

# Every Picture Tells a Story

When we want to learn how people lived in the past in New Mexico, we don't always have written histories to tell us. Sometimes we get good ideas from the artifacts or objects people left behind, or from photographs. You can be an archaeologist and see how much you can learn by looking very carefully at the included picture.

**Choose a picture and use the space to write your thoughts about the questions.**

What observations (also called evidence) do you see for the kind of house these people lived in?

What material (or materials) is the house made of?

Is this a summer house, or a house lived in all year round? How do you know?

Look carefully for objects that may be clues of how people lived. What kinds of work did the family do to feed themselves, or keep their house repaired?

Do you see any objects or evidence that kids lived here? What chores might the kids do to help out at home?

Make up a story about what life was like at this home.

This activity is an adaptation from Lesson 7 of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management's  
*Project Archaeology: Investigating Shelter* (1990)

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