

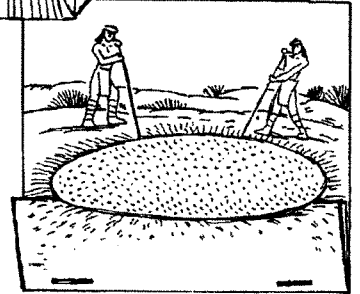
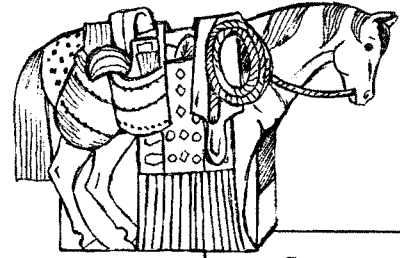
# On the Move



## A Roasted Desert Dish

(MESCALERO APACHE)

Students make a model that demonstrates the importance of horses to the Apache, and one that shows how they roasted a desert plant.



### MESCALERO APACHE TRADITIONS

Like other Apache tribes, the Mescalero were often on the move. Whether they were in the mountains, the desert, or hunting buffalo on the Great Plains, the Mescalero relied on horses to transport them and their belongings. Burden baskets, blankets, bows and arrows, moccasins and clothing, water containers, and shelter were carefully packed and secured on the strong backs of horses.

As they moved, the Mescalero took advantage of the plants and animals they found. They gathered grasses, fruits, flowers, pods, berries, roots, nuts, seeds, and bark. They hunted sheep, deer, rabbits, birds, and other game.

One of the most important foods for the Mescalero was from the *agave* or century plant. The Mescalero cut the leaves and the stalks of the agave plant and roasted them in a pit that was usually about twelve feet across and four feet deep. In the pit, they made a fire among rocks. On top of the fire, they placed the chopped parts of the agave plants and covered them with wet grasses and then with about three feet of earth. The agave baked for three to five days. The Mescalero dried any excess roasted agave in the sun to store it. Later they prepared the vegetable for eating by soaking it in water to soften it. Roasted agave is a sweet, juicy, and stringy vegetable that tastes like a cross between squash and sweet potatoes.

## Materials

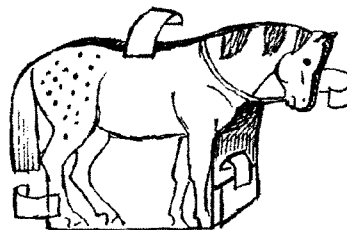
- ☼ photocopies of pages 4–6 for each student
- ☼ scissors
- ☼ tape
- ☼ crayons, colored pencils, or markers (optional)

## MAKING THE MODELS

### *On the Move*

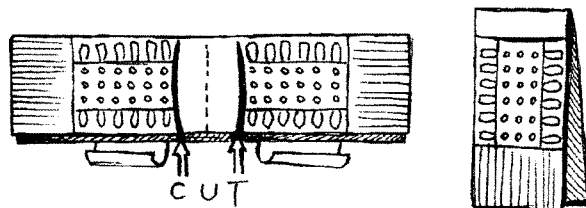
Guide students in following these directions to make their model:

**1** Color pages 4–6 as desired. Then cut out the HORSE on page 4 and fold up each side along the dotted lines.

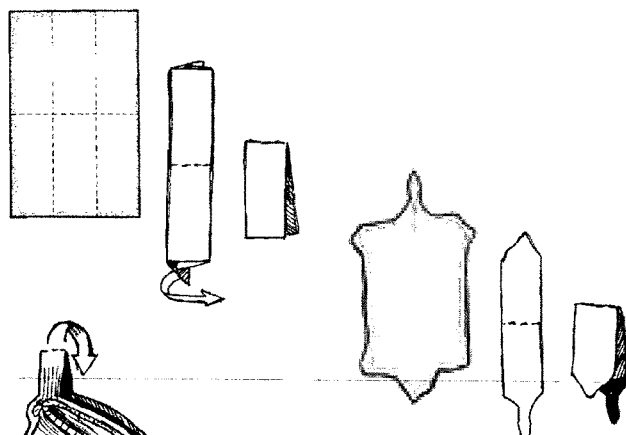


**2** Fold the four tabs at the front and back of the HORSE and tape. Also, tape along the head and back of the horse as shown.

