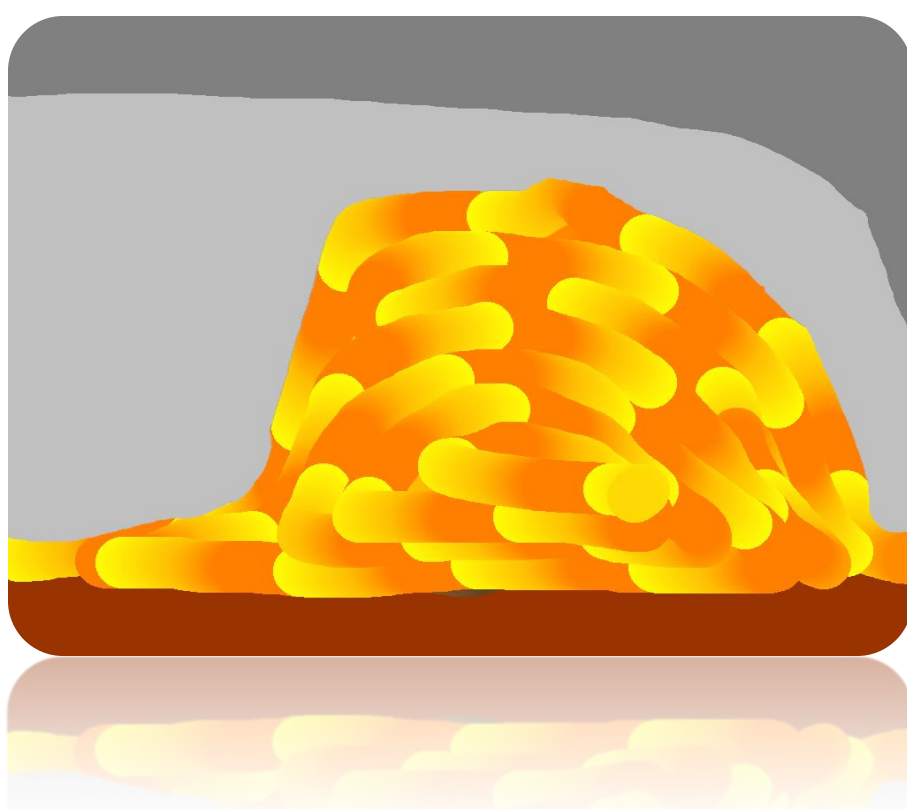


The Hopi

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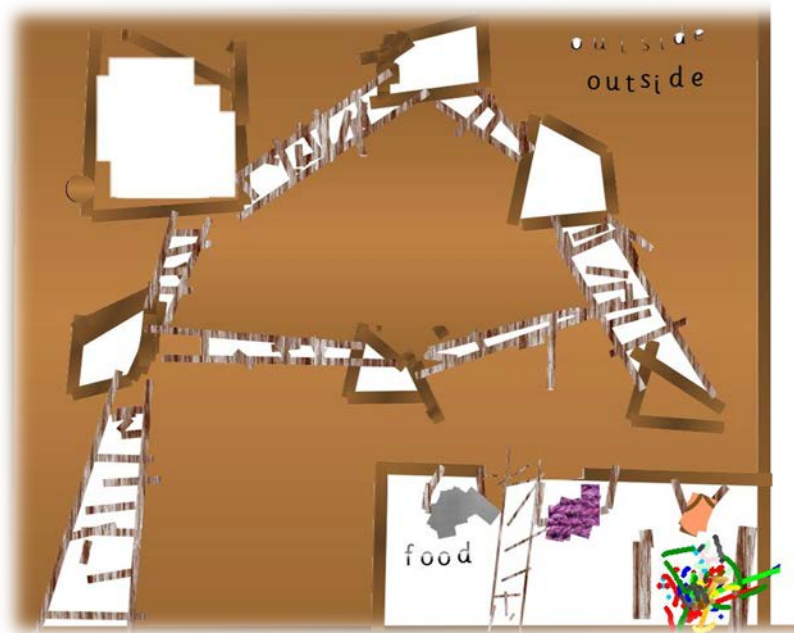


One sunny day in the Hopi tribe, two kids, a brother and a sister, watched the sun rise over the mesas. Mesas are flat-topped hills with steep sides. It was hot and suddenly the breeze blew the sand. The wind blew so fast! It blew us away literally! Then Brother and Sister went to see the canyons. The canyons were gigantic! The two kids had to look up! Then after that, the kids went to the river. The water flowed fast!! They saw jackrabbits, bobcats, and coral snakes. The Southwest was a very different place.



