

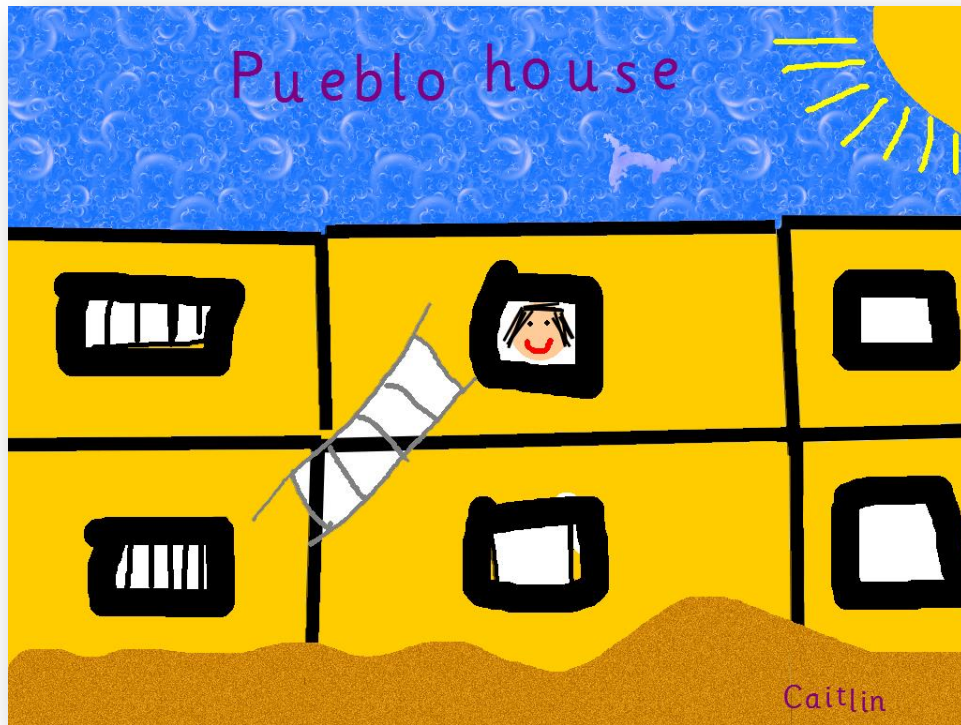
Strong Deer's Life in the Hopi Tribe

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December 2015



I'm Strong Deer, a member of the Hopi tribe. We live in the Southwest Region where it is really dry and hot during the day. At night it can get very cold. My village is located in the desert where we are surrounded by rocky flat land. There are also lots of flat-topped hills called mesas.



When I woke up, I looked out the window of our pueblo and saw all the ladders. We use them to climb up to the different floors. We store things in the bottom stories and live in the top ones. Many families share a pueblo. The women built it by stacking up flagstone and sandstone and sticking the stones together with adobe mud. They covered our roof with a thick layer of clay to keep it cool inside.



I got my clothes on to go hunting with father. I put on my woven shirt, the moccasins mother wove from yucca leaves, and leggings to protect me from cactus. I looked outside, the sun was shining above the red rocks and sandy land.



I asked my father if it was time to hunt. Father said “Yes,” so we headed outside. I hoped we might catch a deer, bighorn sheep, a pronghorn, a bear, rabbit, wild turkey, quail, duck, or dove. We would have to walk to the mountains to find them. I really hoped while we were hunting my sister and mother would gather wild tea, wild spinach, acorns, and some pinyon nuts. The women also grow corn, beans, and squash, they are known as the “3 sisters,” and melons. It is hard to grow things because it doesn’t rain much. So we do dry farming and plant next to the mesas. If it rains it runs into the garden! We planned to meet back at the pueblo and share a meal together.



After the hunt, we headed back to the tribe with the deer we caught. When we got to the pueblo my father and I prepared the deer for cooking. Then we cleaned and sharpened the bows and arrows for the next hunt. We saw my sister working on some of our arts and crafts like making Kachina dolls from the roots of a cottonwood tree. These dolls are given to girls twice a year to bring them good luck. The Hopi think there are good spirits inside of them. We also worked on our shell and turquoise jewelry.



Father and I went to the kiva oven to see what was cooking, we found out it was deer! My mother and sister brought it to our eating place. They were very proud of us for getting it for the family, we said a prayer for our food.



The food was delicious! After dinner we went in our pueblo, we made sure we had enough food for tomorrow and then we all said goodnight to each other, and said a prayer, “Thank you for this day, for this food, and for our family.” All of our stomachs were full from the deer and we all slept soundly and well.