



## Museum of Natural History

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**

### **Vocabulary for Early Native Peoples of Colorado guided program and the Prehistoric Pottery and Ancient Stone Tools workshop**

These are words that are commonly used in both the guided program and the workshop. Following the definition for most of the vocabulary words, we have included a sentence that incorporates the word.

- Ancestral Pueblo People (formerly known as the Anasazi) – A Native American culture flourishing in the Four Corners region from around A.D. 500 to 1300, whose descendants are the present-day Pueblo peoples.
  - Archaeologists discover new clues about how the Ancestral Pueblo People lived all the time.
- Anthropology – The science of human beings through their physical characteristics, the origin and distribution of races, their environment and social relations, and their culture.
  - Alex was very interested in how different people lived and wanted to study Anthropology in college.
- Archaeology - The study of past human life as revealed by artifacts left by ancient peoples.
  - Indiana Jones stated “Archaeology is the search facts, not truth.”
- Artifact – Something made or modified by humans usually for a purpose; an object remaining from another time or culture.

- Artifacts are one of the clues archaeologists use to understand people that lived long ago.
- Excavate – To dig out and remove; to reveal by digging away a covering.
  - Noah carefully excavated the dirt from around the ancient pot.
- Four Corners Area – The area where the states of Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, and Utah come together; This is the only place in the United States where four states touch.
  - If you go to the Four Corners area, you can stand in four states all at the same time.
- Nomadic – People who have no fixed residence, but move from place to place.
  - The Cheyenne were one of the nomadic tribes of Native Americans in Colorado.
- Pottery – Dishes, pots, bowls, and other items made from clay and hardened by heat.
  - Pottery is a very important clue to understanding the life of the Ancestral Pueblo People.
- Pueblo – An American Indian village of Arizona or New Mexico that consists of flat-roofed stone or adobe houses joined in groups sometimes several stories high. Also, a member of a group of American Indian peoples of the southwestern United States.
  - On a trip to the southwest, visiting one of the modern Pueblos can be one of the highlights.
- Sinew – tendon from an animal used to attach arrow points to arrow shafts, spear points to spear shafts, etc.
  - Sinew is a very strong, sting-like material that was commonly used by Native Americans.