

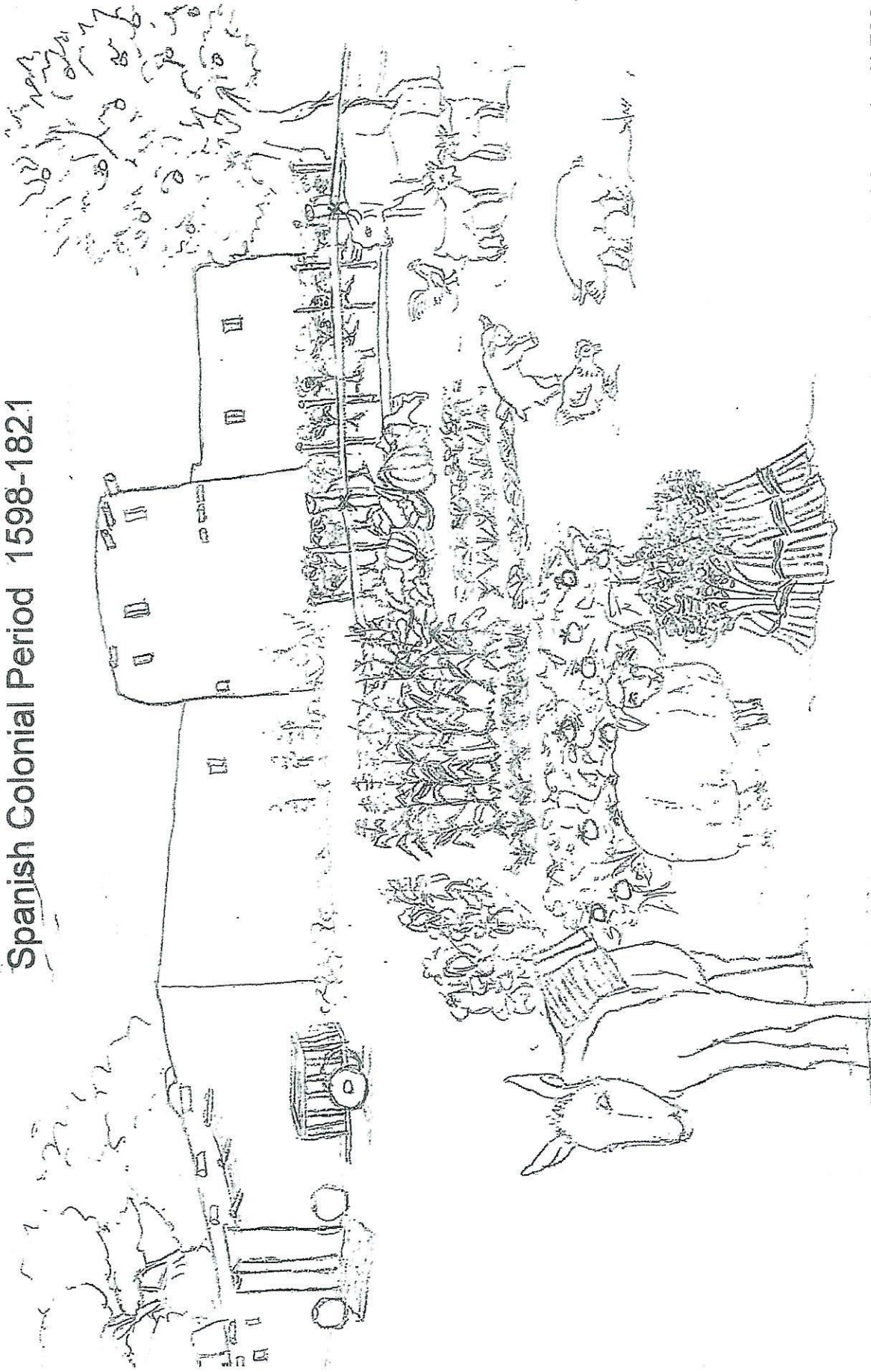
**MOJAVE RIVER CHAPTER
OF THE
OLD SPANISH TRAIL ASSOCIATION**



A Coloring Book Story of the Old Spanish Trail—
A Trade Route for Woolen Blankets