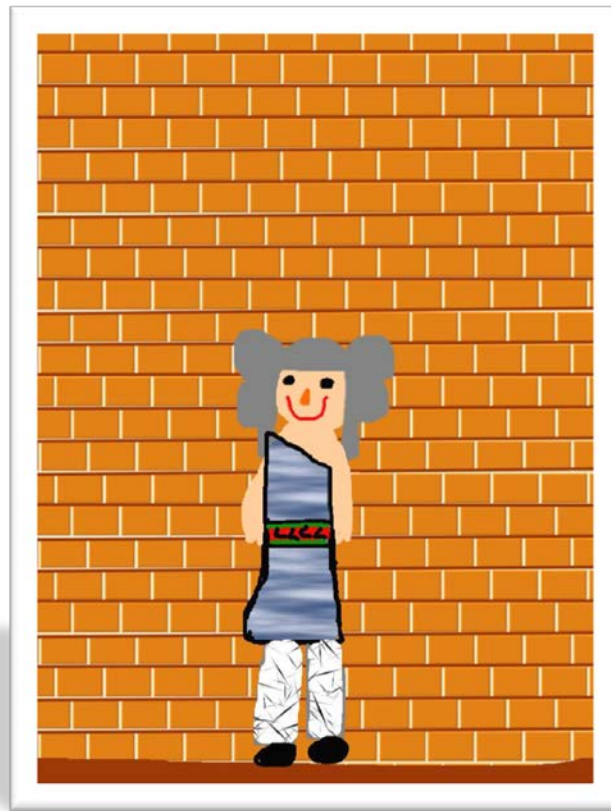
We woke up. Our bed was very uncomfortable. It was made of hay. We went to go get our clothes. They were dirty because the dust blew on them. So we put our clothes on, and climbed down the ladder.

While we were walking down the path, we saw some women building a pueblo. A pueblo is a Hopi house that is made out of stone and wood. We could not see much because dust was in our eyes. We only saw mud bricks, sandstone, flagstone, clay, wood, and juniper. They said they got clay from riverbanks.



After they talked, we went to our pueblo. We climbed back up the ladder. Sometimes we wish we had stairs. But Mother always says “We can get hurt from predators. Our ladders stop the animals from coming up to our house. We need protection. That is why we have the ladders.” I hate it because I am afraid of heights.

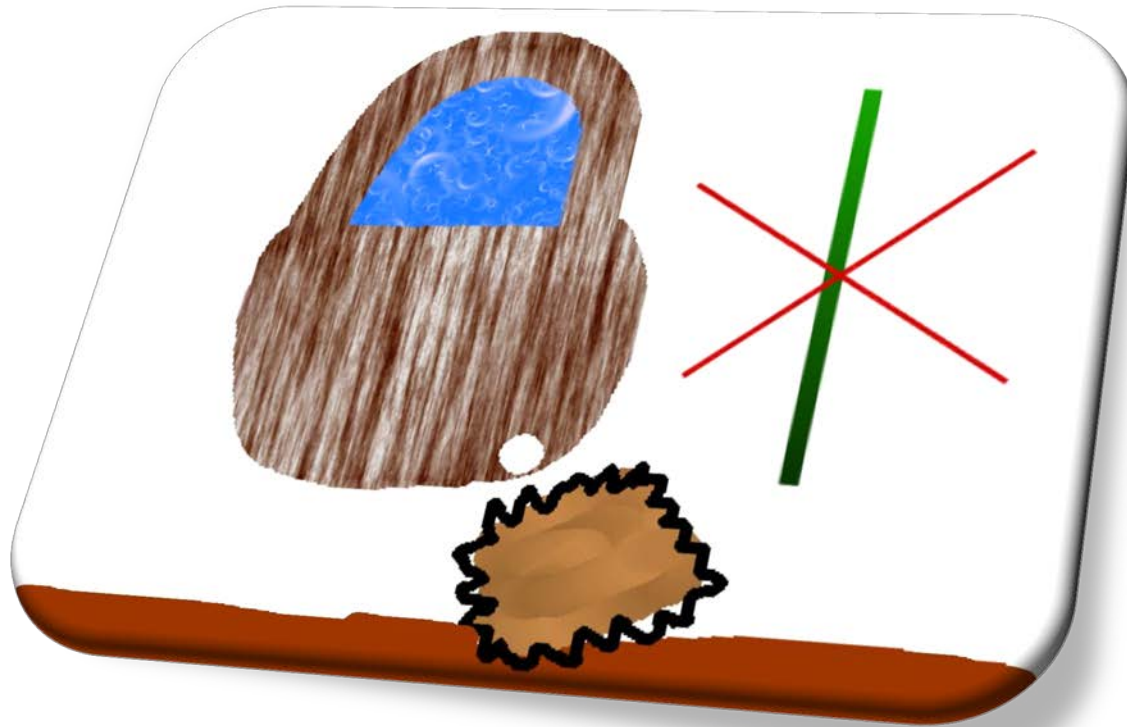
This morning we came up with an idea. We wanted to build a pueblo. So we went outside and started to build one. But we had to get mud, clay and sandstone. That’s all the materials we had. It was hard. It took us many hours to build the pueblo. Once we built it, we told our parents. They were impressed with our work. And we learned all that from the women who were building the pueblo! And our parents were very happy for us!



