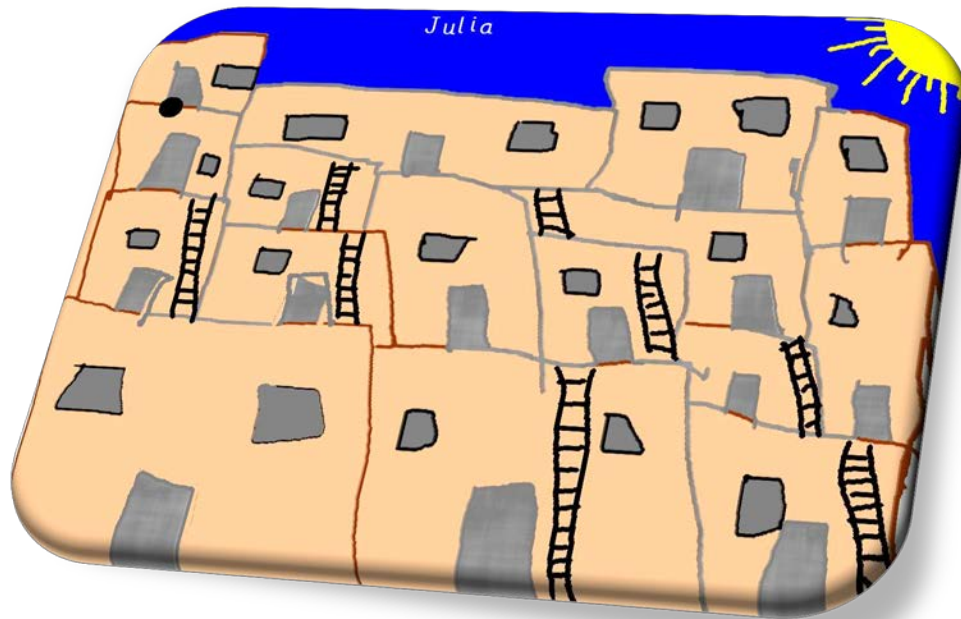


# The Hopi

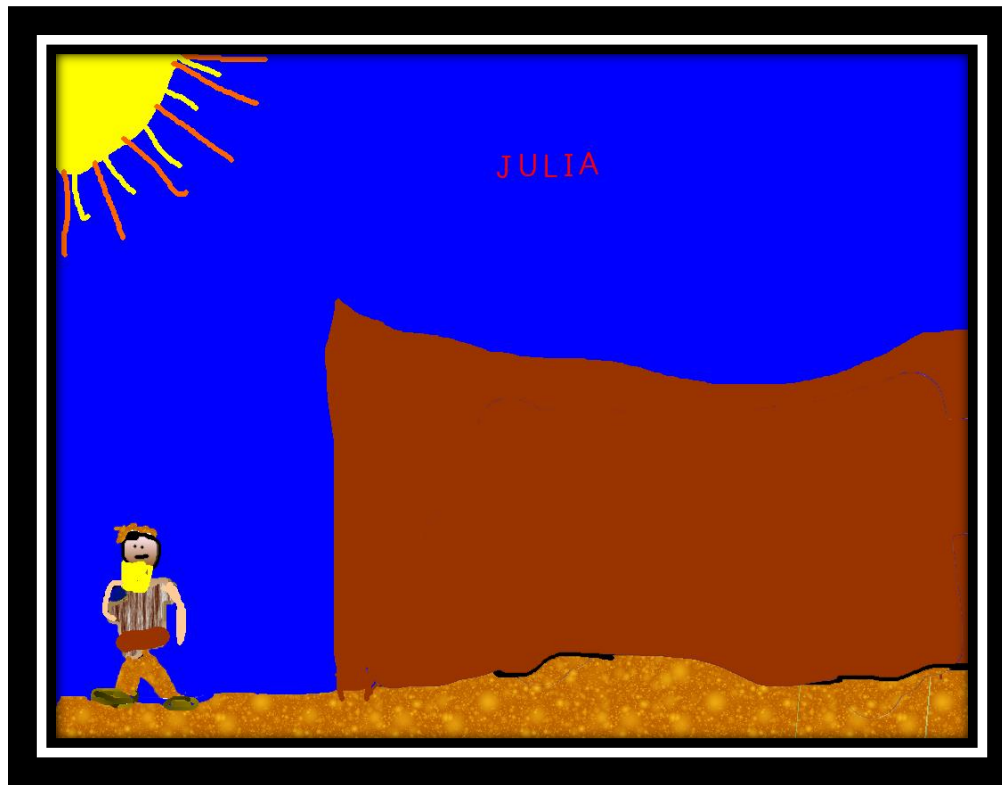
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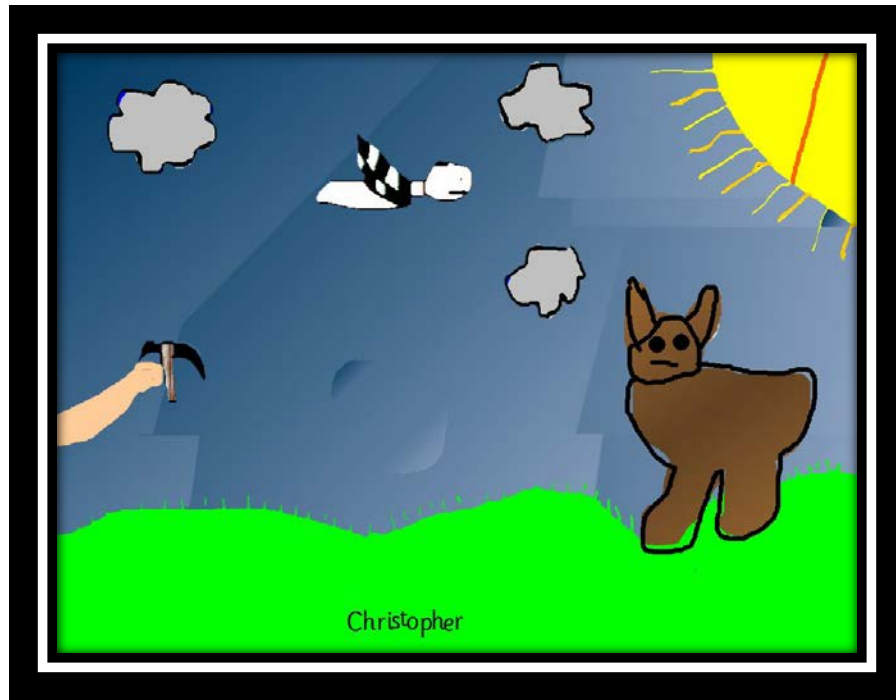
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Hi, my name is Strong Bear. I am a member of the Hopi tribe. Here in the Southwest it is really HOT. I have many members of my family. I have 2 brothers and 2 sisters. One brother is named Sneaky Snake, the other brother is named Risky Rabbit. One sister's name is Shy Cat and my other sister's name is Helpful Rabbit! I live in a pueblo. The pueblo is really cool because homes are built on other homes. It is like a village and it is built with mud and clay. In the summer the clay keeps the house cool. In the winter the clay keeps us warm. We live in the upper stories. We use ladders to move story-to-story. We also have underground rooms. We use the bottom story for storage. I live with my, aunts, uncles, cousins, and every part of my family. When you get married you will still live in the house. When the house gets crowded, you build a house connected to yours. The grandma is the leader of the household. There are about 20 people living in our house.



One day I got off my sleeping mat. I put my animal skin leggings on, sash and kilt. I also put on my sandals woven from yucca plant fiber. I went downstairs and outside to eat warm corn bread from the outside oven. After I ate I saw canyons from far away. I also saw a mesa. My father said, "We are going hunting now." I am so excited because it is my first time. We started walking.



It took us a long time to walk to the **mountains**. My brothers and I went up and down the **mountain** paths and finally we found food. We saw a pronghorn antelope. The pronghorn antelope was mad. He was looking for food, too. I had gone out with my bow and arrow to hunt. I was hoping to get a rabbit, bear or wild turkey but I decided to go for the **pronghorn**.