Sponsored by the Old Spanish Trail Association

Spanish Colonial Period 1598-1821

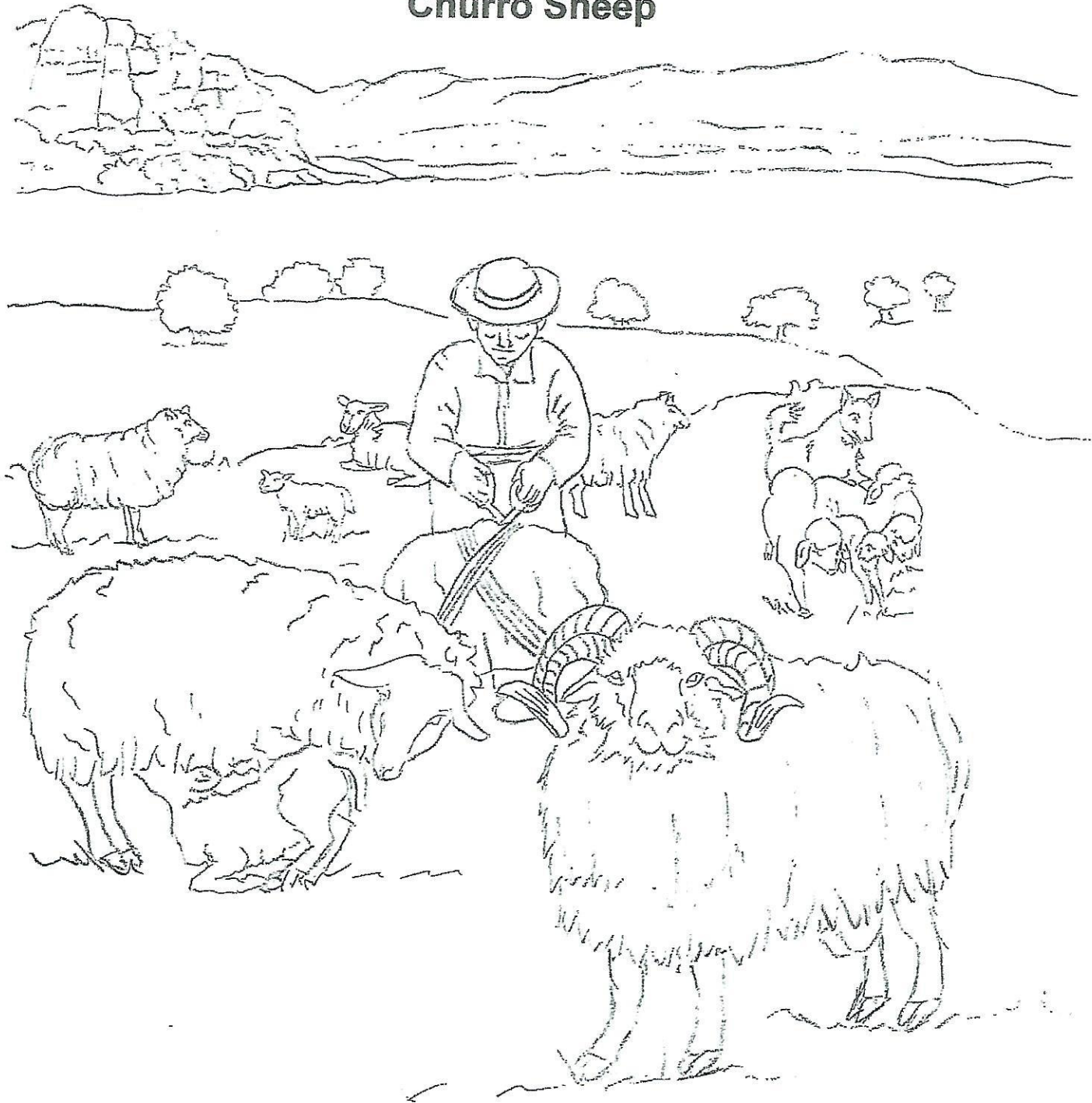


In 1598, Don Onate led the first pioneers in the U.S. to the New Mexico area. These Spanish settlers traveled 6 months (1,700 mi) from Mexico City bringing with them 2,900 churro sheep as well as goats, hogs, cattle, chickens, mules, donkeys, oxen, and horses. They brought seeds from Europe: wheat, barley, lettuce, cabbage, carrots, cucumbers, garlic, onions, peas, turnips, radishes, and more; and seedlings of fruit trees, nut trees, and grape vines.