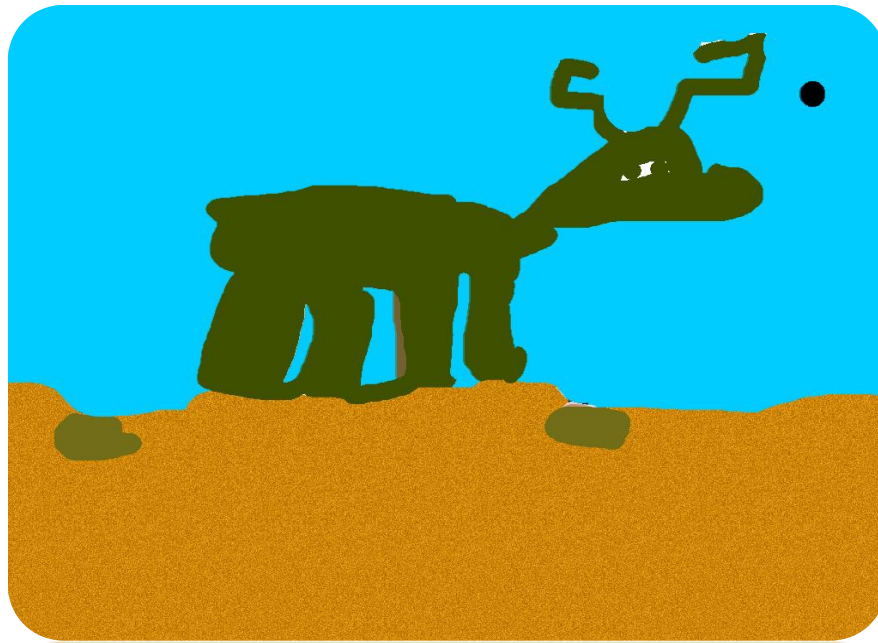
When we were done building the pueblo, I heard my brother calling. He said, “I have some deer skin for sister’s clothes.” Then I put my hair in knots. Next, I put buns on both sides. I am a girl so I wear my hair like this. When you are young, you wear buns on the side with knots and braids. But when you get older, your hair style changes. After you get married, you have to keep your hair down. Each village has their own style.



“I am coming!” I said to Brother. I run down the ladder. I took the deer skin and started weaving through it with my yucca plant needle. I am making a mantra for Sister. A mantra is a Native American dress that women wear. I added some turquoise jewelry that Brother found in the pueblo. I attached some feathers for Sister’s mantra. Then I was done! Sister and Brother then came into the pueblo. Sister was wearing the sheep’s wool blanket that I made for her to stay warm. I put the mantra on her! “It looks great,” everybody said!



Then Brother said, “We need some water, but I see a hole that the water might go through!” So I go get the yucca plant and start fixing the basket! But there is no more yucca plant! So I go get a bit of clothing to stitch in. Then I go give it to Brother and Father. Brother goes to the mountain ranges to get the water. I get Sister and go outside. We look at the land. We see the pointy cacti and the flat-topped mesas. It is so beautiful!



Father and Brother are going hunting in the mountains to hunt for elk. I want to go, too. But first I need my bow and arrow from Chief. Father says it will be a dangerous trip because of rattle snakes and big horn sheep. Normally we try to hunt for elk, but if we can't find elk, we hunt duck, rabbit, and turkey. It's late at night and we hear something. Father says it must be a big herd of elk! I say, "We hit the jackpot!" I grabbed my bow and arrow and Father's spear and we come back with 2 elk!



We bring the food home. Sister and Mother are waiting for us. They have gathered wild tea, wild spinach, pinyon nuts, and dried corn back at the pueblo. When we return, we have a big feast. We all enjoyed all of the food.

Mother, Father, Brother, and Sister all get a good night's rest after a great Hopi day.