. Which condition did NOT contribute to the Navajo Nation's high COVID infection rate?

- A Limited access to running water
- B Few hospitals across the territory
- C A dense population concentrated in large cities
- D Crowded multigenerational housing

13. How did the Navajo Nation respond to its 2020 outbreak?

- A It imposed some of the country's strictest curfews
- B It closed its borders to all federal aid
- C It declined to issue any public health orders
- D It relied entirely on Arizona's statewide mandates

14. What was Governor Doug Ducey's stance on masks during Arizona's 2020 surge?

- A He banned local governments from requiring masks
- B He imposed a statewide mandate in June 2020
- C He required masks only on the Navajo Nation
- D He left mask rules to individual cities and counties

15. Given the conditions on the Navajo Nation, which public health measure would many households have found hardest to follow?

- A Wearing a mask in public
- B Frequent handwashing at home
- C Avoiding travel to other communities
- D Staying home after a nightly curfew

Go deeper

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LESSON 10 OF 12

Lesson 10: By the Numbers

Part 1: Population by Decade · Part 2: Pivotal Years

WHAT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO

- Recall Arizona's population figures for the frontier and territorial decades (1860-1910) and what drove the 1880 surge.
- Recall Arizona's population figures across the Sunbelt boom (1950-2010).
- Recall the pivotal years of Spanish and territorial Arizona — Coronado, Tubac, Gadsden, and Territory.
- Recall the pivotal years of the Wild West and statehood era — O.K. Corral, Geronimo, statehood, and Hoover Dam.

By the Numbers

This lesson is a memorization drill. Two short tables of numbers — population by decade, and the pivotal years — that pin the rest of the pack to a timeline. Both are worth knowing cold.

Population by Decade

Arizona's growth curve is one of the steepest in American history. The big inflection points are the **1880** railroad arrival, the **1912** statehood census, postwar **air conditioning**, and the late-century **Sunbelt** boom.

- **1860** — **6,482** people. Frontier territory, mostly unsettled by non-Native populations.
- **1880** — **40,440**. The railroads arrived. Population jumped 319% in a decade.
- **1910** — **204,354**. Just before statehood. Mining and ranching had matured.
- **1950** — **749,587**. Postwar baseline, before air conditioning went mainstream.
- **1980** — **2,718,215**. Sunbelt boom in full swing.
- **2000** — **5,130,632**. Roughly sevenfold over 1950.
- **2010** — **6,392,017**. Nearly doubled again since 1980.

Pivotal Years

Eight dates that anchor every other lesson in the pack. If you know nothing else, know these.

- **1540** — **Coronado** marches into the Southwest hunting the Seven Cities of Cíbola.
- **1752** — The **Tubac presidio** is established. Arizona's first European settlement with a military garrison.
- **1853** — The **Gadsden Purchase** treaty is signed. Tucson and southern Arizona become American.
- **1863** — Congress creates the **Arizona Territory**, splitting it from New Mexico.

- **1881** — The **Gunfight at the O.K. Corral** in Tombstone. Thirty seconds, three dead cowboys.
- **1886** — **Geronimo surrenders**, ending the Apache Wars.
- **1912** — **Arizona becomes the 48th state** on Valentine's Day.
- **1936** — **Hoover Dam is completed**, the tallest in the world at the time.

By the numbers

Arizona's population in 1860
6482 people

Arizona's population in 1880, after the railroads arrived
40440 people

Arizona's population in 1910, just before statehood
204354 people

Arizona's population in 1950
749587 people

Arizona's population in 1980
2718215 people

Arizona's population in 2000
5130632 people

Arizona's population in 2010
6392017 people

Year Coronado entered the Southwest searching for the Seven Cities of Cíbola
1540 CE

Year the Tubac presidio was established
1752 CE

Year the Gadsden Purchase treaty was signed
1853 CE

Year Arizona Territory was created by Congress
1863 CE

Year of the Gunfight at the O.K. Corral
1881 CE

Year Geronimo surrendered, ending the Apache Wars
1886 CE

Year Arizona became a US state
1912 CE

Year Hoover Dam was completed
1936 CE

Self-test

Answer each question from memory, then check your work against the answer key.

1. Arizona's population leapt 319% in the decade ending in 1880. What drove that surge?

A Arizona achieving statehood
B Widespread home air conditioning
C The arrival of the railroads
D The late-century Sunbelt boom

2. What was Arizona's population in 1860?

A 6,482
B 40,440
C 2,140
D 12,908

3. What was Arizona's population at the 1880 census?

A 6,482
B 40,440
C 20,780
D 204,354

4. Arizona's 1910 census — taken just before statehood, with mining and ranching matured — recorded how many people?

A 749,587
B 104,354
C 402,354
D 204,354

5. Which is NOT one of Arizona's recorded populations for the frontier and territorial decades of 1860, 1880, and 1910?

A 749,587
B 6,482
C 40,440
D 204,354

6. What was Arizona's population in 1950, the postwar baseline before air conditioning went mainstream?

A 1,302,161
B 749,587
C 204,354
D 2,718,215

7. With the Sunbelt boom in full swing, what was Arizona's 1980 population?

A 5,130,632
B 3,665,228
C 2,718,215
D 1,770,900

8. What was Arizona's population at the 2000 census?

A) 6,392,017
B) 4,130,632
C) 3,665,228
D) 5,130,632

9. What was Arizona's population in 2010?

A) 7,278,717
B) 5,130,632
C) 6,132,017
D) 6,392,017

10. Which census year is NOT correctly matched to Arizona's population?

A) 2010 — 6,392,017
B) 2000 — 5,130,632
C) 1950 — 204,354
D) 1980 — 2,718,215

11. In what year did Coronado march into the Southwest hunting the Seven Cities of Cíbola?

A) 1752
B) 1540
C) 1610
D) 1492

12. The Tubac presidio — Arizona's first European settlement with a military garrison — was established in what year?

A) 1752
B) 1691
C) 1853
D) 1540

13. In what year was the treaty signed that made Tucson and southern Arizona American?

A) 1848
B) 1853
C) 1912
D) 1863

14. Congress split Arizona off from New Mexico and created the Arizona Territory in what year?

A) 1853
B) 1881
C) 1850
D) 1863

15. Place these Spanish and territorial milestones in chronological order.

A) Coronado, Tubac, Gadsden, Territory
B) Tubac, Coronado, Territory, Gadsden
C) Coronado, Gadsden, Tubac, Territory
D) Gadsden, Territory, Coronado, Tubac

16. On what holiday did Arizona become the 48th state in 1912?

A) New Year's Day
B) Independence Day
C) Valentine's Day
D) Thanksgiving

17. The Gunfight at the O.K. Corral in Tombstone — thirty seconds, three dead cowboys — took place in what year?

A) 1876
B) 1881
C) 1863
D) 1886

18. In what year did Geronimo surrender, ending the Apache Wars?

A 1886
B 1881
C 1876
D 1890

19. Hoover Dam — the tallest dam in the world at the time — was completed in what year?

A 1929
B 1912
C 1936
D 1945

20. Which is NOT correctly matched to its year?

A Arizona becomes the 48th state — 1912
B Hoover Dam completed — 1936
C Gunfight at the O.K. Corral — 1881
D Geronimo surrenders — 1881

Go deeper

ONLINE This lesson on the web flashfeedlearningapp.com/study-guides/arizona-history/lesson-10-by-the-numbers

STUDY History of Arizona in the FlashFeed app flashfeedlearningapp.com/packs/arizona-history

LESSON 11 OF 12

Lesson 11: Quick Recall

Part 1: People & Places · Part 2: Arizona Trivia Mix

WHAT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO

- Recall key figures of the Apache and Navajo conflicts and their deeds — Cochise, Geronimo, and Kit Carson.
- Recall Arizona's national statesmen — Hayden, Goldwater, O'Connor, and McCain.
- Recall the Spanish-era figures — Coronado and Father Kino.
- Recall Arizona's key cities by their defining facts — Tucson, Phoenix, Prescott, and Flagstaff.
- Recall Arizona's rivers, landforms, and treaty boundaries.

Quick Recall

A one-page cheat sheet for the whole pack. If you remember nothing else, remember these.

People and Places

The eight names that appear most often across the pack, each paired with what they're known for.

- **Coronado** — 1540 conquistador who marched into the Southwest searching for the Seven Cities of Cíbola. Found pueblos, not gold.
- **Cochise** — Chiricahua Apache leader who fought the US Army to a stalemate after the 1861 Bascom Affair and signed peace in 1872.
- **Geronimo** — The last Apache holdout, an Apache medicine man and war leader who **surrendered in 1886**, ending the Apache Wars.
- **Kit Carson** — Led the **1863 scorched-earth campaign** that broke Navajo resistance and triggered the Long Walk to Bosque Redondo.
- **Carl Hayden** — Represented Arizona in Congress for **56 years** (House 1912–1927, Senate 1927–1969). A key advocate who shepherded the Central Arizona Project through Congress over decades.
- **Barry Goldwater** — Phoenix businessman and senator, the **1964 GOP presidential nominee**. Reshaped the modern conservative movement.
- **Sandra Day O'Connor** — Raised on an Arizona cattle ranch. Appointed in **1981** as the **first woman on the US Supreme Court**.
- **John McCain** — Navy pilot, Vietnam POW for five and a half years, Arizona senator from 1987 until his death in 2018. **2008 GOP presidential nominee**.

Two more anchors worth keeping with that list: **Father Kino**, the Italian Jesuit who founded San Xavier del Bac in 1692, and **Wyatt Earp**, the Tombstone lawman whose 30-second gunfight at the O.K. Corral on October 26, 1881 is remembered as one of the most famous shootouts in American history.

The geography to keep straight: **Prescott** was the first territorial capital; **Phoenix**, founded in 1867 along the rebuilt Hohokam canals, has been the capital since 1889 and is the population center; **Tucson** is the second-largest city and was Spanish, then Mexican, before becoming American with the **1853 Gadsden Purchase**. **Flagstaff** is the northern Arizona town that grew up around the railroad, which arrived in 1882, and around **Lowell Observatory**, founded there in 1894. The **Grand Canyon** became a national park in 1919. The **Salt River** was dammed at **Roosevelt Dam**, completed in 1911, to bring year-round water to the Phoenix valley. The **Mogollon Rim**, an escarpment running about 200 miles across the northern half of the state, forms the southern edge of the Colorado Plateau, with ponderosa pine forest on its slopes and the high country to the north. The **Colorado River** is the spine of Arizona's water supply — dammed at **Hoover (1936)** and pumped across the state by the **Central Arizona Project** (authorized 1968, completed 1993).