From Mexico they brought seeds and foods such as chili, tomatoes, potatoes, chocolate, and spices from SE Asia. In addition they brought iron tools like the plow, sickle, and hoe, as well as wheeled carts and wagons.

They traded with the Pueblo Indians in the area for squash, pumpkin, corn, and bean seeds to add to their gardens. They settled along rivers and water sources to establish their ranches and built irrigation ditches and adobe dwellings.

Churro Sheep



Churro sheep are a hardy disease resistant breed brought to Mexico from the Spanish Pyrenees. 10,000's of churro sheep were driven north into New Mexico along El Camino Real during the colonial period. These flocks contributed to New Mexico's economy for 400 years by supplying meat, hides, tallow, and wool for their prized woven goods. These products provided such good trade items that sheep ranching became New Mexico's most important industry by 1750.

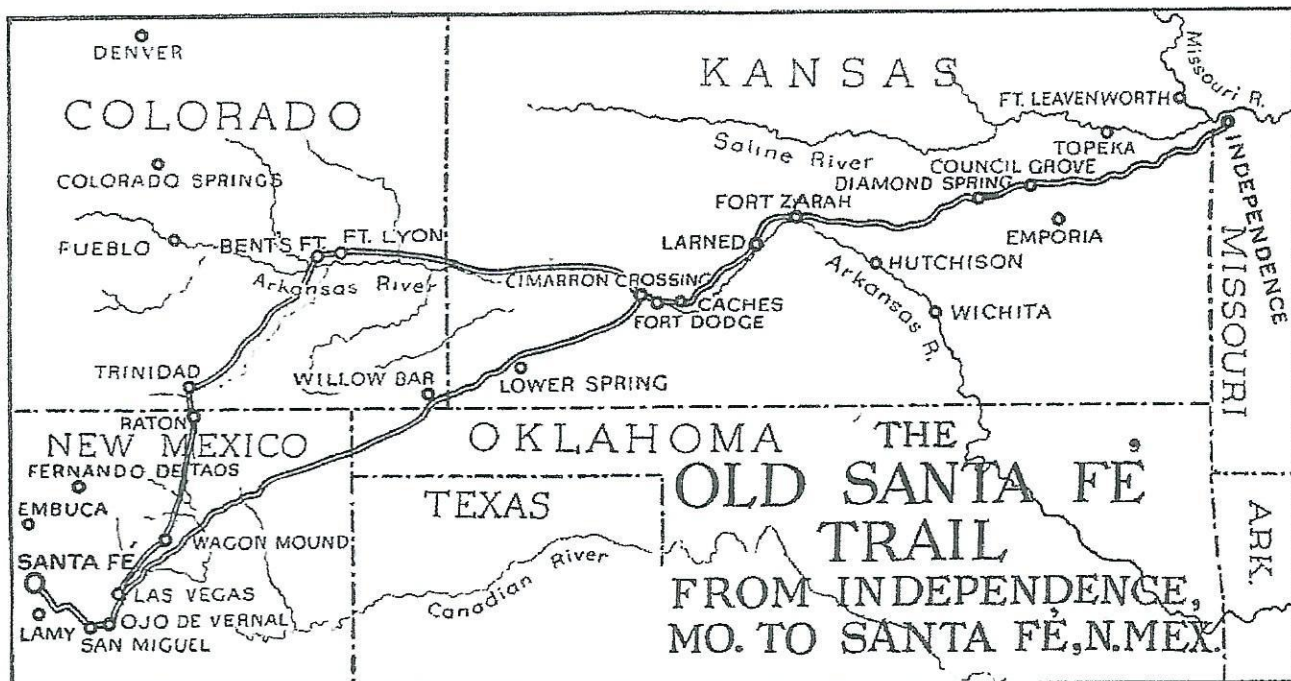
Churro fleece is well designed for mile-high winter protection and it is long, tough, and straight, making it easy to weave well-insulated blankets and rugs. Their natural colors are black, brown, tan, and white. Plant dyes and trade dyes were used to add more color to the woven goods. The productivity of Navajo, Pueblo, and Spanish weavers led to annual mule trade caravans so brought wealth to the area.