**3** Cut out the SADDLEBAGS on page 5 and the curved slits on them. Fold the pattern in half lengthwise along the long dotted line, and tape closed as shown. Then fold the SADDLEBAGS in half along the short dotted line.



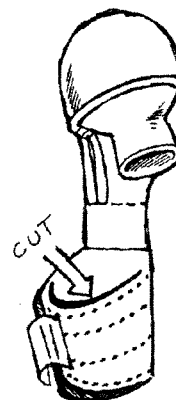
**4** Cut out the BLANKETS on pages 5–6. Fold each lengthwise, into thirds, and tape closed. Then fold the BLANKETS in half along the short dotted line.



**5** Cut out the BURDEN BASKETS on page 5. Fold along the dotted line.



**6** Cut out the TWINED-BASKET WATER JAR/BURDEN BASKET on page 6. Cut open the slit, fold back the flap, and tape as shown. Then fold along the dotted line.



**7** Set aside these items and then cut out the remaining items on pages 5–6 for use in Teaching With the Model, page 3.

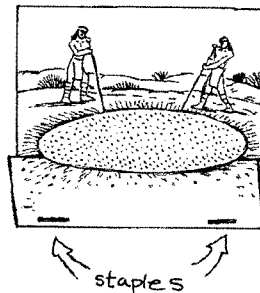
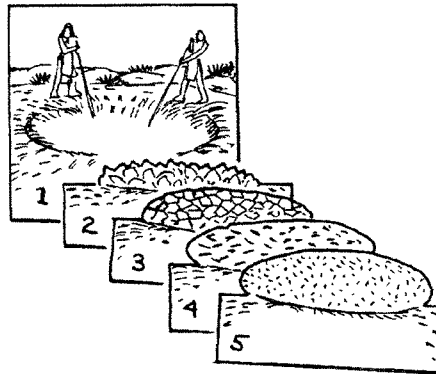
## A Roasted Desert Dish

Guide students in following these directions to make their model:

1 Color page 7 as desired. Then cut out the patterns.

2 Stack the patterns 2–5 in order so that 2 is on the bottom and 5 is on the top.

3 Align the stack with the bottom of the BACKGROUND and staple twice as shown.



### Materials

- ☀ photocopy of page 7 for each student
- ✂ scissors
- 📌 stapler
- ☀ crayons, colored pencils, or markers (optional)

## TEACHING WITH THE MODELS

1 Where did the Mescalero Apache travel? (*They traveled in the mountains and the deserts of the Southwest and in the Great Plains.*)

2 Invite students to choose items to pack on their horse. Have them think about the function of each item as they make their choices. Then ask them to use their models to identify the items their horses are transporting and explain why they chose these items to pack. (*Answers will vary.*)

3 What did the Mescalero gather and hunt? (*They gathered grasses, fruits, and so on, and hunted sheep, deer, and other game.*)