Key terms

Tucson
Arizona's second-largest city; site of the Presidio San Agustín founded in 1775.

Phoenix
Arizona's capital and largest city, founded 1867 along the rebuilt Hohokam canals.

Flagstaff
Northern Arizona town that grew up around the railroad and Lowell Observatory.

Prescott
First territorial capital of Arizona, established 1864 in cool pine country.

Colorado River
Arizona's western boundary and water lifeline; carved the Grand Canyon over millions of years.

Gila River
Major river across southern Arizona that marked the border after the 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo; the Hohokam farmed its floodplain for centuries.

Salt River
Arizona river dammed at Roosevelt Dam, completed in 1911, to bring year-round water to the Phoenix valley.

Grand Canyon
Arizona's defining landform; declared a National Park in 1919 after just over a decade as a Monument.

Mogollon Rim
Long escarpment that splits Arizona into high pine country to the north and desert below.

Gadsden Purchase
1853 land buy that added southern Arizona below the Gila River to the United States.

Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo
1848 treaty ending the Mexican-American War; transferred most of present-day Arizona to the U.S.

Bisbee

Copper boom town near the Mexican border; the Copper Queen Mine drove its 1880s growth.

Jerome

Hillside copper-mining town above Verde Valley; nearly abandoned after WWII, now an arts colony.

Key concepts

Coronado

- A 16th-century Spanish conquistador who pushed north into what became the American Southwest.
- In 1540 he set out hunting the fabled Seven Cities of Cibola and their rumored gold.
- His expedition found inhabited pueblos instead of the riches he had expected.

Kit Carson

- A US frontier soldier whose military campaign shattered a Southwestern tribe's resistance.
- In 1863 he led a scorched-earth campaign that broke the Navajo.
- That campaign forced the Long Walk to the Bosque Redondo reservation.

Sandra Day O'Connor

- She was raised on an Arizona cattle ranch before pursuing a career in law.
- In 1981 she was appointed to the nation's highest court.
- She became the first woman ever to sit on the US Supreme Court.

John McCain

- A Navy pilot who endured five and a half years as a prisoner of war in Vietnam.
- He represented Arizona in the US Senate from 1987 until his death in 2018.
- He was the Republican Party's 2008 nominee for president.

Father Kino

- An Italian Jesuit missionary who worked among the peoples of the Arizona region.
- In 1692 he founded one of the area's most famous missions.
- He established San Xavier del Bac.

Prescott

- An Arizona town that held political importance in the territory's earliest days.
- It served as the very first territorial capital, before the seat of government moved away.

Phoenix

- Arizona's population center and its largest city.
- It has been Arizona's capital since 1889.

Tucson

- Arizona's second-largest city.
- It was Spanish, then Mexican, before it became American soil.
- It joined the United States through the 1853 Gadsden Purchase.

Colorado River

- This waterway is the spine of Arizona's water supply.
- It was dammed at Hoover in 1936.
- The Central Arizona Project pumps its water clear across the state.

Matched pairs

Each item on the left goes with the one on the right.

Cochise → Chiricahua Apache leader

Geronimo → last Apache holdout, surrendered 1886

Kit Carson → led the 1863 Navajo campaign

Carl Hayden → served Arizona in Congress for 56 years

Barry Goldwater → 1964 GOP presidential nominee

Sandra Day O'Connor → first woman on the Supreme Court

John McCain → 2008 GOP presidential nominee

Coronado → 1540 conquistador, sought Cíbola

Self-test

Answer each question from memory, then check your work against the answer key.

1. Which leader was the last Apache holdout, whose surrender ended the Apache Wars?

A Cochise
B Coronado
C Geronimo
D Kit Carson

2. Kit Carson's 1863 scorched-earth campaign broke Navajo resistance and triggered which event?

A The Long Walk to Bosque Redondo
B The Bascom Affair
C The founding of San Xavier del Bac
D The end of the Apache Wars

3. Which of these is NOT true of Cochise?

A He signed peace in 1872
B He fought the US Army to a stalemate
C He was a Chiricahua Apache leader
D He surrendered in 1886, ending the Apache Wars

4. Cochise's long fight against the US Army followed which 1861 incident?

A. The gunfight at the O.K. Corral
B. The Bascom Affair
C. The Long Walk
D. The Gadsden Purchase

5. Which ordering of these three events is correct, earliest to latest?

A. Cochise's peace → Carson's Navajo campaign → Geronimo's surrender
B. Carson's Navajo campaign → Cochise's peace → Geronimo's surrender
C. Carson's Navajo campaign → Geronimo's surrender → Cochise's peace
D. Geronimo's surrender → Carson's Navajo campaign → Cochise's peace

6. Which Arizonan was the 1964 Republican presidential nominee?

A. Barry Goldwater
B. Carl Hayden
C. Sandra Day O'Connor
D. John McCain

7. In what year was Sandra Day O'Connor appointed the first woman on the US Supreme Court?

A. 1986
B. 1975
C. 1981
D. 1969

8. How long did Carl Hayden represent Arizona in Congress?

A. 62 years
B. 38 years
C. 44 years
D. 56 years

9. How long was John McCain held as a prisoner of war in Vietnam?

A. Two years
B. Eight years
C. Five and a half years
D. Eleven months

10. Which statement about Arizona's national statesmen is NOT correct?

A. John McCain was the 2008 GOP presidential nominee
B. Barry Goldwater is the father of the Central Arizona Project
C. Sandra Day O'Connor was raised on an Arizona cattle ranch
D. Carl Hayden served in Congress for 56 years

11. What was Coronado searching for when he marched into the Southwest in 1540?

A. The Copper Queen lode
B. The Northwest Passage
C. The Fountain of Youth
D. The Seven Cities of Cíbola

12. What did Coronado's expedition actually find in the Southwest?

A. Inhabited pueblos
B. Rich silver veins
C. The Aztec capital
D. An open route to the Pacific

13. In what year did Father Kino found San Xavier del Bac?

A 1540
B 1775
C 1864
D 1692

14. Father Kino, founder of San Xavier del Bac, came from which country and belonged to which order?

A Spain; Franciscans
B Portugal; Dominicans
C Italy; Jesuits
D France; Jesuits

15. Which ordering of these Spanish-era events is correct, earliest to latest?

A Coronado's march → Kino founds San Xavier del Bac → Presidio San Agustín founded
B Coronado's march → Presidio San Agustín founded → Kino founds San Xavier del Bac
C Kino founds San Xavier del Bac → Coronado's march → Presidio San Agustín founded
D Presidio San Agustín founded → Coronado's march → Kino founds San Xavier del Bac

16. Which Arizona city served as the first territorial capital?

A Phoenix
B Prescott
C Flagstaff
D Tucson

17. Which Arizona city is the site of the Presidio San Agustín, founded in 1775?

A Prescott
B Flagstaff
C Tucson
D Phoenix

18. Phoenix has served as Arizona's capital since which year?

A 1912
B 1889
C 1864
D 1867

19. Which Arizona city is the state's second-largest and became American through the 1853 Gadsden Purchase?

A Phoenix
B Yuma
C Prescott
D Tucson

20. Which statement about Arizona's cities is NOT correct?

A Flagstaff has been the state capital since 1889
B Prescott was established in 1864 in cool pine country
C Tucson is Arizona's second-largest city
D Phoenix was founded in 1867 along rebuilt Hohokam canals

21. Which northern Arizona town grew up around the railroad and Lowell Observatory?

A Prescott
B Tucson
C Flagstaff
D Tombstone

22. Which river is Arizona's western boundary and water lifeline, and carved the Grand Canyon?

A Colorado River
B Salt River
C Gila River
D Rio Grande

23. Which dam on the Colorado River was the tallest in the world when it was finished in 1936?

A Coolidge Dam
B Glen Canyon Dam
C Roosevelt Dam
D Hoover Dam

24. Which river became the southern border of the Arizona land the US gained through the 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo?

A Verde River
B Gila River
C Colorado River
D Salt River

25. Which agreement ended the Mexican-American War and transferred most of present-day Arizona to the US?

A The Compromise of 1850
B The Treaty of Córdoba
C The Gadsden Purchase
D The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo

26. Which part of Arizona did the Gadsden Purchase add to the United States?

A The strip north of the Grand Canyon
B The Colorado River's west bank
C Southern Arizona below the Gila River
D The pine country atop the Mogollon Rim

Go deeper

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STUDY History of Arizona in the FlashFeed app flashfeedlearningapp.com/packs/arizona-history

LESSON 12 OF 12

Key Concepts

Key People · Key Places · Key Things · Key Events

WHAT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO

- Identify the Native leaders and frontier figures — Geronimo, Cochise, Wyatt Earp, and Ed Schieffelin.
- Identify Arizona statesmen Carl Hayden and Barry Goldwater by their national roles.
- Identify Arizona's key places — Tombstone, Tubac, Grand Canyon, Hoover Dam, Canyon de Chelly, and Bisbee.
- Recognize Arizona's emblems — the Five C's crops and metal plus the saguaro, turquoise, and bolo tie.
- Identify the events that made Arizona American — Mexican rule, Guadalupe Hidalgo, Gadsden, Picacho Pass, Territory, and the O.K. Corral.

Key People

A quick-recognition gallery of the figures who shaped Arizona — from Apache leaders who defended the homeland to the lawmen, prospectors, and statesmen of the territorial and modern eras.

Geronimo

An **Apache** leader who fought to defend his homeland in the late 1800s. He evaded thousands of U.S. and Mexican troops across the Southwest borderlands for years. His **1886 surrender** in Skeleton Canyon ended the major **Apache Wars** — the last organized Native American armed resistance in the United States.

Cochise

A **Chiricahua Apache** chief in southeastern Arizona in the mid-1800s. A whole Arizona county and a rugged mountain **stronghold** are named after him. He made peace with the U.S. in **1872** in a deal brokered by his friend, the scout **Tom Jeffords**.