300 years of Wool Trade to the South (1598-1900)



El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro was the first highway of the US. It was the life line for the New Mexicans as it kept them connected to the Spanish and then Mexican governments, to their Spanish and Mexican culture, and to their families that were scattered throughout the territory. It was on this route that vital goods they could not make or grow—dyes, medicines, paper, chocolate, sugar, rice, mirrors, silverware, silk, linen, ironwork, knives, hardware, and fancy porcelain--traveled to them. Woolen goods and other sheep products made up the majority of the income that was used to get these trade items. It was a long and dangerous venture taking a year and a half to complete a round trip.

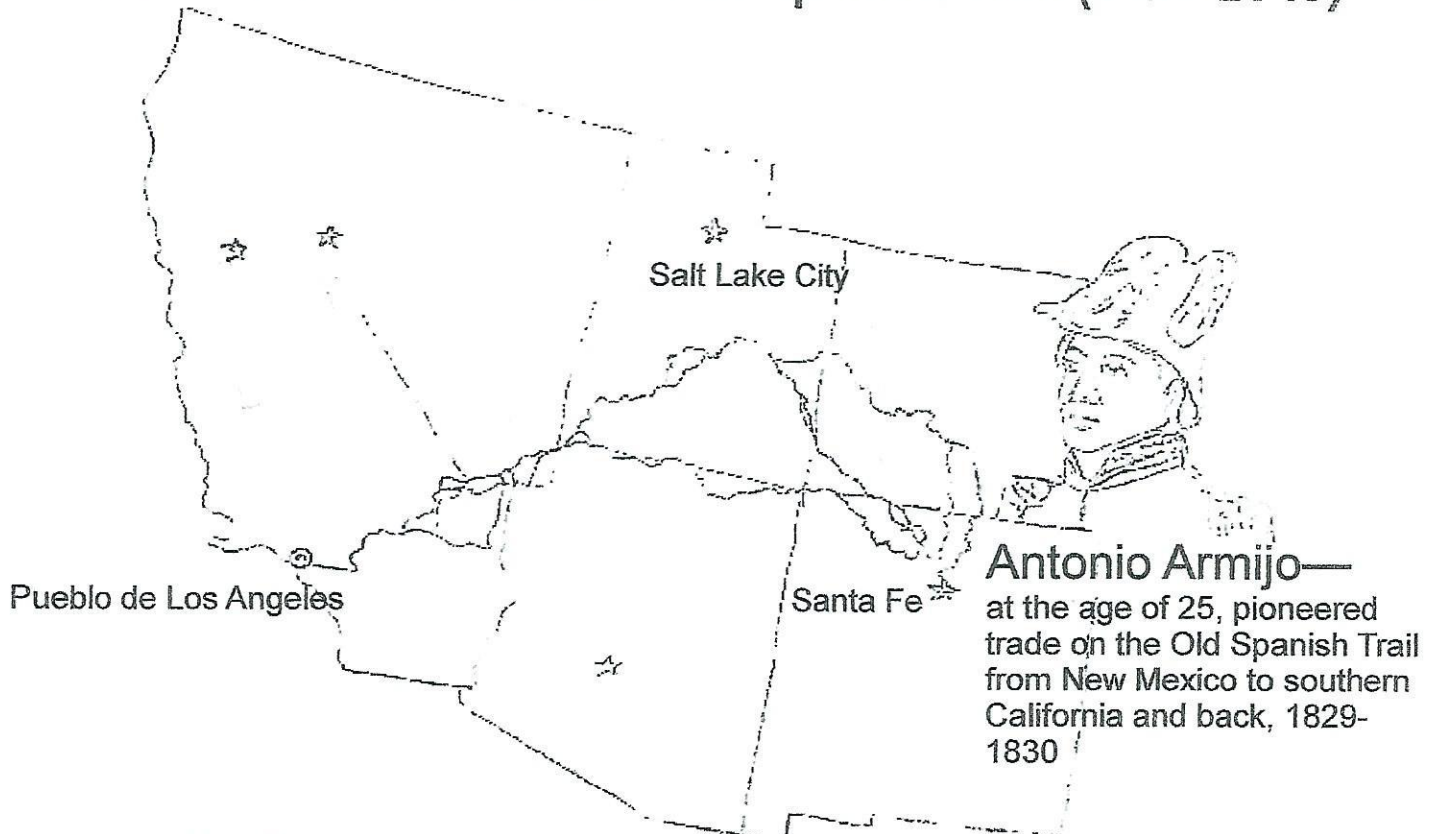
Wool Trade to the East—the Santa Fe Trail (1821-1880's)