Suddenly the *attack* began. It was my first hunting ***EXPEDITION!*** I pulled back my bow and let the arrow fly! I missed. I loaded again. This time I was closer. Then I shot again and yes, I hit him! It was my first antelope! **Yeah!** Then we picked it up and we brought it to the village. Tonight we will have a feast. I can't wait to eat my antelope with the **corn** that my mother grew. My mom worked very hard to grow this corn because it's so dry in the desert where we live. Maybe we'll also have some wild spinach that my sister gathered.

Then my sisters came out of the pueblo. They made me a necklace to congratulate me on my first kill. I liked it because it had my favorite colors, **turquoise, green** and **red**.

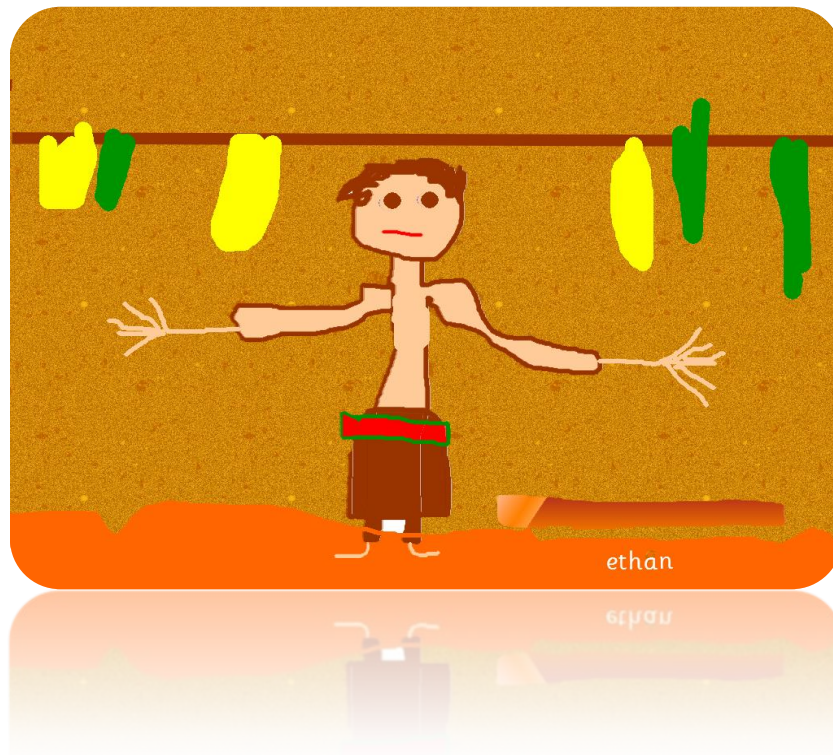


After the feast it was time to work. My mother's job is to teach my sisters how to cook, grind corn, and take care of babies. My father's job is to teach me and my brothers how to use, and make bows and arrows, and rabbit sticks.



When we take a break from working, my brothers, my sisters and I play games together. We play darts with corn cobs. We tie feathers on them to throw at targets. We also play field hockey using hickory sticks and corn stalks to hit the ball. The goals are stones placed in a semi-circle. The ball is buried and the game starts when the ball is dug out. Uh-oh, I've got to go. It has started to get dark and I call my father to come into the pueblo.





“Finally, time for father to tell us the myth,” Strong Bear said. It is our tradition to tell them to teach us lessons. Father came into the pueblo and said, “The Hopi believe that there are 4 worlds. The first three were destroyed by Dawa because the people stopped praying and caring for the land. Now we are on the fourth world and we got here by climbing up a reed. The entrance is in the Grand Canyon.” “Good thing we still pray!” I said. Again! Again! “Tell it again, I like the part about the blue ants!” I said.





Father said it was getting late and I had to go to sleep. We climbed the ladder up to our room. Outside it was getting cold in the desert. Today was an exciting day, but now it was time for sleep.