Wyatt Earp

A frontier lawman tied to the silver boomtown of **Tombstone**. He and his brothers feuded with the **Clanton–McLaury** cowboy faction. He is best known for the **1881 gunfight near the O.K. Corral**, the most famous shootout of the Old West.

Ed Schieffelin

A prospector warned that all he'd find in Apache country was his own tombstone. Instead he struck rich **silver in 1877** in the southeastern desert. With grim humor he named his claim — and the boomtown that grew up around it — **Tombstone**.

Carl Hayden

Arizona's very first **U.S. Representative**, starting at statehood in **1912**. He went on to serve more than **50 years** in Congress, a record for his era. He championed the **Central Arizona Project**, the canal system that pipes Colorado River water to Phoenix and Tucson.

Barry Goldwater

An Arizona **senator** and department-store heir famous for his desert photography. He was the **Republican nominee for president in 1964**. Nicknamed **"Mr. Conservative,"** he helped reshape the modern Republican Party even in defeat.

Key Places

A tour of the places that made Arizona — Spanish forts and silver boomtowns, the canyon that defines the state, and the dam that made the modern desert cities possible.

Tombstone

A **silver boomtown** founded in the late 1870s after Ed Schieffelin's strike. Its nickname is **"the Town Too Tough to Die,"** for surviving fires and the silver bust. It is the site of the **1881 O.K. Corral gunfight** and remains a working symbol of the Wild West.

Tubac

A small community on the **Santa Cruz River** south of Tucson. Spain built a **presidio** (fort) here in **1752** — the first European fort in Arizona. From Tubac, **Juan Bautista de Anza** launched his 1775 overland expedition that went on to found **San Francisco**.

The Grand Canyon

A mile-deep gorge carved by the **Colorado River** over millions of years in northern Arizona. It became a **national park in 1919**. One of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World, it is Arizona's most famous landmark and draws millions of visitors a year.

Hoover Dam

A massive concrete arch-gravity dam on the Colorado River, built during the **Great Depression**. It sits on the **Arizona–Nevada border** in Black Canyon. Finished in **1935**, it tamed the river for flood control and power and created **Lake Mead**, the largest reservoir in the U.S.

Canyon de Chelly

A canyon in northeastern Arizona on **Navajo Nation** land, where a small number of Navajo families still farm each summer. **Ancestral Puebloans** built cliff dwellings such as the **White House Ruin** into its red walls. It was the site of **Kit Carson's 1864 campaign** that forced the Navajo on the **Long Walk**.

Bisbee

A historic mining town tucked into the **Mule Mountains** of Cochise County. Its **Copper Queen Mine** made it one of the richest copper districts on earth. In recent decades its steep, colorful old town has become a well-known **artist colony**.

Key Things

The emblems of Arizona — including the famous **"Five C's"** (Copper, Cotton, Cattle, Citrus, and Climate) that built the territory's economy, plus the state's signature plant, stone, and neckwear.

Copper

One of Arizona's **Five C's** and the official **state metal**. Arizona mines **more copper than any other U.S. state**. This reddish metal sheathes the dome of the state capitol and fills the wiring in your walls — the backbone of the territorial economy.

The Saguaro

A giant cactus found almost nowhere but the **Sonoran Desert**. It can top **40 feet** and live **150–200 years**, growing famously slowly. Its white blossom is **Arizona's state flower**, and its raised arms are the desert's defining icon.

Turquoise

A blue-green gemstone mined in the Southwest for centuries. It is prized in **Navajo and Hopi silver jewelry**, where stone and silver are worked together. It is **Arizona's official state gemstone**.

The bolo tie

A piece of neckwear that emerged from the mid-century Southwest — a braided cord with decorative metal tips and a sliding clasp. Arizona named it the **official state neckwear in 1971**, cementing its place as Western formal wear.

Cotton

One of Arizona's **Five C's** — a thirsty crop grown in the state's irrigated valleys. Long-staple **"Pima" cotton** is a prized regional specialty. Demand boomed during **World War I**, when the fiber was needed for tires and uniforms.

Cattle

One of Arizona's **Five C's**, bound up with the open range. **Spanish missions** first brought these animals to the region in colonial times. Ranching them built towns, fortunes, and feuds across the territory's grasslands.

Key Events

The political turning points that made Arizona American — the cascade from Spanish colony to Mexican territory to U.S. land, and the frontier moments that defined the territorial era.

Arizona becomes Mexican

After **Mexico won independence from Spain in 1821**, the lands now called Arizona passed from Spanish to Mexican control in the early 1820s. For the next quarter-century these northern frontier lands were the far edge of the new Mexican republic, thinly settled and far from Mexico City.

Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo

Signed in **1848**, this treaty ended the **Mexican–American War** (which began in 1846) and redrew the map of North America. Mexico ceded roughly **70% of present-day Arizona** — everything north of the Gila River — to the United States, along with California and much of the Southwest.

Gadsden Purchase

In **1853** the United States paid Mexico **$10 million** for what is now **southern Arizona** and a slice of New Mexico — the land below the Gila River. The goal was a flat **southern route for a transcontinental railroad**. It completed Arizona's modern boundary.

Battle of Picacho Pass

Fought on **April 15, 1862**, near Picacho Peak northwest of Tucson, this clash was part of the **Civil War**. With only a handful of casualties, it is recognized as the **westernmost battle of the Civil War with recorded fatalities** — a skirmish farther west at Stanwix Station saw no deaths — a reminder that the conflict reached all the way to the desert Southwest.

Arizona Territory created

On **February 24, 1863**, during the Civil War, Congress split **Arizona Territory** off from New Mexico Territory, giving the region its own government for the first time. **Prescott** served as the first territorial capital before the seat eventually moved to Phoenix.

Gunfight at the O.K. Corral

On **October 26, 1881**, in the boomtown of **Tombstone**, the Earp brothers and Doc Holliday faced the Clanton–McLaury cowboys in a thirty-second shootout. The confrontation left **three men dead** and became the most legendary gunfight of the American West.

Key concepts

Geronimo

- An Apache leader who fought to defend his homeland in the late 1800s.
- He evaded thousands of U.S. and Mexican troops across the Southwest for years.
- His 1886 surrender in Skeleton Canyon ended the major Apache Wars.

Cochise

- A Chiricahua Apache chief in southeastern Arizona in the mid-1800s.
- A whole Arizona county and a mountain stronghold are named after him.
- He made peace with the U.S. in 1872 in a deal brokered by Tom Jeffords.

Wyatt Earp

- A frontier lawman tied to a famous silver boomtown.
- He and his brothers feuded with the Clanton–McLaury cowboys.
- He's best known for the 1881 gunfight near the O.K. Corral.

Ed Schieffelin

- A prospector warned he'd only find his own tombstone in Apache country.
- He struck rich silver in 1877 in the southeastern desert.
- He named his claim — and the boomtown that grew up around it — Tombstone.

Carl Hayden

- He was Arizona's very first U.S. Representative, starting at statehood in 1912.
- He served more than 50 years in Congress, a record for his era.
- He championed the Central Arizona Project to pipe Colorado River water to Phoenix and Tucson.

Barry Goldwater

- An Arizona senator and department-store heir famous for his desert photography.
- He was the Republican nominee for president in 1964.
- Nicknamed 'Mr. Conservative,' he helped reshape the modern Republican Party.

Tombstone

- A silver boomtown founded in the late 1870s.
- Its nickname is 'the Town Too Tough to Die.'
- It's the site of the 1881 O.K. Corral gunfight.

Tubac

- A small community on the Santa Cruz River south of Tucson.
- Spain built a presidio here in 1752 — the first European fort in Arizona.
- Juan Bautista de Anza launched his expedition to found San Francisco from here in 1775.

The Grand Canyon

- A mile-deep gorge carved by the Colorado River in northern Arizona.
- It became a national park in 1919.
- One of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World — and Arizona's most famous landmark.

Hoover Dam

- A massive concrete dam on the Colorado River, built during the Depression.
- It sits on the Arizona–Nevada border in Black Canyon.
- Finished in 1935, it created Lake Mead behind it.

Canyon de Chelly

- A canyon in northeastern Arizona on Navajo Nation land.
- Ancestral Puebloans built cliff dwellings like the White House Ruin in its walls.
- It was the site of Kit Carson's 1864 campaign that led to the Navajo Long Walk.

Bisbee

- A historic mining town tucked into the Mule Mountains of Cochise County.
- Its Copper Queen Mine made it one of the richest copper districts on earth.
- In recent decades its steep, colorful old town has become a well-known artist colony.

Copper

- One of Arizona's 'Five C's' and the official state metal.
- Arizona mines more of it than any other U.S. state.
- This reddish metal sheathes the state capitol dome and fills the wiring in your walls.

The Saguaro

- A giant plant found almost nowhere but the Sonoran Desert.
- It can top 40 feet and live 150–200 years.
- Its white blossom is Arizona's state flower, and its raised arms are a desert icon.

Turquoise

- A blue-green gemstone mined in the Southwest for centuries.
- It's prized in Navajo and Hopi silver jewelry.
- It's Arizona's official state gemstone.

The bolo tie

- A piece of neckwear that came out of the mid-century Southwest.
- It's a braided cord with decorative metal tips and a sliding clasp.
- Arizona named it the official state neckwear in 1971.

Cotton

- One of Arizona's 'Five C's' — a thirsty crop grown in irrigated valleys.
- Long-staple 'Pima' varieties are a regional specialty.
- Demand for this fiber boomed in World War I for tires and uniforms.

Cattle

- One of Arizona's 'Five C's,' bound up with the open range.
- Spanish missions first brought these animals to the region.
- Ranching them built towns, fortunes, and feuds across the territory's grasslands.

Arizona becomes Mexican

- This event marked a significant political change in North America after a major conflict.
- It occurred in the early 1820s, following a country's independence from Spain.
- After Mexico won independence from Spain in 1821, the lands now called Arizona became part of Mexico.

Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo

- This treaty ended a war between two nations and reshaped territorial boundaries.
- It was signed in 1848, following a conflict that began in 1846.
- The treaty resulted in Mexico ceding 70% of present-day Arizona to the United States.

Gadsden Purchase

- This land acquisition was aimed at facilitating a southern transcontinental railroad.
- It took place in 1853, involving negotiations between the US and Mexico.
- The US paid $10 million for what is now southern Arizona and parts of New Mexico.