Spanish rule restricted trade with US territories. After the Mexican revolution ended in 1821, the former Spanish colonies were now governed by the Mexican Republic. Trade restrictions were lifted and the **Santa Fe Trail** opened. It was a 900 mi long trail, which took 1.5 months to travel one way. New Mexicans now had a new market for their woolen goods (and later horses and mules) and a way to get products such as sugar, coffee, cotton calico, groceries, and leather goods from the east coast.

1. Look at these maps and circle the starting of each of these trails in New Mexico.
2. What river does the Santa Fe Trail start on at Independence?

Wool Trade to the West—Old Spanish Trail (1829-1848)



Armijo, a New Mexican merchant, sought to sell off trade woolen goods in towns and missions near the California coast. From Abiquiu, NM he led 60 men and a pack string of 100 mules laden with woolen goods across little known desert and mountains for 1,200 miles. It was a tough route which followed parts of the Escalante/Dominguez expedition trail, Indian footpaths, and mountain men trails. In fact, when they waded through the Colorado River at the rugged "Crossing of the Fathers" the men had to carry the mule packs up steep cliffs cut with footholds. His caravan reached San Gabriel Mission in California by skirting south around Death Valley and avoiding the worst of the Mojave Desert. In the last few days as they neared their destination, they ran out of food. They survived by eating mule meat.

Armijo's diary referred to the Paiutes they met as "docile and timid" people. He encountered various Utes, Navajos, and Paiutes, reporting "no problems". (However, later caravans changed their route to avoid hostility.)