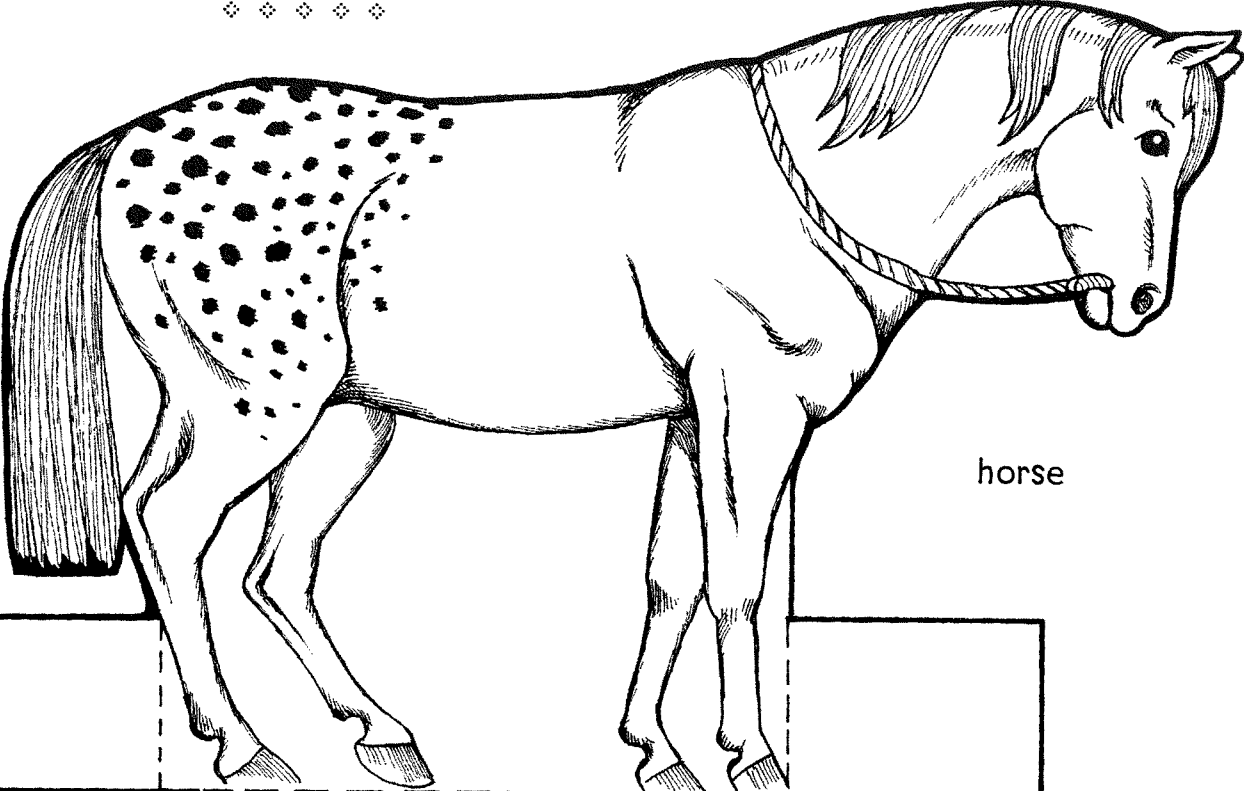
4 What is agave, and how did the Mescalero use it? (*Agave is a desert plant that was a staple of the Mescalero's diet. The Mescalero roasted it in deep pits.*)

5 Starting with the bottom layer, encourage students to lift each layer on their Desert Dish models to read about how the Mescalero prepared the agave for roasting.

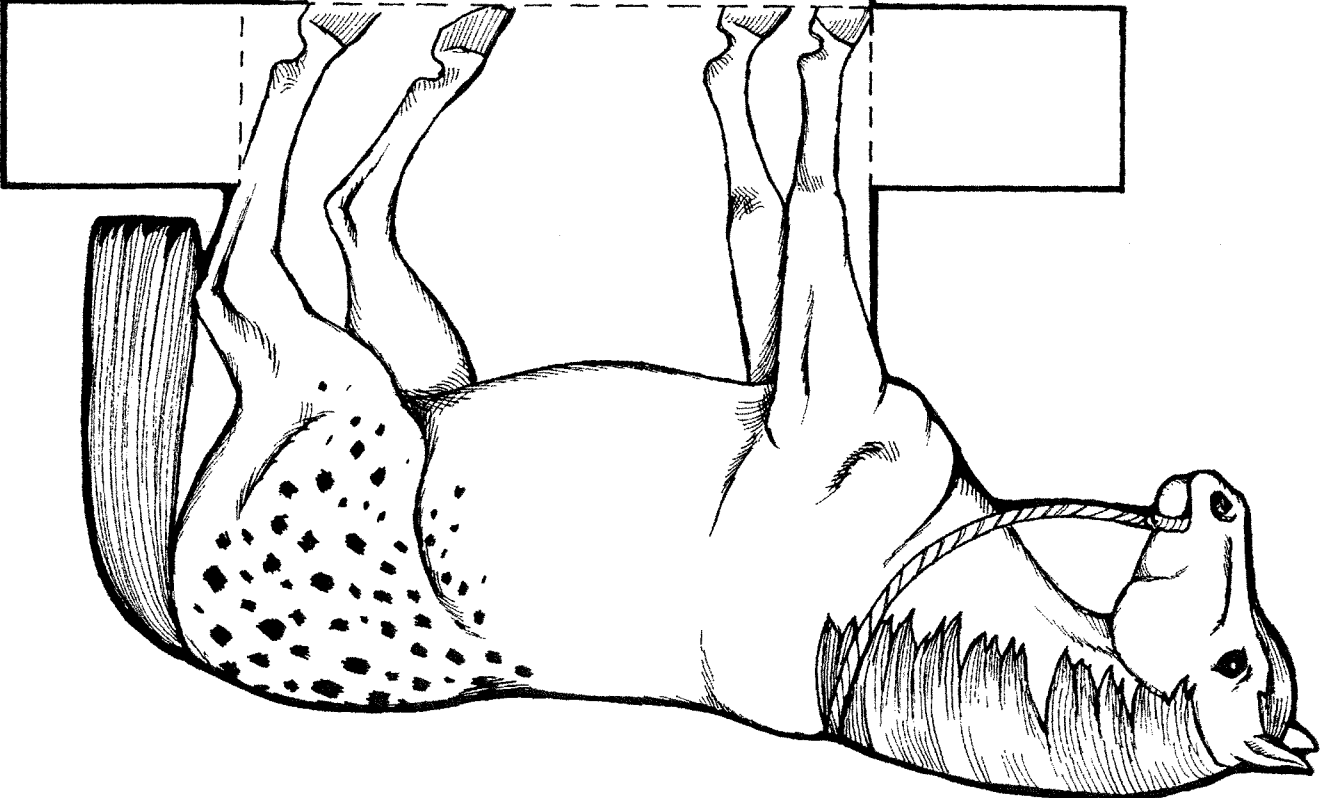
## Do More!