Battle of Picacho Pass

- This clash was part of a larger conflict that divided a nation in the 1860s.
- It occurred on April 15, 1862, and was notable for its location in Arizona.
- It is recognized as the westernmost battle of the Civil War with recorded fatalities, though only a small number of casualties occurred there.

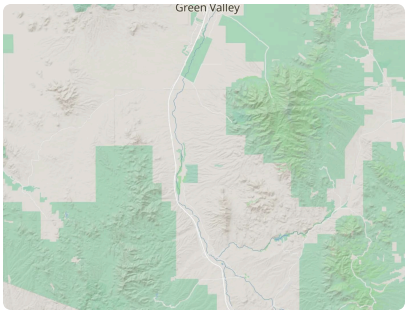
Arizona Territory created

- This event marked the establishment of a new political entity in the American West.
- It occurred on February 24, 1863, during the Civil War period.
- The territory was split off from New Mexico Territory, with Prescott as its first capital.

Gunfight at the O.K. Corral

- This famous shootout is a legendary event in the history of the American West.
- It took place on October 26, 1881, in a small Arizona town.
- The confrontation involved lawmen and a group of cowboys, resulting in three deaths.

Key facts



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Tubac: Spain's frontier fort

Along the Santa Cruz River south of Tucson, Spain built the Tubac presidio in 1752 — the first European fort in what's now Arizona. In 1775–76 it launched Anza's expedition that went on to found San Francisco.

Self-test

Answer each question from memory, then check your work against the answer key.

1. Whose 1877 silver strike gave the boomtown of Tombstone its name?

A. Wyatt Earp
B. Ed Schieffelin
C. Barry Goldwater
D. Carl Hayden

2. Geronimo's 1886 surrender in Skeleton Canyon brought an end to which conflict?

A. The Mexican–American War
B. The Civil War in the Southwest
C. The Navajo Long Walk campaign
D. The Apache Wars

3. Which Chiricahua Apache chief made peace with the U.S. in 1872 in a deal brokered by his friend, the scout Tom Jeffords?

A. Cochise
B. Geronimo
C. Victorio
D. Mangas Coloradas

4. Which of these is NOT associated with Wyatt Earp?

A. The silver boomtown of Tombstone
B. The 1881 gunfight near the O.K. Corral
C. The 1886 surrender in Skeleton Canyon
D. The feud with the Clanton–McLaury cowboys

5. Which figure is correctly paired with his role?

A. Wyatt Earp — Chiricahua chief who made peace in 1872
B. Geronimo — Apache leader who surrendered in 1886
C. Ed Schieffelin — lawman in the O.K. Corral gunfight
D. Cochise — prospector who struck silver in 1877

6. How long did Carl Hayden represent Arizona in Congress?

A. 38 years
B. 62 years
C. 56 years
D. 44 years

7. Which committee did Hayden chair, and for how long?

A. Appropriations, for 14 years
B. Finance, for 14 years
C. Appropriations, for 56 years
D. Armed Services, for 8 years

8. Goldwater lost the presidency badly. What lasting effect is he nonetheless credited with?

A. Serving as Secretary of the Interior under Bill Clinton
B. Writing Arizona's 1980 Groundwater Management Act
C. Founding Sun City as an 'active adult' retirement community
D. Reshaping the GOP into the conservative movement that produced Reagan

9. Which statement about Arizona's national statesmen is NOT correct?

A. Carl Hayden served in Congress for 56 years
B. Barry Goldwater is the father of the Central Arizona Project
C. John McCain was the 2008 GOP presidential nominee
D. Sandra Day O'Connor was raised on an Arizona cattle ranch

10. Which statement correctly distinguishes Carl Hayden from Barry Goldwater?

A. Hayden ran for president in 1964; Goldwater served over 50 years
B. Both entered Congress in 1912 as Arizona's first delegation
C. Both were Republican presidential nominees
D. Hayden served over 50 years in Congress; Goldwater ran for president in 1964

11. Juan Bautista de Anza's 1775 expedition set out from the presidio at Tubac and went on to found which city?

A. Santa Fe
B. Los Angeles
C. San Francisco
D. San Diego

12. Finished in 1935 on the Arizona–Nevada border in Black Canyon, which structure created Lake Mead, the largest reservoir in the U.S.?

A. Hoover Dam
B. Roosevelt Dam
C. Glen Canyon Dam
D. Parker Dam

13. Which canyon on Navajo Nation land holds Ancestral Puebloan cliff dwellings such as the White House Ruin, and saw Kit Carson's 1864 campaign?

A. Walnut Canyon
B. Black Canyon
C. Canyon de Chelly
D. Oak Creek Canyon

14. The Copper Queen Mine made which Mule Mountains town — now a well-known artist colony — one of the richest copper districts on earth?

A. Jerome
B. Globe
C. Tombstone
D. Bisbee

15. Which Arizona place is matched with the correct description?

A. Bisbee — the first European fort in Arizona, built in 1752
B. The Grand Canyon — mile-deep gorge that became a national park in 1919
C. Hoover Dam — the silver boomtown of the 1881 gunfight
D. Tombstone — Navajo canyon with Ancestral Puebloan cliff dwellings

16. Copper, Cotton, and Cattle are three of Arizona's famous 'Five C's.' Which of these is another one?

A. Citrus
B. Coal
C. Cactus
D. Corn

17. Arizona mines more of which metal than any other U.S. state, and named it the official state metal?

A Zinc
B Copper
C Gold
D Silver

18. Which giant cactus, found almost nowhere but the Sonoran Desert, can top 40 feet and live 150–200 years?

A The saguaro
B The organ pipe cactus
C The barrel cactus
D The cholla

19. Which item did Arizona name its official state neckwear in 1971?

A The squash blossom necklace
B The bandana
C The silver concho belt
D The bolo tie

20. Which Arizona emblem is NOT correctly matched with its official title?

A Copper — state metal
B Turquoise — state gemstone
C The saguaro blossom — state tree
D The bolo tie — state neckwear

21. Under the 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, how much of present-day Arizona did Mexico cede to the United States?

A About 70% — everything north of the Gila River
B About 30% — the strip south of the Gila River
C All of present-day Arizona
D Roughly half, divided along the Colorado River

22. In 1853 the United States paid Mexico $10 million for what is now southern Arizona. What was the main goal of the purchase?

A A buffer zone to stop Apache raids
B Control of the silver deposits near Tombstone
C Access to a port on the Gulf of California
D A flat southern route for a transcontinental railroad

23. The clash fought April 15, 1862 near Picacho Peak northwest of Tucson is recognized as what?

A The last battle of the Mexican–American War
B The bloodiest fight of territorial Arizona
C The westernmost battle of the Civil War
D The first battle of the Apache Wars

24. When Congress split Arizona Territory off from New Mexico Territory on February 24, 1863, which city served as the first territorial capital?

A Yuma
B Prescott
C Phoenix
D Tucson

25. Which sequence puts these events in the correct chronological order?

(A) Mexican independence → Guadalupe Hidalgo → Gadsden Purchase → O.K. Corral gunfight

(B) Mexican independence → Gadsden Purchase → Guadalupe Hidalgo → O.K. Corral gunfight

(C) Guadalupe Hidalgo → Mexican independence → Gadsden Purchase → O.K. Corral gunfight

(D) Gadsden Purchase → Mexican independence → O.K. Corral gunfight → Guadalupe Hidalgo

Go deeper

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Answer key

Lesson 1: Lesson 1: Before Europeans

1. A 10,000 to 12,000 years ago

2. D Atlatl

The atlatl is the spear-thrower that multiplies a throw's force. A metate is a grinding slab, and a Clovis point is the stone spear tip — not the launcher.

3. C 20–50 people

They moved in small bands of about 20–50 people, following the herds. Larger permanent settlements only became possible once farming arrived much later.

4. B Mammoth

Paleo-Indians hunted mammoths, mastodons, and an ancient long-horned bison. Tyrannosaurus died out tens of millions of years earlier, and the woolly rhinoceros and giant moa never lived in the Americas.

5. B Clovis and Folsom

Paleo-Indians left Clovis and Folsom spear points. Manos and metates are later Archaic grinding slabs, Acheulean and Mousterian are Old World tool traditions, and obsidian and flint are raw stones.

6. A Sonoran Desert

7. D Corn, beans, and squash

The three sisters are corn, beans, and squash. Cotton and agave were later Hohokam canal crops, not part of the trio.

8. C Squash — climbs the corn stalk

Beans are what climb the corn stalk; squash spreads low across the ground to shade the soil. Corn provides the stalk, and beans also fix nitrogen.

9. A A marker of the season, like a calendar

The saguaro's flowers and fruit were both a vital food and a calendar marker for the desert peoples. Black-on-white pottery was Mimbres work by the Mogollon, unrelated to the saguaro.

10. D It was brought north from central Mexico

Corn did not grow wild in Arizona — it arrived from central Mexico late in the Archaic period, long before any Spanish contact.

11. B The Four Corners — where Arizona, Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico meet

12. C Ancestral Puebloans

13. C A round, often partially underground room

The kiva is a round, often partially underground ceremonial room. The four-story earthen tower is Casa Grande — a Hohokam structure, not Puebloan.

14. B Down a ladder through a hole in the roof

Entry was down a ladder through a roof hole, which doubled as the smoke vent. Hand-and-toe holds were used to reach cliff dwellings, not to enter kivas.

15. A The place where the people first emerged into this world

The sipapu is a symbolic portal representing the place of emergence into this world. Solar alignments are associated with Casa Grande's wall openings instead.

16. D A four-story Hohokam earthen tower built around 1350 CE

17. B Hundreds of miles of irrigation canals across the Salt and Gila valleys

The Hohokam dug an enormous canal network across the Salt and Gila river valleys; modern Phoenix canals follow some of the same lines. Cliff dwellings were Puebloan and Sinagua work.

18. A It was dug by hand with stone and wooden tools

The Hohokam engineered hundreds of miles of canals using only stone, wood, and human labor — no metal tools and no pack animals.

19. C Caliche mud

Casa Grande was raised from caliche mud, not stone. Sandstone is associated with Puebloan pueblos and the walls at Kinishba.