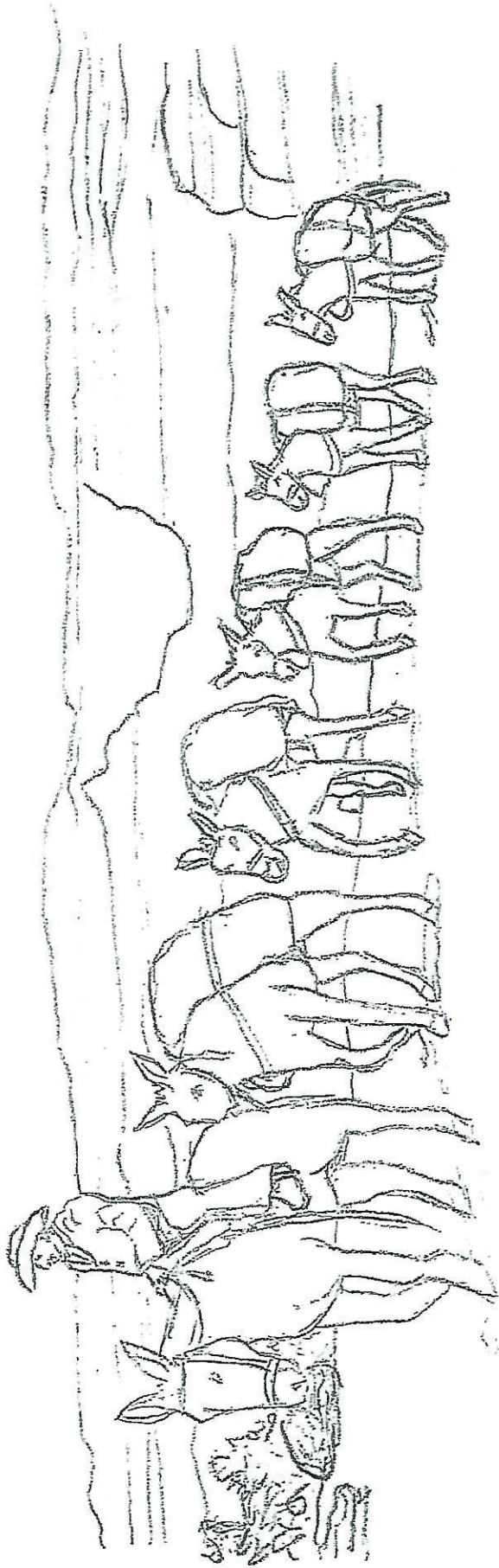
They traded their blankets, sarapes, and other woolen goods for several thousand California-bred pack mules and horses which they then drove back to Santa Fe across the same route. In the trade hub of Santa Fe, those animals commanded high prices making the dangerous venture they had undertaken, profitable. Many of these animals were then used in caravans along the El Camino Real and Santa Fe trails.

As traders, explorers, and settlers sought safe passage along the Old Spanish Trail, a branched network developed, not a single track. A number of military groups and expeditions followed portions of the Old Spanish Trail, including one led by John C. Fremont in 1843-1844. It was during this expedition that Kit Carson was enlisted to help Hernandez and Fuentes whose families were massacred at **Resting Springs**.

At the end of the use of the trail by traders, Mormons used the trail corridor to move goods by wagon from Utah Valley to their settlement in San Bernardino. Their route is known as the **Mormon Road**. From **Emigrant Pass** today, we can see the single tracks of mule caravans and double tracks of wagon trains.

If Armijo traded 1-2 blankets for a horse or mule and and came back with 3,000 horses and mules, how many blankets did he take with him?