Agave is just one kind of plant that grows in the Chihuahuan and Sonoran deserts in the southwestern United States. Challenge students to research other plants that grow in these deserts and create a desert plant field guide. For each page of the field guide, students can draw a picture of a plant and write about its size, life cycle, characteristics that make it adapted to desert conditions, and so on.

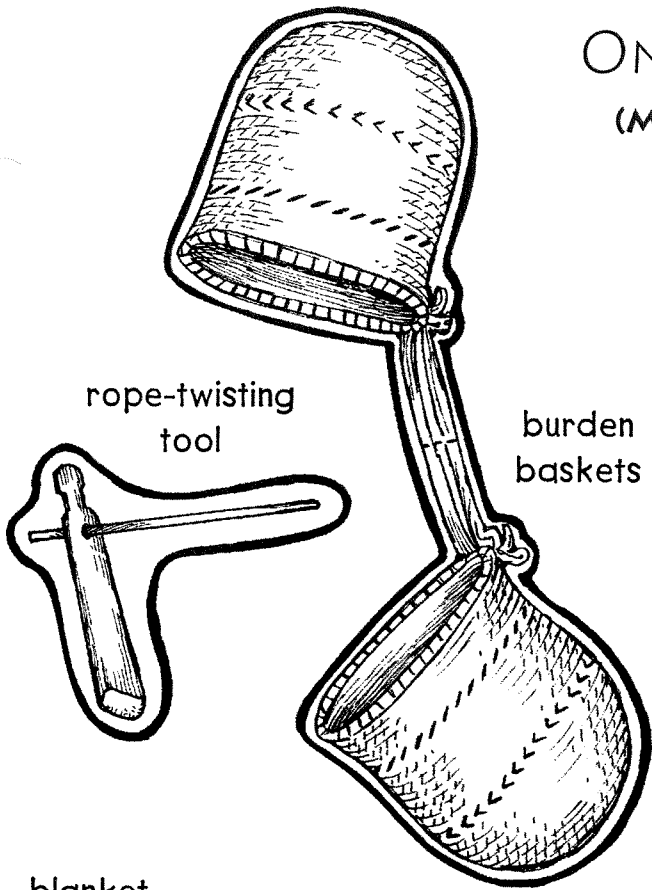
# ON THE MOVE (MESCALERO APACHE)



