

MAKING NEW WORDS YOUR OWN

Lesson 18

CONTEXT: People and Places

Desert Mysteries: Prehistoric Civilizations

Until about seven thousand years ago, our ancestors did not know how to grow food. The Cochise people, American Indians of Mexico and the Southwestern United States, were the first people to grow corn. Through the work of archaeologists, people who study the things that ancient peoples have left behind, we have learned about how the Cochise lived. Their artifacts include pottery, houses, and ancient garbage dumps.

In the following exercises, you will have the opportunity to expand your vocabulary by reading about the ancient civilizations of the Southwest. Below are ten Vocabulary Words that will be used in these exercises.

arid	investment	luxurious	relate	solitary
counterfeit	knapsack	ornamental	request	transparent

EXERCISE 1

Wordbusting

Directions. Follow these instructions for this word and the nine words on the next page.

- Figure out the word's meaning by looking at its **context**, its **structure**, and its **sound**. Fill in at least one of the three CSS boxes. Alternate which boxes you complete.
- Then, look up the word in a dictionary, read all of its meanings, and write the meaning of the word as it is used in the sentence.
- Follow this same process for each of the Vocabulary Words on the next page. You will need to draw your own map for each word. Use a separate sheet of paper.

1.

arid



The Southwest is a primarily arid region. To grow there, plants must be able to survive with little rainfall.



Context:

Structure:

Sound:

Dictionary:

2.

investment

The Hohokam were the descendants of the ancient Cochise. The Hohokam lived near rivers in southern Arizona. They made a huge **investment** of time and energy to create irrigation canals.

3.

knapsack

On a hike out to the ruins of the Hohokam city, you will need to carry water in a **knapsack**. Once, Hohokam canals flowed into the city. Now, the only water around is what you carry on your back.

4.

luxurious

The Hohokam ruins are near present-day Phoenix, Arizona. Life in this ancient city was comfortable, even **luxurious**. Harvests were rich, so some people probably had time to relax.

5.

ornamental

Archaeologists have discovered decorative, **ornamental** jewelry and crafts made by the Hohokam.

6.

relate

Scientists **relate** these decorative objects to the lifestyle of the people who made them. Because these objects would have taken time to make, scientists believe that the Hohokam must have had a lot of spare time.

7.

counterfeit

Many people are eager to own ancient carvings and pottery. For this reason, some dishonest people make **counterfeit** artifacts.

8.

request

If you ask for information on the religious beliefs of the Hohokam, your **request** cannot be granted easily. Some archaeologists believe that the large, thick-walled Hohokam ruins were once temples. Others think they might have been forts.

9.

solitary

Imagine that you stand at the foot of one of these **solitary** buildings. You are struck by the loneliness of the place. Who built this massive structure with its five-foot-thick adobe walls? Where did these people go?

10.

transparent

The answer to this question is far from **transparent**. No one knows what happened to the great Hohokam civilization. By the time the Spanish arrived, the Hohokam cities had been abandoned.

EXERCISE 2**Context Clues** 

Directions. Scan the definitions in Column A. Then, think about how the boldface words are used in the sentences in Column B. To complete the exercise, match each definition in Column A with the correct Vocabulary Word from Column B. Write the letter of your choice on the line provided. Finally, write the Vocabulary Word on the line before the definition.

COLUMN A

11. word: _____
n. an imitation intended to deceive; *v.* to make an imitation in order to deceive; *adj.* made in imitation of something

12. word: _____
n. the act of asking for something; something asked for; *v.* to ask for

13. word: _____
n. a bag or case worn on the back

14. word: _____
adj. decorative

15. word: _____
adj. living or being alone; without others; single; only; lonely, empty

16. word: _____
n. something purchased for future profit; effort spent with the expectation of return

17. word: _____
adj. fond of or enjoying luxury; splendid; rich; comfortable; expensive

18. word: _____
adj. capable of being seen through; easily understood; very clear

19. word: _____
v. to tell the story of; to connect or associate; to have some connection to

20. word: _____
adj. not enough rainfall; not interesting; not fertile

COLUMN B

(A) Randy is interested in ancient Anasazi people who once lived in the Southwest. He decides to take a camping trip to that area. He packs a tent and clothes into his **knapsack**.

(B) He visits the Anasazi cliff dwellings at Mesa Verde National Park. It will be hard to relate to his family the drama of these ancient houses. A snapshot will not tell the whole story.

(C) After lunch, Randy decides to take a hike along the Petroglyph Trail. The trail is **solitary**. Randy doesn't meet anyone.

(D) The trail leads to a large stone panel with markings cut into it. These markings are called *petroglyphs*. Randy wonders if the markings have meaning or if they are only **ornamental**.

(E) At the park museum, Randy asks a favor. He **requests** that a park ranger explain the petroglyphs to him.

(F) She tells Randy, "Archaeologists have made a great **investment** of time to answer that question. So far, their efforts have not paid off."

(G) In the museum, Randy sees a large display of ancient Anasazi baskets. The collection demonstrates that the Anasazi led productive lives, not **arid** ones.

(H) He wonders how the fragile baskets could have survived. The ranger assures him that they are not **counterfeit**. They are the real thing.

(I) Randy camps in the Mesa Verde campground. His tent is not **luxurious**. However, he feels that the splendor of nearby Anasazi Cliff Palace is better than any four-star hotel.

(J) Through the **transparent** plastic of his tent window, he sees the same stars the Anasazi saw.

EXERCISE 3*Like Meanings and Opposite Meanings* 

Directions. For each item below, circle the letter of the choice that means the same, or about the same, as the boldface word.

21. the **arid** region

- (A) productive
- (B) infertile
- (C) distant
- (D) sandy

22. a financial **investment**

- (A) something bought for future profit
- (B) a business expense
- (C) a salary
- (D) a person who buys stocks and bonds

23. to carry my **knapsack**

- (A) folding chair
- (B) lantern
- (C) backpack
- (D) hammer

24. to **request** a favorite song

- (A) offer
- (B) open
- (C) discard something
- (D) ask for something

25. to relate a **myth**

- (A) remember
- (B) repeat often
- (C) tell
- (D) shout happily

Directions. For each item below, circle the letter of the choice that means the opposite, or about the opposite, of the boldface word.

26. a **counterfeit** artifact

- (A) broken
- (B) genuine
- (C) ancient
- (D) worthless

27. designed to be **ornamental**

- (A) useful
- (B) cheap
- (C) expensive
- (D) pleasing

28. a **solitary** example

- (A) bland
- (B) excellent
- (C) multiple
- (D) important

29. the **transparent** lake

- (A) easily reached
- (B) deep
- (C) very clouded
- (D) inviting

30. the **luxurious** temple

- (A) large
- (B) restored
- (C) foreign
- (D) plain