Old Spanish Trail Mule Caravan



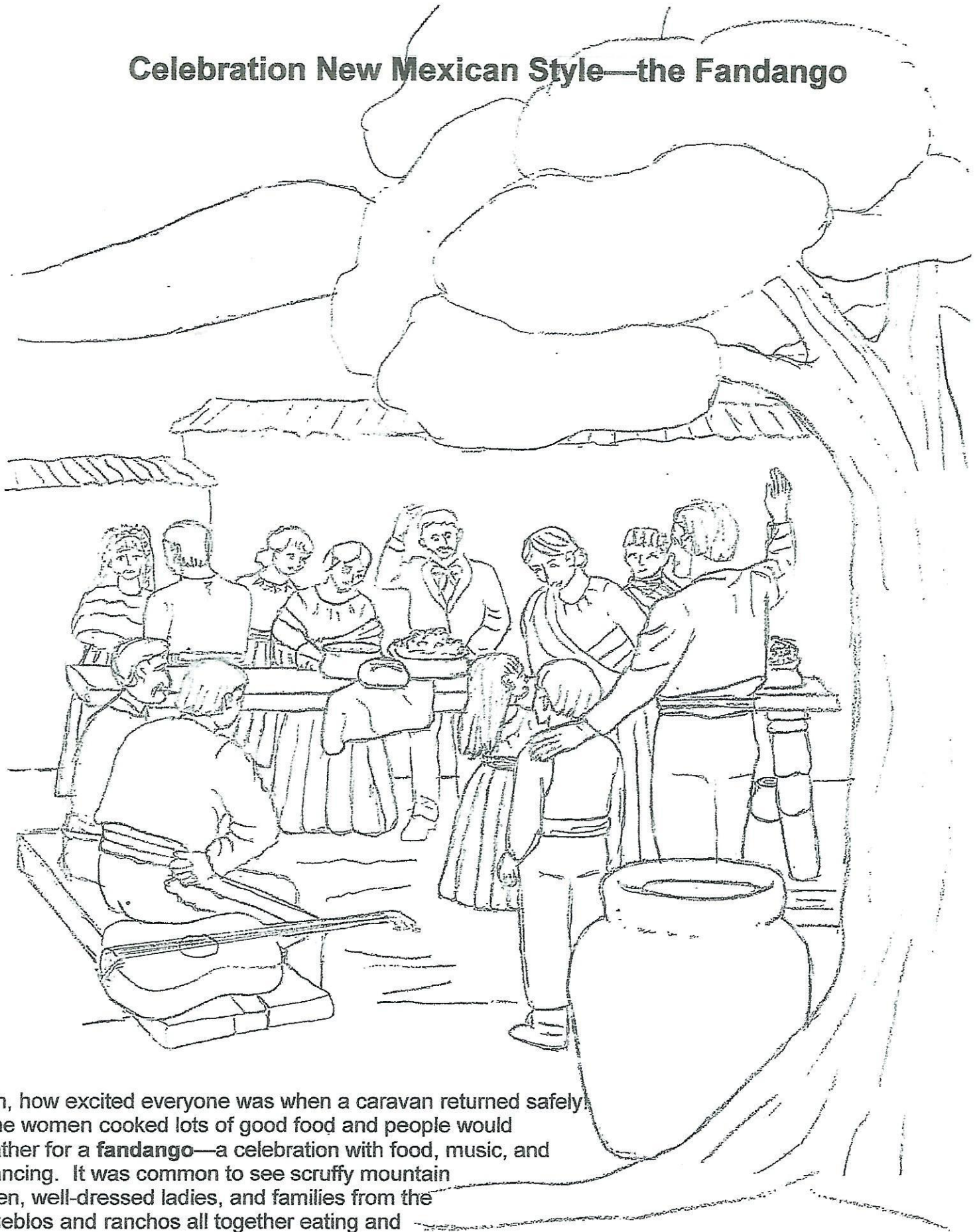
Muleteers of New Mexico had to know the art of packing mules and how to navigate the rivers, mountains, and deserts of the "longest, crookedest, most arduous pack mule trail in the history of America". This winding path skirted the Grand Canyon, crossed through large sand dunes, and led travelers into the harsh desert near Death Valley. Mules loaded with goods had to scramble up narrow rocky paths and swim across creeks, sometimes swollen rivers. Since much of the trail was very arid, they needed to know where the water sources and forage for the their animals were, as well as alternate water and forage sources when the others were dry or used up. **Stump Springs**, near **Charleston View**, was a water and forage source that could generally be counted on. But sometimes the caravans would have to travel off the route toward the northwest to get water along an escarpment from which various springs flowed and forage could be found.

The caravans would take off from New Mexico in October before the winter snows and journey for 2.5 months to reach the Pueblo of Los Angeles. Caravans might number 200 mules and 50 young men. When the distance between water sources was great, as between **Resting Springs** and the **Mojave River**, the caravan would travel from sunset one day to some time in the night of the following day in a "journey of death" --*Jornada del Muerte*.

The muleteers ate jerky that they would crumble and add to hot water in a big cup that they carried on their belts. They also brought sweetened cinnamon-flavored parched Indian corn that when added to cold water swelled up and satisfied hunger. They supplemented this diet with game and wild plants they found along the trail.