horse



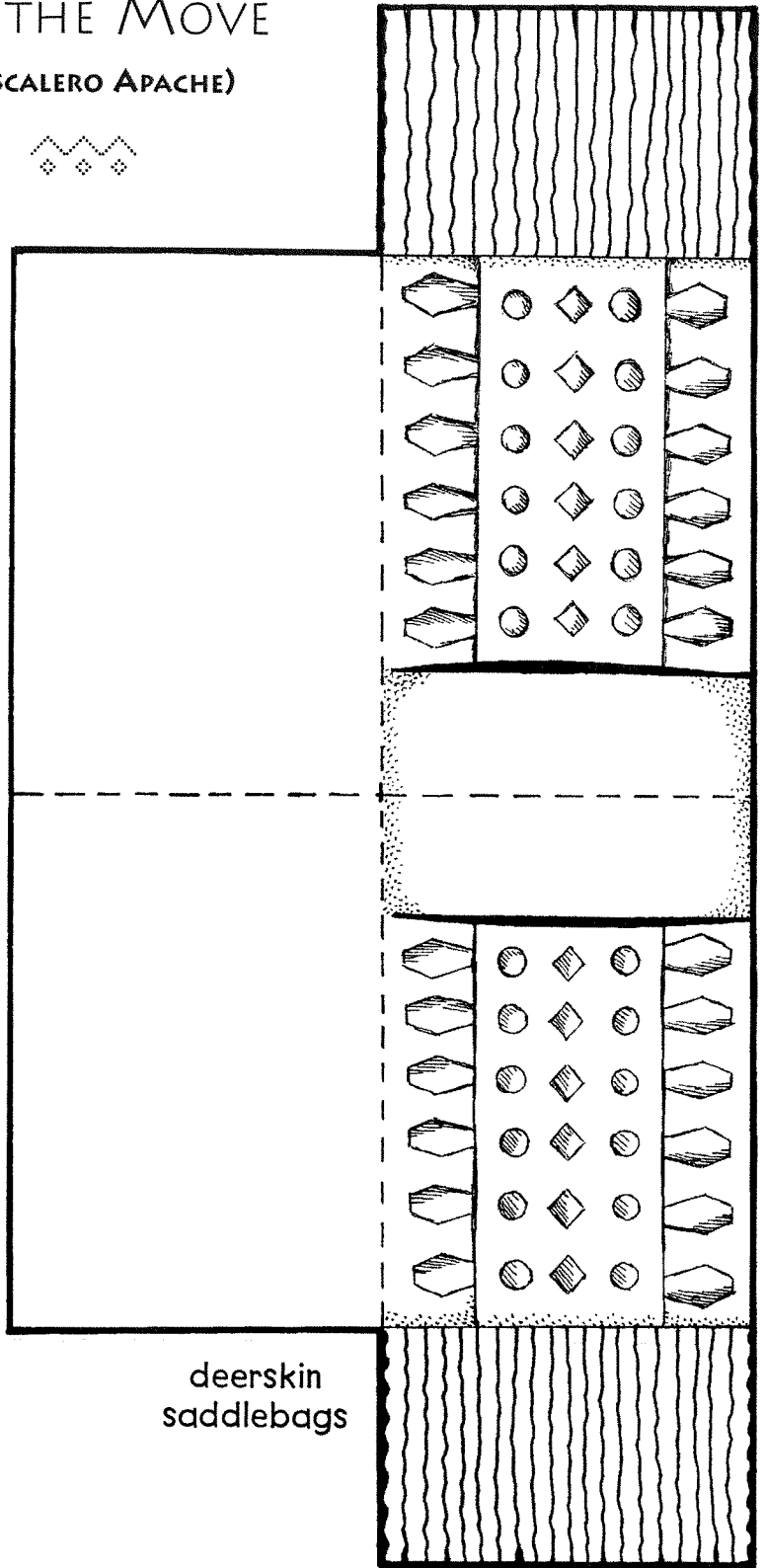
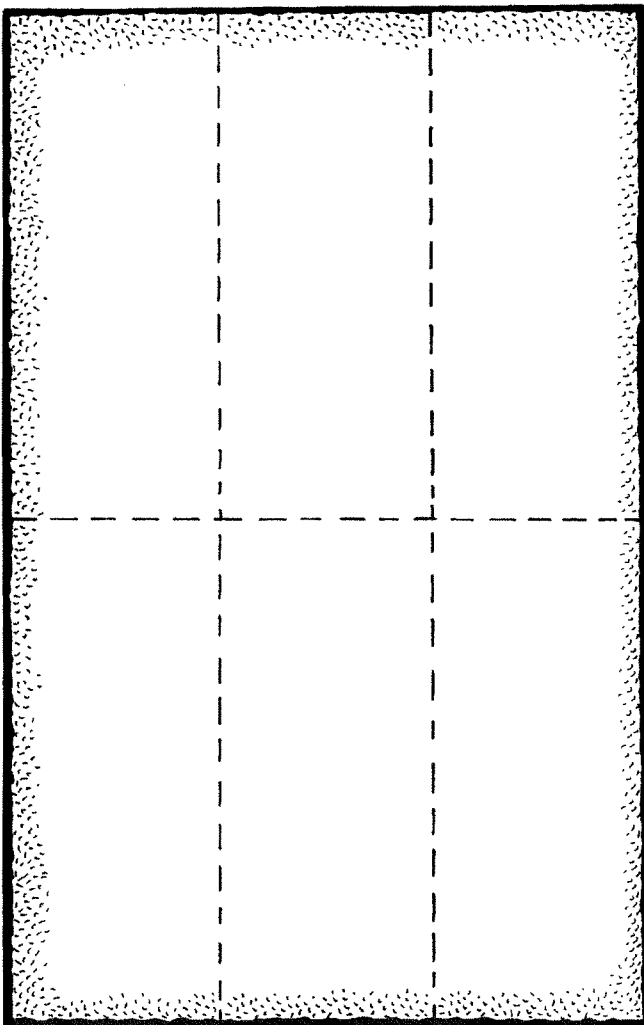
# ON THE MOVE (MESCALERO APACHE)