20. D The southern deserts where Phoenix now stands

The Hohokam occupied the southern deserts around present-day Phoenix. The Four Corners was Puebloan, and the Flagstaff highlands were Sinagua territory.

21. D An extensive irrigation canal system watering their crops

The Hohokam dug hundreds of miles of irrigation canals across the Salt and Gila valleys to water crops like corn, beans, cotton, and agave.

22. B With stone and wood tools, no metal or pack animals

The Hohokam engineered their canals using only stone, wood, and human labor, without metal tools or pack animals.

23. A Black-on-white Mimbres pottery depicting people and animals

24. C Over 600

25. D Without water

Sinagua means 'without water' in Spanish, referring to their arid central Arizona homeland running from Flagstaff through the Verde Valley.

26. B A Sinagua cliff dwelling in central Arizona

Montezuma Castle is a Sinagua cliff dwelling — the name is doubly wrong, since it was neither Aztec nor a castle.

27. C The great houses were already abandoned

The great cultures dispersed in the 15th and 16th centuries, so the great houses stood empty by the time the Spanish arrived. The people had regrouped into the Hopi, Zuni, O'odham, and Pueblo nations.

Lesson 2: Lesson 2: Spanish & Mexican Eras

1. A Seven Cities

2. B 1540

3. C The Grand Canyon

Coronado's men were the first Europeans to see the Grand Canyon. It was the one lasting discovery of an expedition that found no gold and ended in bankruptcy.

4. D The Zuni Pueblos

The 'cities of gold' were the Zuni Pueblos — real and impressive, but built of mud and stone rather than gold.

5. A He returned to Mexico enriched by the gold he found

Coronado found pueblos, not gold, and limped back to Mexico bankrupt and disgraced. The other three statements are accurate.

6. C Mission San Xavier

7. D Jesuit

Kino was an Italian Jesuit. Marcos de Niza, the earlier explorer, was the Franciscan — an easy pair to confuse.

8. B The desert region of southern Arizona and northern Sonora

Pimería Alta means 'upper Pima country' — the desert straddling southern Arizona and northern Sonora, home of the O'odham and the territory Kino mapped.

9. D The 1690s

Kino began his mission work in Arizona in the 1690s — a century and a half after Coronado, and Spain's first serious return to the region.

10. B The adobe walls of the Tucson presidio

The Tucson presidio was a military fort built by an army officer, not a Kino mission. Kino's work was churches, maps, and the O'odham missions.

11. C 1752

12. A Hugo O'Conor

13. D A Spanish frontier military fort

A presidio is a fortified military settlement on the Spanish frontier — a garrison, not a church. Kino's missions were the religious counterpart.

14. A A deadly Pima uprising

Tubac was Spain's answer to a deadly Pima uprising the year before. Apache raids emptied ranches much later, during the Mexican period.

15. B The 1770s

Spain founded the Tucson presidio in 1775, more than two decades after Arizona's first presidio. Kino's missions began in the 1690s, and Mexican independence came in the 1820s.

16. C Sonora

From 1822 onward the lands now called Arizona belonged to the Mexican state of Sonora — on paper, at least.

17. A Apache raids

Apache raids emptied the southeastern ranges during the Mexican period. The Pima uprising was earlier — 1751, under Spanish rule.

18. D Wild cattle, hunted for their hides

Feral descendants of fled herds — wild cattle — filled the abandoned ranges by the 1840s, hunted for hides by anyone passing through.

19. B Nominal on paper, thin to nonexistent in practice

Arizona belonged to Mexico on paper, but Mexico City's control over the distant frontier was thin to nonexistent — which is why the raids emptied the ranches.

20. C 1821

Mexico won independence in 1821, and Arizona passed to Mexican hands the following year. 1848 is when the war with the United States ended — a later handover.

Lesson 3: Lesson 3: Becoming American

1. D The Mexican-American War

The 1848 treaty settled the Mexican-American War. The Civil War came later (1861-65) and never involved Mexico as a party.

2. A $15 million

Mexico ceded the vast northern territory for $15 million. The $10 million figure is the later Gadsden Purchase, a different deal.

3. B The northern 70%

The cession covered the northern 70% of present-day Arizona — everything above the Gila River. The southern remainder came later by purchase.

4. C Mexico

The 1848 treaty set the border at the Gila River, so Tubac and Tucson stayed Mexican for five more years until the Gadsden Purchase.

5. A 1848

The treaty dates to 1848. 1853 is the Gadsden Purchase and 1863 the creation of Arizona Territory — both later milestones.

6. D 1853

7. C To secure a flat route for a southern transcontinental railroad

The route from Yuma to El Paso needed land south of the Gila to avoid mountain passes. That was the whole point.

8. B $10 million

The US paid $10 million for the strip south of the Gila. The $15 million figure belongs to the earlier Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.

9. D Franklin Pierce

Pierce sent Gadsden to Mexico City. Polk was the president of the Mexican-American War that produced the earlier cession; Lincoln's Arizona act came a decade after the purchase.

10. B Tucson

Tucson sits south of the Gila River, so it stayed Mexican after 1848 and only became American with the Gadsden Purchase. Prescott and Flagstaff are north of the Gila.

11. C It was the westernmost Civil War battle with fatalities

12. A April 15, 1862

The skirmish north of Tucson happened April 15, 1862, and three Union soldiers died. February 24, 1863 is the date Arizona Territory was created.

13. D Jefferson Davis

Southern New Mexico residents petitioned Richmond, and Confederate president Jefferson Davis proclaimed the territory. Lincoln signed the rival Union territory act in 1863.

14. B James Henry Carleton

Brigadier General James Henry Carleton led the column that finished the Confederate Territory by August 1862. Gadsden was a diplomat, not a soldier in this story.

15. C Southern declaration for the Confederacy → Picacho Pass → California Column ends Confederate Arizona

The declaration came March 1861, Picacho Pass April 1862, and the California Column finished the Confederate Territory by August 1862.

16. A Abraham Lincoln

Lincoln signed the act creating Arizona Territory. Pierce was the president behind the Gadsden Purchase a decade earlier.

17. B February 24, 1863

The territory was created February 24, 1863. February 14, 1912 is statehood — a much later milestone, not the territory's creation.

18. D Prescott

Prescott was chosen partly because Tucson had leaned Confederate. Phoenix did not become the capital until 1889.

19. A Prescott → Tucson → Prescott → Phoenix

The seat began at Prescott, went to Tucson in 1867, returned to Prescott in 1877, and settled in Phoenix in 1889 — each move tracking regional political weight.

20. C New Mexico Territory

The 1863 act carved Arizona out of New Mexico Territory along a north-south line — the same New Mexico Territory whose southern residents had declared for the Confederacy.

Lesson 4: Lesson 4: Conflict on the Frontier

1. D Colonel Edwin V. Sumner

Colonel Edwin V. Sumner established Fort Defiance in 1851. Kit Carson is a tempting distractor, but he did not reach Navajo country until his campaign more than a decade later.

2. C September 18, 1851

Fort Defiance was established September 18, 1851. April 1860 is when Manuelito attacked the fort — not when it was built.

3. B About 1,000

Manuelito led around 1,000 warriors. About 35 was the size of Geronimo's final band, and 9,000 is the number of Navajo later forced on the Long Walk.

4. A Manuelito's warriors captured and destroyed it in 1860

The garrison held against Manuelito's 1860 assault — the fort was never captured. The other three statements are all accurate descriptions of Fort Defiance.

5. D That the Navajo would have to be subdued

The assault was so bold that Washington concluded the Navajo had to be subdued. A treaty came only in 1868, after the Long Walk — not in response to the attack.

6. B About 9,000

7. A Bombarding Fort Defiance with artillery

Carson burned hogans, killed sheep, and destroyed the Canyon de Chelly peach orchards to starve the Navajo out. Fort Defiance was a US Army post — he had no reason to attack it.

8. C About 300 miles

The march to Bosque Redondo in eastern New Mexico covered roughly 300 miles, and hundreds died along the way.

9. A 1863

Carson's scorched-earth campaign began in 1863; by 1864 starving Navajo families were surrendering. 1860 is Manuelito's attack on Fort Defiance, years before Carson arrived.

10. B Eastern New Mexico

Bosque Redondo lay in eastern New Mexico, and proved a disaster of bad water, failed crops, and disease. Canyon de Chelly was Navajo homeland — what Carson destroyed, not where they were sent.

11. D 1886

12. C The 10th Cavalry Regiment

The all-Black 10th Cavalry Regiment — the Buffalo Soldiers — was stationed at Fort Huachuca and patrolled the Mexican border.

13. B 1913 to 1933

The 10th Cavalry was at Huachuca from 1913 to 1933, patrolling the border during the Pancho Villa years — decades after the fort itself was founded.

14. A About 35

Roughly 35 people eluded thousands of US and Mexican soldiers for over a year. About 1,000 was the size of Manuelito's force at Fort Defiance, a different event entirely.

15. C He kept fighting after most Apache had already been confined to reservations

Geronimo, a medicine man and war leader, fought on after most Apache were confined; his surrender ended the Apache Wars. Cochise, not Geronimo, made the 1872 peace.

16. D 1870

Fort Apache was founded in 1870 to control the surrounding Apache bands. 1851 belongs to Fort Defiance, and 1886 is the year Geronimo surrendered.

17. D 1877

Fort Huachuca was founded in 1877, positioned to strike at raiders crossing the border. 1851 belongs to Fort Defiance, the far older Navajo-country post.

18. C Fort Huachuca

Fort Huachuca closed for several years after World War II but was reactivated in the 1950s and remains active as of 2026, housing the US Army Intelligence Center. Fort Apache closed in 1923, turned over to the Bureau of Indian Affairs once the Army judged it militarily obsolete.

19. A It saw heavy combat throughout the Apache Wars

Fort Apache saw almost no combat — one small fight in September 1881 wounded three soldiers. The other three statements are accurate.

20. B Apache raiders crossing from Mexico

Sitting southeast of Tucson near the border, Huachuca was the base against Apache raiders crossing from Mexico. Canyon de Chelly was Navajo country, targeted by Kit Carson instead.