rope-twisting  
tool

burden  
baskets

blanket

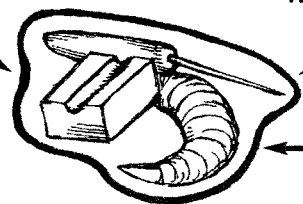


deerskin  
saddlebags

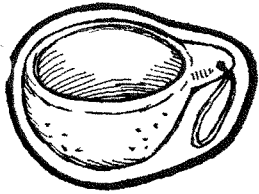
arrow-  
straightening  
tool

hole-punching tool

hide-scraping  
tool



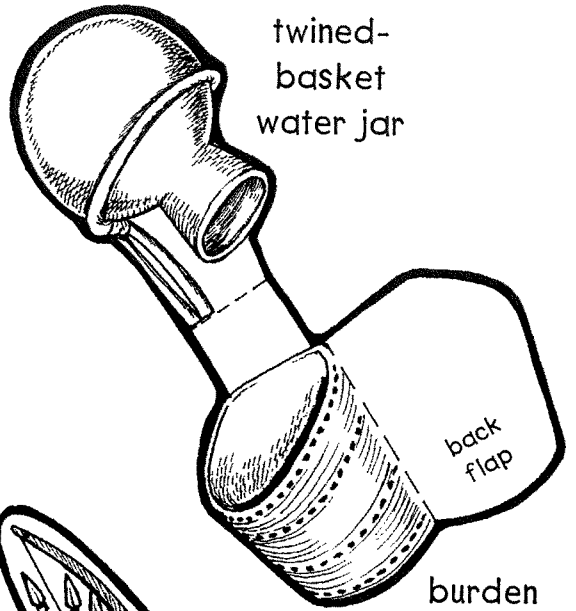
# ON THE MOVE (MESCALERO APACHE)