Lesson 5: Lesson 5: The Wild West Era

1. B About 6,000 to 10,000 people

2. A 1877

Schieffelin found silver in 1877. 1885 is when Bisbee's rival Copper Queen and Atlanta mines merged into the Copper Queen Consolidated Mining Company — a different mining story.

3. C He was warned that was all he'd find in Apache country

As the story goes, he was told he'd only find his tombstone prospecting Apache country; he turned the taunt into the strike's name. The investing-family naming belongs to Jerome.

4. D A copper smelter

Tombstone was a silver town — the smelter belongs to Bisbee's copper story. Opera houses, four churches, and dozens of brothels are all listed among Tombstone's boom-town features.

5. C Ed Schieffelin

6. D The electrical revolution

As America wired up with power lines, telephones, and electric motors, copper demand surged — this electrical revolution drove Arizona's mines to scale up.

7. A 1880

Bisbee's first copper smelter went up around 1880. 1877 was Schieffelin's silver strike at Tombstone, and 1885 was when the rival Copper Queen and Atlanta mines consolidated into the Copper Queen Consolidated Mining Company — not when smelting began.

8. B United Verde Copper Company

The United Verde Copper Company was incorporated in 1883. Copper Queen is the name of Bisbee's famous mine, not the Cleopatra Hill company.

9. C 8 billion pounds

The Bisbee district's mines, including the Copper Queen, produced over 8 billion pounds of copper before shutting down in 1975.

10. A Jerome

Jerome was perched on a 30-degree slope on Cleopatra Hill and named after a New York investing family. Bisbee was a steep canyon town, but its name and setting differ.

11. B October 26, 1881

12. D 30 seconds

The fight lasted just 30 seconds and left three cowboys dead — its brevity is part of why it's so famous.

13. D Doc Holliday

Doc Holliday was a Georgia dentist sent west by tuberculosis and Wyatt Earp's closest friend. Ed Schieffelin was the prospector who founded Tombstone, not a gunfighter.

14. A Billy Clanton

Billy Clanton and the McLaurys made up the cowboy faction. Virgil, Morgan, and Doc Holliday all stood on Wyatt's side.

15. B 1879

Virgil, Wyatt, and James arrived in 1879 to profit from the boom (Morgan followed in 1880), two years before the gunfight. 1877 was Schieffelin's strike.

16. C A hunt to kill the men he blamed for attacking his brothers

Wyatt's answer to the attacks on his brothers was to hunt down and kill the men he held responsible, then leave Arizona quietly. He never ran for sheriff or drove cattle.

17. C He was assassinated while shooting pool

Morgan was shot dead at a pool table. Dying of tuberculosis in Colorado was Doc Holliday's end, in 1887.

18. D 1882

Wyatt's Vendetta Ride came in March 1882, months after the October 1881 gunfight, as he hunted the men he held responsible for crippling Virgil and killing Morgan. He then quietly left the territory.

19. B The mines flooded and silver prices fell

Water had seeped into the deepening mines since the early 1880s; after the pumping plant burned in 1886 and silver prices fell, the flooded mines weren't worth pumping out. The town survived both fires by rebuilding; the drought hit ranching, not Tombstone's mines.

20. A Virgil

Virgil, a lawman alongside Wyatt, was ambushed and crippled. Wyatt came through unhurt and rode the Vendetta in response.

21. C 1880

22. B 1870

23. A 1873

24. D Southern Pacific

The Southern Pacific reached Tucson from California in 1880 (and El Paso in 1881), letting mines ship ore and ranchers ship cattle profitably.

25. C An 1891–1893 drought killed more than half the herd

The 1891–1893 drought killed more than half of Arizona's cattle and stripped the grasslands that overgrazing had already primed for disaster.

Lesson 6: Lesson 6: Statehood & Early 20th Century

1. C February 14, 1912

2. D The 48th

Arizona was the 48th state. New Mexico was the 47th, Oklahoma the 46th (1907), and Alaska the 49th (1959) — all real ordinals a learner might confuse.

3. B William Howard Taft

Taft signed Arizona into statehood in 1912. Roosevelt had left office in 1909, Wilson took office in 1913, and McKinley died in 1901.

4. A New Mexico

New Mexico beat Arizona by six weeks. Nevada (1864), Utah (1896), and Oklahoma (1907) were all admitted years earlier.

5. C Arizona was the last state admitted within the contiguous US

Arizona was the last of the contiguous states; Alaska and Hawaii are full states but are not contiguous. They were admitted separately, and both were federal territories first.

6. A Nineteenth Amendment

7. B Women's right to vote

Initiative, referendum and recall of officials (judges included) were all in the 1910 draft. Women's suffrage came separately, by a 1912 initiative.

8. D It let voters recall any official, including judges

Arizona's Progressive constitution let voters recall any official, even judges — a radical stretch of recall power for 1910, and the provision President Taft objected to.

9. D Direct election of US senators

The Progressive package also included the initiative, the referendum, and direct election of senators. A lottery, term limits, and mandatory jury duty were never part of it.

10. C It stripped the offending provisions, won admission, then restored them

Taft objected to recalling judges, so Arizona removed that provision, was admitted in 1912, then restored it by referendum months later. It never waited him out, and no court or water deal was involved.

11. B 56

12. A Maricopa County Sheriff

13. C Central Arizona Project

14. B House from 1912, then Senate from 1927 to 1969

Hayden entered the House at statehood in 1912 and moved to the Senate in 1927, serving until 1969. He held both offices, in that order.

15. D Appropriations, for 14 years

Hayden chaired the powerful Appropriations Committee for 14 years alongside his seniority record. The 56 years is his whole time in Congress, not a chairmanship.

16. A Fred Harvey

17. C 1901

The Santa Fe Railroad arrived at the South Rim in 1901. 1869 is Powell's descent, 1912 is statehood, and 1919 is national park designation.

18. B The El Tovar Hotel

The El Tovar Hotel, a luxury Harvey House lodge, was hosting canyon-rim guests by 1905. The others are real Arizona hotels, but none of them sits on the canyon rim.

19. A A railroad line reached the rim, replacing long overland trips

The rail line to the rim brought tourism in a flood, and Harvey House lodging met the arriving visitors. Park designation came later and followed the tourism boom rather than causing it.

20. D He owned the Santa Fe Railroad and built its line to the rim

Harvey built restaurants and hotels ALONG the Santa Fe Railroad — he never owned the railroad or laid its track. The other three describe his operation accurately.

21. C 1919

22. D John Wesley Powell

Powell, a one-armed Civil War veteran, led the 1869 descent, and his reports made the canyon famous and laid the groundwork for federal water policy in the West.

23. B First river descent, presidential visit, monument status, park status

The first descent came in 1869, the presidential visit in 1903, monument status in 1908, and park status in 1919. Monument status followed the visit rather than preceding it.

24. A National monument

The 1908 designation was national monument — a step a president can take alone. Only Congress could elevate it to a national park, which it did later.

25. D Theodore Roosevelt

Theodore Roosevelt made the 1903 visit and became the canyon's most powerful advocate. Taft signed Arizona's statehood, and Wilson was president when the park was created in 1919.

Lesson 7: Lesson 7: Depression, War & Water

1. D 1922

The compact was signed in 1922. 1912 is Arizona's statehood, 1931 the start of Hoover Dam's construction, and 1936 its completion.

2. A 37%

Arizona's 2.8 million acre-feet is about 37% of the lower basin's 7.5. 19% is its share of the river's full 15 million acre-feet, and 59% is California's share of the lower basin.

3. B California

The 1928 Boulder Canyon Project Act gave California 4.4 million acre-feet of the lower basin's 7.5 — about 59% — against Arizona's 2.8 (37%) and Nevada's 0.3 (4%). That dominant share so angered Arizona it refused to ratify until 1944. Utah is an Upper Basin state and got none.

4. C It believed California had taken the lion's share of the water

Arizona was furious that California had taken most of the lower-basin water while Arizona's own share was small, and held out for years. The naming fight over Boulder/Hoover Dam was a separate issue.

5. A 1944

Arizona held out until 1944. 1922 was the signing, 1936 Hoover Dam's completion, and 1968 the authorization of the Central Arizona Project.

6. D 1931–1936

7. C Boulder Dam

The dam was originally named Boulder Dam. Glen Canyon Dam is a different, later dam upstream on the Colorado.

8. B 726 feet

Hoover Dam stands 726 feet tall, a world record it held until 1957. The other heights are well off the mark.

9. C Black Canyon

The dam sits in Black Canyon on the Arizona-Nevada line. Glen and Marble Canyons are farther upstream, and Boulder Canyon echoes the dam's original name but not its site.

10. B They ran refrigerated water through pipes embedded in the concrete

Engineers embedded pipes in the concrete and circulated refrigerated water to draw off the heat of curing. Winter pouring alone could never shed that much heat.

11. D 1,177

12. A Training Army Air Forces bomber crews

Davis-Monthan was the main training center for Army Air Forces bomber crews. It was a training field, not a manufacturing plant — aircraft production was concentrated in California.

13. B The 92nd and 93rd Infantry Divisions

The 92nd and 93rd Infantry Divisions were based at Fort Huachuca, which peaked at 25,000 soldiers. The 442nd was the Japanese American regiment, not a Huachuca division.

14. C Deepwater ports for naval convoys

Arizona is landlocked and had no ports. Its draw was clear flying weather, empty land, cheap labor, and closeness to California's aviation plants.

15. A December 7, 1941

The USS Arizona was destroyed at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. June 6, 1944 is D-Day and September 2, 1945 is Japan's surrender.

16. D Poston and Gila River

Arizona hosted Poston and Gila River. Manzanar and Tule Lake were in California; the others were in Utah, Idaho, Wyoming, and Colorado.

17. C Poston on the river; Gila River south of Phoenix

Poston stood on the Colorado River and Gila River lay south of Phoenix. Fort Huachuca and Davis-Monthan were military posts, not internment camps.

18. A 1942 to 1945

Arizona's two camps held Japanese Americans from 1942 to 1945, the war years after Pearl Harbor. 1931 to 1936 is when Hoover Dam was built; 1939 to 1941 and 1946 to 1949 miss the years the camps operated.

19. B Over 30,000

Poston and Gila River together confined over 30,000 people, most of them US citizens. 3,000 is far too low for two of the largest camps in the country.

20. D Nearly all those confined were citizens of Japan, not the US

The reverse is true: most of those confined at Poston and Gila River were US citizens. The camps ran 1942-1945 and were among the largest in the system.

21. B 336 miles

22. D 1993

Construction ran until 1993, a quarter century after authorization. 1980 is the Groundwater Management Act, a separate milestone.

23. C Bruce Babbitt

Bruce Babbitt drove the 1980 act. Hunt was Arizona's first governor, while Castro and Williams held the office in earlier decades — none pushed the Groundwater Management Act.

24. A Safe yield, under the Groundwater Management Act

'Safe yield' — using no more groundwater than nature replenishes — is the goal of the 1980 Groundwater Management Act, which also required the 100-year supply proof for new development.

25. C 183,000

Manufacturing jobs reached 183,000 by 1985 — nearly a fourfold jump — as Motorola, Hughes, Honeywell, IBM, and Goodyear Aircraft opened operations.

Lesson 8: Lesson 8: The Sunbelt Boom

1. A 1950 and 2000

2. B Over 5 million

700,000 to over 5 million is the sevenfold jump. 1.5 or 2.5 million would be far short of sevenfold; 12 million overshoots the state's actual size.

3. D A statewide exemption from income tax

The three enablers were federal water, cheap land, and air conditioning. Tax policy is not among them.

4. C 106°F

Phoenix's average July high is about 106°F (1991–2020 normals); its July daily mean is about 96°F. 122°F is the record extreme (set June 26, 1990), not an average.

5. B Almost all of it around one metro area, with Tucson a distant second

Growth concentrated almost entirely around Phoenix, with Tucson a distant second — not an even split, not Tucson-led, and not rural.

6. A Computers

Copper, Cattle, Cotton, Citrus, Climate. Computers came later — and didn't make the alliteration.

7. D Copper, Cattle, Cotton, Citrus, Climate

The pillars taught to generations of Arizona schoolchildren are Copper, Cattle, Cotton, Citrus, and Climate. Corn, canyons, and chiles never made the list.

8. C Climate

The first four C's built 20th-century Arizona; Climate — air-conditioned and sunny — built the rest. Citrus in fact declined after 1950.

9. D Citrus

Phoenix's citrus groves were paved over because the land was worth more as suburban housing. Cotton declined too, but from water limits and global competition — not by being replaced with subdivisions.

10. B Cotton

The fifth pillar is Cotton, a mainstay that declined after 1950. Cactus and canyons are Arizona icons but never economic pillars, and corn was never on the list.

11. C Del Webb

12. A 1954

Youngtown was founded in 1954 on 320 acres northwest of Phoenix. 1960 is Sun City's opening, six years later.

13. C It opened in 1960, six years after Youngtown, with pools and golf courses

Del Webb's Sun City opened in 1960 as an 'active adult' community — six years after Youngtown, which held the 'first' distinction. Opening weekend drew 100,000 visitors.

14. D The Northeast and Midwest

Arizona's warm winters drew snowbirds from the Northeast and Midwest, bringing pensions, Social Security checks, and savings.

15. A Retirees

Youngtown (1954) was the first US planned community dedicated exclusively to retirees, and children were not allowed to live there. Veterans, miners, and students were not its target residents.

16. B 1981

17. C 1964

Goldwater was the 1964 Republican nominee and lost in a landslide to LBJ. 1968 and 1972 were Nixon's nominations.

18. A John McCain

McCain won Goldwater's old Senate seat in 1986 and was the 2008 nominee, losing to Barack Obama. Goldwater's nomination came far earlier, in 1964.

19. D First woman ever to sit on the US Supreme Court

Reagan appointed O'Connor to the Supreme Court in 1981, making her the first woman on the high court. She served until 2006.

20. B Reshaping the GOP into the conservative movement that produced Reagan

Despite the landslide loss to LBJ, Goldwater remade the GOP into the conservative movement that later produced Reagan. Sun City was Del Webb's; the groundwater law and Interior post were Babbitt's.

21. B Udall: US House 1961–1991; Babbitt: governor 1978–1987

Mo Udall served in the US House (2nd district) 1961–1991; Bruce Babbitt was governor 1978–1987. Udall was never governor or a senator, and Babbitt left office in 1987.

22. C A term as governor of Arizona

Udall was a congressman, never governor — that was Babbitt. Udall did serve 1961–1991 in the House, ran strongly in 1976, and was famed for his wit.

23. D The 1976 Democratic presidential nomination

Udall ran strongly for the 1976 Democratic nomination. The 1988 Democratic run was Bruce Babbitt's, and 1964 was Goldwater's Republican nomination.

24. A Secretary of the Interior

After his governorship and a 1988 presidential run, Babbitt became Clinton's Secretary of the Interior — a fit for his water and land record.

25. C The 1980 Groundwater Management Act

Babbitt pushed the 1980 Groundwater Management Act. The 1902 Reclamation Act and 1968 basin act long predate his governorship (1978–1987).

Lesson 9: Lesson 9: Modern Arizona

1. A April 2010

2. C Check immigration status during stops

SB 1070 required police to check immigration status during stops — the 'show me your papers' provision. It did not give state police deportation power; removal remains a federal function.

3. B The Supreme Court struck it down as preempted by federal authority

In Arizona v. United States (2012) the Supreme Court struck down most of SB 1070 as preempted by federal authority over immigration; only the narrow 'show me your papers' provision survived.

4. D She succeeded Janet Napolitano, who left to head Homeland Security

Brewer, then secretary of state, succeeded to the governorship in 2009 when Janet Napolitano left to lead Homeland Security. Ducey was a later governor, not her 2008 opponent.

5. D It funded construction of a state-built fence along the border

SB 1070 was a policing law — status checks during stops — not a fence-funding bill; fence construction belongs to the wider border story. The other three statements are true.

6. C 19

7. B Outside a Tucson supermarket at a constituent meet-and-greet

Giffords was shot in the head at a constituent meet-and-greet outside a Tucson supermarket. Six people died; she survived, resigned from Congress, and later founded a gun-control group.

8. A Six

Six people died, including a federal judge and a nine-year-old girl. Nineteen is the Yarnell Hill Fire death toll, not the Tucson shooting's.

9. A The Granite Mountain Hotshots

The Granite Mountain Hotshots, an elite Prescott Fire Department crew, were overrun by a wind shift near Yarnell. Only one Hotshot survived, having been posted elsewhere.

10. B Every member of the Granite Mountain Hotshots died in the fire

One Hotshot survived, having been posted elsewhere, so the crew was not lost entirely. The 1933 benchmark, the June 30, 2013 date, and the Prescott Fire Department crew are all accurate.

11. D Among the highest per-capita infection rates in the US

The Navajo Nation had among the highest per-capita COVID infection rates in the United States in 2020 — the opposite of the lowest-rate distractor.

12. C A dense population concentrated in large cities

Contributing factors included limited running water, crowded multigenerational housing, and few hospitals. Dense big-city population was not a factor — the Nation's territory is largely rural.

13. A It imposed some of the country's strictest curfews

The Nation imposed some of the country's strictest curfews. It could not rely on Arizona's statewide rules — Governor Ducey refused a statewide mask mandate.

14. D He left mask rules to individual cities and counties

Ducey refused a statewide mask mandate but permitted individual cities and counties to issue their own — neither a statewide requirement nor a ban on local rules.

15. B Frequent handwashing at home

With limited running water, handwashing at home was often not possible. Curfews, masking, and limiting travel did not depend on plumbing — and the Nation enforced some of the strictest curfews in the country.

Lesson 10: Lesson 10: By the Numbers

1. C The arrival of the railroads

The 319% jump is tied to the railroads reaching Arizona around 1880. Air conditioning and the Sunbelt boom fueled much later 20th-century growth, and statehood didn't come until 1912.

2. A 6,482

The 1860 count was 6,482 — a frontier territory largely unsettled by non-Native populations. 40,440 is the 1880 figure, after the railroads arrived.

3. B 40,440

1880 recorded 40,440 people as the railroads arrived — a 319% jump in that decade. 6,482 was the 1860 count; 204,354 is the 1910 total, three decades later.

4. D 204,354

1910 stood at 204,354. 749,587 is the 1950 postwar baseline, far later than the pre-statehood count.

5. A 749,587

749,587 is the 1950 postwar figure, not a territorial-era count. The other three are 1860, 1880, and 1910 respectively.

6. B 749,587

1950 recorded 749,587 people. 2,718,215 is the 1980 figure, after the Sunbelt boom was already under way.

7. C 2,718,215

1980 stood at 2,718,215. 5,130,632 is the 2000 count — Arizona nearly doubled again in the two decades after 1980.

8. D 5,130,632

2000 recorded 5,130,632 — roughly sevenfold its 1950 level of 749,587. 6,392,017 is the 2010 count, one census later.

9. D 6,392,017

2010 recorded 6,392,017, nearly double the 1980 figure of 2,718,215. 5,130,632 belongs to the previous census in 2000.

10. C 1950 — 204,354

1950 recorded 749,587, not 204,354 — that figure belongs to the 1910 census. The 1980, 2000, and 2010 pairings are all correct.

11. B 1540

Coronado's entrada was in 1540. 1752 is the founding of the Tubac presidio, more than two centuries later.

12. A 1752

Tubac was established in 1752. 1540 is Coronado's march and 1853 is the Gadsden Purchase treaty.

13. B 1853

The Gadsden Purchase treaty was signed in 1853. 1863 is when Congress created the Arizona Territory, a separate event a decade later.

14. D 1863

The Arizona Territory was created in 1863. 1853 is the Gadsden Purchase, which added the land but did not create the territory.

15. A Coronado, Tubac, Gadsden, Territory

Coronado 1540, Tubac 1752, Gadsden 1853, Arizona Territory 1863 — that is the chronological order.

16. C Valentine's Day

Arizona was admitted as the 48th state on February 14, 1912 — Valentine's Day — the last of the contiguous states to join the Union.

17. B 1881

The O.K. Corral gunfight was in 1881. 1886 is Geronimo's surrender, five years later.

18. A 1886

Geronimo surrendered in 1886. 1881 is the O.K. Corral gunfight, a different Wild West milestone.

19. C 1936

Hoover Dam was completed in 1936, the last of the eight pivotal years. 1912 is Arizona's statehood.