gourd  
drinking cup

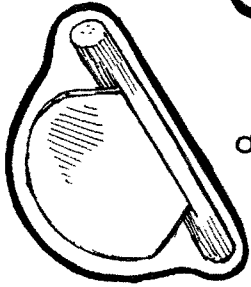


woman's long  
deerskin  
moccasins



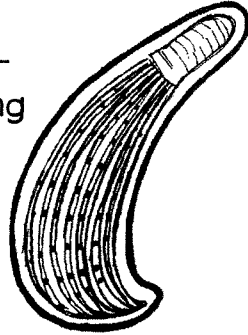
twined-  
basket  
water jar

back  
flap

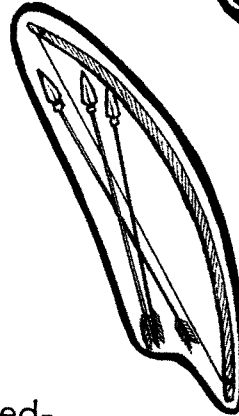


agave-leaf  
trimmer

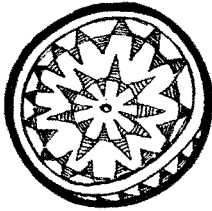
seed-  
beating  
tool



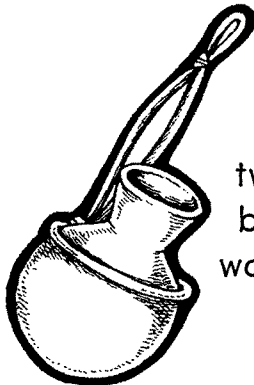
burden  
basket



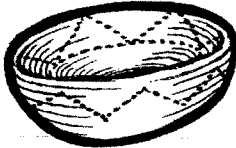
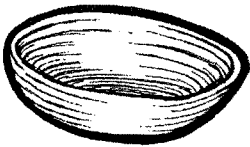
bow and arrows



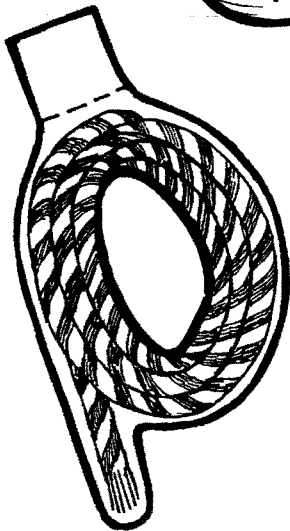
coiled  
willow-branch  
baskets



twined-  
basket  
water jar

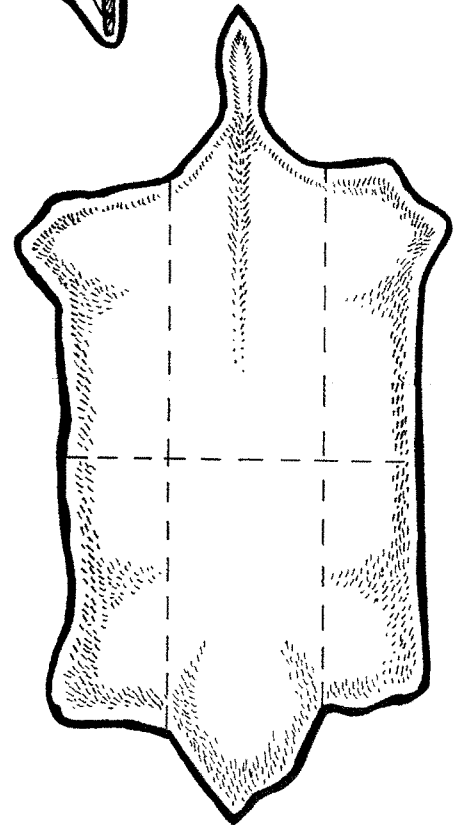
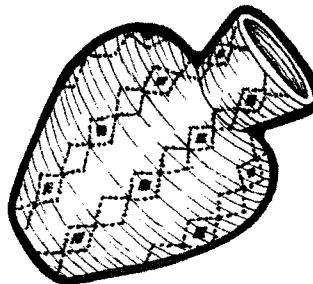