20. D Geronimo surrenders — 1881

Geronimo surrendered in 1886, not 1881 — 1881 is the year of the O.K. Corral gunfight. The other three pairings are correct.

Lesson 11: Lesson 11: Quick Recall

1. C Geronimo

Geronimo, an Apache medicine man and war leader, surrendered in 1886, ending the Apache Wars. Cochise had already made peace in 1872; Kit Carson is remembered for the 1863 Navajo campaign, and Coronado was a 16th-century conquistador.

2. A The Long Walk to Bosque Redondo

Carson's 1863 campaign forced the Navajo onto the Long Walk to Bosque Redondo. The Bascom Affair was an 1861 incident involving Cochise, and the Apache Wars ended in 1886 with Geronimo.

3. D He surrendered in 1886, ending the Apache Wars

The 1886 surrender that ended the Apache Wars was Geronimo's. Cochise was a Chiricahua Apache leader who fought the US Army to a stalemate and signed peace in 1872.

4. B The Bascom Affair

The 1861 Bascom Affair set off Cochise's war with the US Army. The Long Walk followed Carson's 1863 Navajo campaign, and the O.K. Corral gunfight was an 1881 Tombstone shootout.

5. B Carson's Navajo campaign → Cochise's peace → Geronimo's surrender

Carson's campaign was 1863, Cochise signed peace in 1872, and Geronimo surrendered in 1886 — the last of the three, since his surrender ended the Apache Wars.

6. A Barry Goldwater

Barry Goldwater, the Phoenix businessman and senator known as 'Mr. Conservative,' was the 1964 GOP nominee. John McCain was the 2008 nominee; Hayden and O'Connor never ran for president.

7. C 1981

O'Connor, raised on an Arizona cattle ranch, was appointed in 1981 — the first woman to sit on the US Supreme Court.

8. D 56 years

Hayden served 56 years — the House from 1912 to 1927 and the Senate from 1927 to 1969. No other Arizonan came close to that span.

9. C Five and a half years

The Navy pilot was a POW for five and a half years. He later served as an Arizona senator from 1987 until his death in 2018 and was the 2008 GOP presidential nominee.

10. B Barry Goldwater is the father of the Central Arizona Project

Carl Hayden, not Goldwater, shepherded the Central Arizona Project through Congress over decades of advocacy. Goldwater is remembered as the 1964 GOP nominee who reshaped the modern conservative movement.

11. D The Seven Cities of Cíbola

Coronado's 1540 expedition hunted the Seven Cities of Cíbola. The Copper Queen was an 1880s Bisbee mine, centuries later and unrelated to the conquistadors.

12. A Inhabited pueblos

Coronado found pueblos, not the gold of the Cíbola legend. The wealth the Spanish imagined was never there, which is why the expedition is remembered as a disappointment.

13. D 1692

Kino founded San Xavier del Bac in 1692, over 150 years after Coronado's 1540 march and long before Arizona's territorial era.

14. C Italy; Jesuits

Kino was an Italian Jesuit. 'France; Jesuits' gets the order right but the nationality wrong — he came from Italy, not France.

15. A Coronado's march → Kino founds San Xavier del Bac → Presidio San Agustín founded

Coronado marched in 1540, Kino founded San Xavier del Bac in 1692, and Tucson's Presidio San Agustín came in 1775 — over two centuries of Spanish presence in order.

16. B Prescott

Prescott was Arizona's first territorial capital. Phoenix has been the capital since 1889 and is the population center, while Tucson is the second-largest city.

17. C Tucson

Tucson, Arizona's second-largest city, grew from the Presidio San Agustín of 1775. It was Spanish, then Mexican, and became American with the Gadsden Purchase.

18. B 1889

Phoenix has been the capital since 1889. It was founded in 1867 along rebuilt Hohokam canals, and 1912 is the year of statehood — neither is the date it took the capital.

19. D Tucson

Tucson is Arizona's second-largest city; it was Spanish, then Mexican, before becoming American through the 1853 Gadsden Purchase.

20. A Flagstaff has been the state capital since 1889

Phoenix, not Flagstaff, has been the capital since 1889 and is the population center. Flagstaff is the northern railroad and observatory town.

21. C Flagstaff

Flagstaff grew up around the railroad, which arrived in 1882, and Lowell Observatory, founded in 1894. Prescott was the first territorial capital, Tombstone a silver boomtown, and Tucson the second-largest city.

22. A Colorado River

The Colorado River is the spine of Arizona's water supply, dammed at Hoover in 1936 and pumped across the state by the Central Arizona Project. The Rio Grande never touches Arizona.

23. D Hoover Dam

Hoover Dam, built 1931-1936 in Black Canyon on the Arizona-Nevada border, was the tallest dam in the world at 726 feet when it was completed.

24. B Gila River

The Gila River became the new southern border after the 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo; the Gadsden Purchase later added the land below it.

25. D The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo

The 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ended the war and transferred most of present-day Arizona. The Gadsden Purchase was a later land buy, not a war-ending treaty.

26. C Southern Arizona below the Gila River

The Gadsden Purchase added southern Arizona below the Gila River — which is how Tucson, Spanish then Mexican, became American. Land north of the Gila had come via Guadalupe Hidalgo.

Lesson 12: Key Concepts

1. B Ed Schieffelin

Prospector Ed Schieffelin, warned he'd find only his own tombstone in Apache country, struck silver in 1877 and named his claim — and the town — Tombstone. Wyatt Earp was the town's later lawman.

2. D The Apache Wars

Geronimo's 1886 surrender ended the major Apache Wars — the last organized Native American armed resistance in the U.S. The Mexican–American War had ended decades earlier, in 1848.

3. A Cochise

Cochise, a Chiricahua chief in southeastern Arizona, made peace in 1872 through his friend Tom Jeffords. Geronimo kept fighting and did not surrender until 1886.

4. C The 1886 surrender in Skeleton Canyon

The 1886 surrender in Skeleton Canyon was Geronimo's, not Earp's. Earp was a Tombstone lawman who feuded with the Clanton–McLaury cowboys and fought the 1881 gunfight near the O.K. Corral.

5. B Geronimo — Apache leader who surrendered in 1886

Geronimo was the Apache leader whose 1886 surrender ended the Apache Wars. Cochise was a Chiricahua chief, Schieffelin the prospector who struck silver, and Earp the Tombstone lawman.

6. C 56 years

Hayden served 56 years — the House from 1912 to 1927 and the Senate from 1927 to 1969. No other Arizonan came close to that span.

7. A Appropriations, for 14 years

Hayden chaired the powerful Appropriations Committee for 14 years alongside his seniority record. The 56 years is his whole time in Congress, not a chairmanship.

8. D Reshaping the GOP into the conservative movement that produced Reagan

Despite the landslide loss to LBJ, Goldwater remade the GOP into the conservative movement that later produced Reagan. Sun City was Del Webb's; the groundwater law and Interior post were Babbitt's.

9. B Barry Goldwater is the father of the Central Arizona Project

Carl Hayden, not Goldwater, shepherded the Central Arizona Project through Congress over decades of advocacy. Goldwater is remembered as the 1964 GOP nominee who reshaped the modern conservative movement.

10. D Hayden served over 50 years in Congress; Goldwater ran for president in 1964

Hayden's record was longevity — over 50 years in Congress starting in 1912. Goldwater's national moment was the 1964 Republican presidential nomination.

11. C San Francisco

From the Tubac presidio — Arizona's first European fort, built in 1752 — Anza launched his 1775 overland expedition that founded San Francisco.

12. A Hoover Dam

Hoover Dam, an arch-gravity dam built during the Great Depression, had its concrete work completed in 1935 (dedicated that September) and created Lake Mead — the largest reservoir in the United States.

13. C Canyon de Chelly

Canyon de Chelly, in northeastern Arizona, holds the White House Ruin and was where Kit Carson's 1864 campaign forced the Navajo on the Long Walk. Black Canyon is Hoover Dam's site.

14. D Bisbee

Bisbee, in the Mule Mountains of Cochise County, was home to the Copper Queen Mine and is now an artist colony. Tombstone was a silver town, not a copper one.

15. B The Grand Canyon — mile-deep gorge that became a national park in 1919

The Grand Canyon, carved by the Colorado River, became a national park in 1919. The cliff dwellings are at Canyon de Chelly, the 1752 presidio is Tubac, and the 1881 gunfight was in Tombstone.

16. A Citrus

Arizona's Five C's are Copper, Cotton, Cattle, Citrus, and Climate — the pillars of the territorial economy. Corn, coal, and cactus aren't on the list.

17. B Copper

Copper is one of the Five C's and Arizona's state metal; the state mines more of it than any other. Silver built Tombstone but is not the state metal.

18. A The saguaro

The saguaro tops 40 feet, lives 150–200 years, and grows almost only in the Sonoran Desert. Its white blossom is Arizona's state flower.

19. D The bolo tie

The bolo tie — a braided cord with metal tips and a sliding clasp — became Arizona's official state neckwear in 1971. The squash blossom necklace and concho belt are Southwest jewelry, not the state neckwear.

20. C The saguaro blossom — state tree

The saguaro's white blossom is Arizona's state flower, not its state tree. Copper is the state metal, turquoise the state gemstone, and the bolo tie the official state neckwear.

21. A About 70% — everything north of the Gila River

The treaty ending the Mexican–American War gave the U.S. about 70% of present-day Arizona — all land north of the Gila River. The remaining southern strip came five years later through the 1853 Gadsden Purchase.

22. D A flat southern route for a transcontinental railroad

The Gadsden Purchase secured the land below the Gila River for a flat southern transcontinental railroad route, completing Arizona's modern boundary.

23. C The westernmost battle of the Civil War

The Battle of Picacho Pass was a Civil War clash with only a handful of casualties, recognized as the war's westernmost battle with fatalities (a skirmish farther west at Stanwix Station saw no deaths) — hardly its bloodiest.

24. B Prescott

Prescott was the first territorial capital; the seat later moved to Phoenix. The 1863 split gave the region its own government for the first time.

25. A Mexican independence → Guadalupe Hidalgo → Gadsden Purchase → O.K. Corral gunfight

Mexico won independence in 1821, the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo came in 1848, the Gadsden Purchase in 1853, and the O.K. Corral gunfight in 1881.

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