straw  
hairbrush



horse hair  
rope

coiled  
willow-branch  
water jar



deerskin blanket or mat

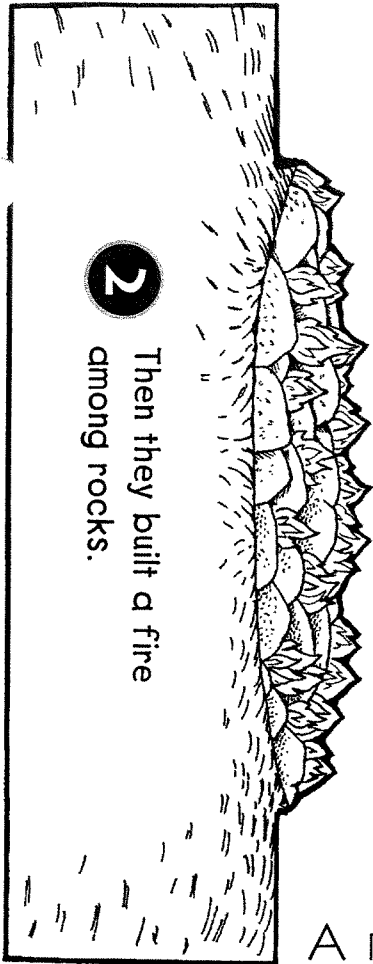
## ROASTING AGAVE

Agave was an important plant to the Mescalero Apache.



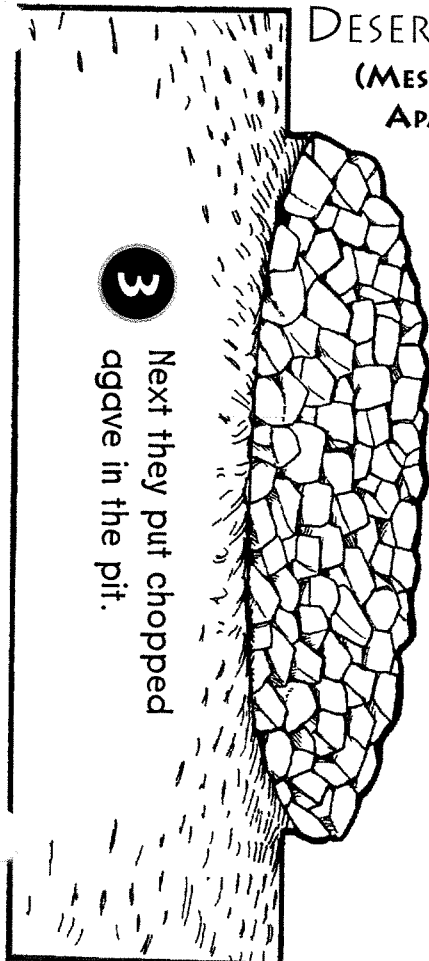
**1** First the Mescalero dug a big pit (sometimes 20 feet across).

**2** Then they built a fire among rocks.

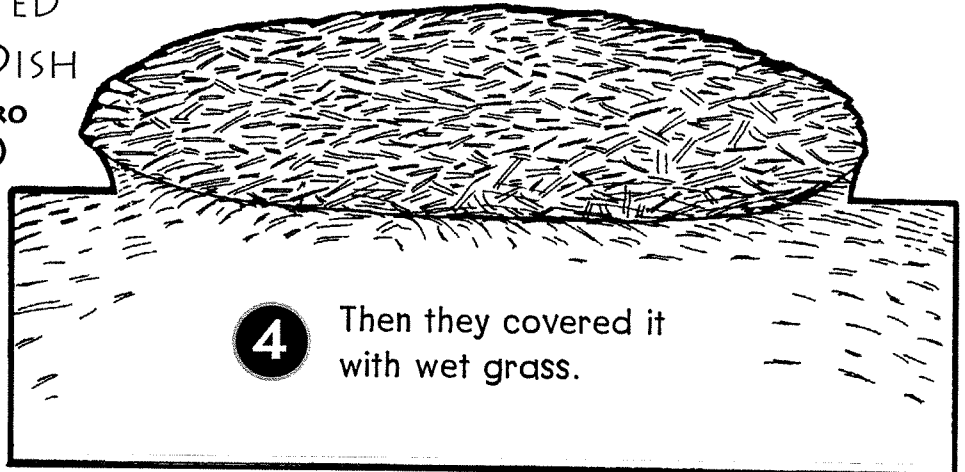


## A ROASTED DESERT DISH (MESCALERO APACHE)

**3** Next they put chopped agave in the pit.



**4** Then they covered it with wet grass.



**5** Last, they covered the agave with earth and roasted it for three to five days.