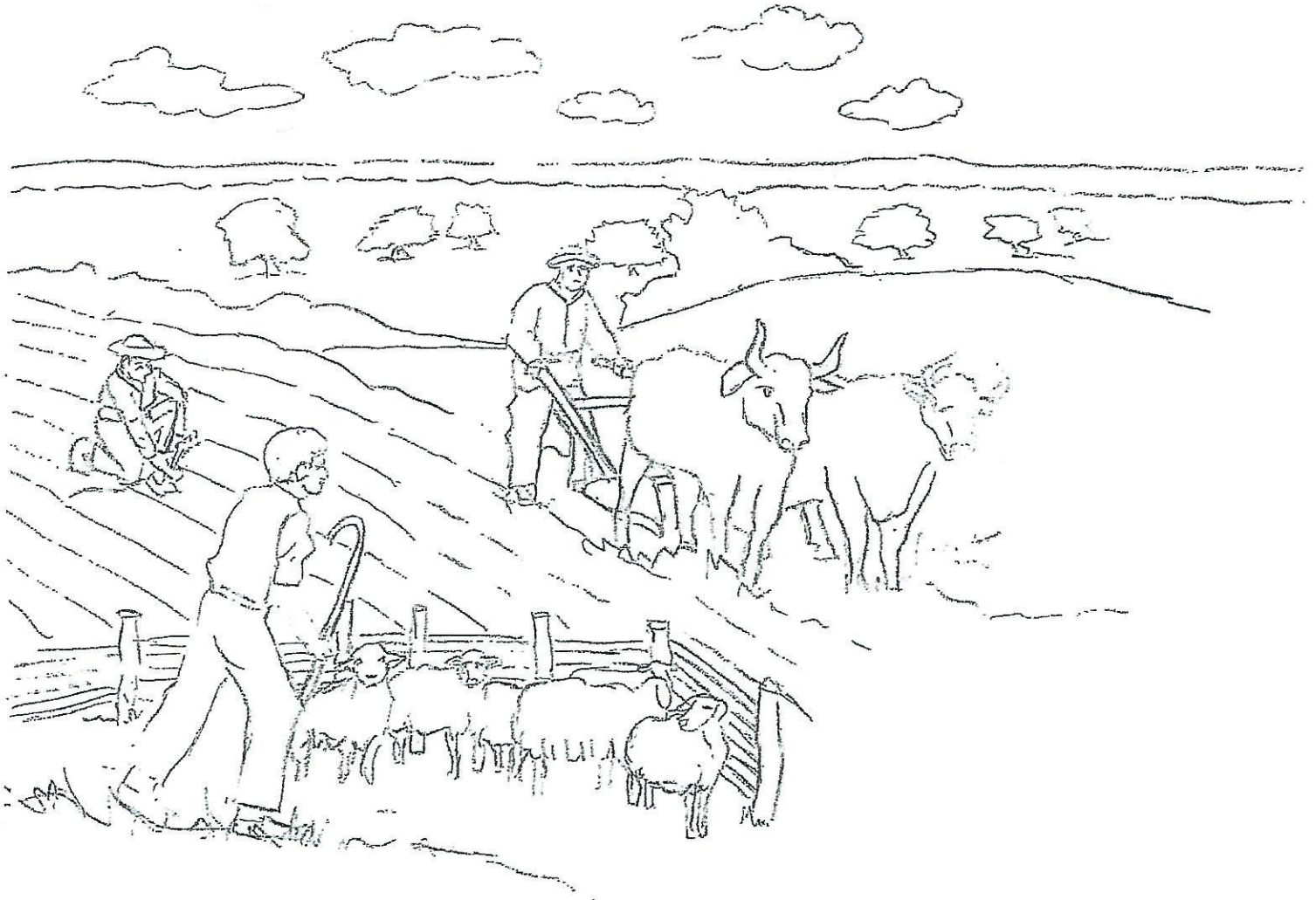
They needed to know the Indians in the areas they were going through. As they traveled through Tecopa, they might hear the Paiute women singing stick ball songs as they worked or the laughter of children echo through the canyons.

Celebration New Mexican Style—the Fandango



Oh, how excited everyone was when a caravan returned safely! The women cooked lots of good food and people would gather for a **fandango**—a celebration with food, music, and dancing. It was common to see scruffy mountain men, well-dressed ladies, and families from the pueblos and ranchos all together eating and dancing until late into the night. Presents of ribbons, chocolate, fancy clothes, and knives may have been brought back by the travelers for their families.

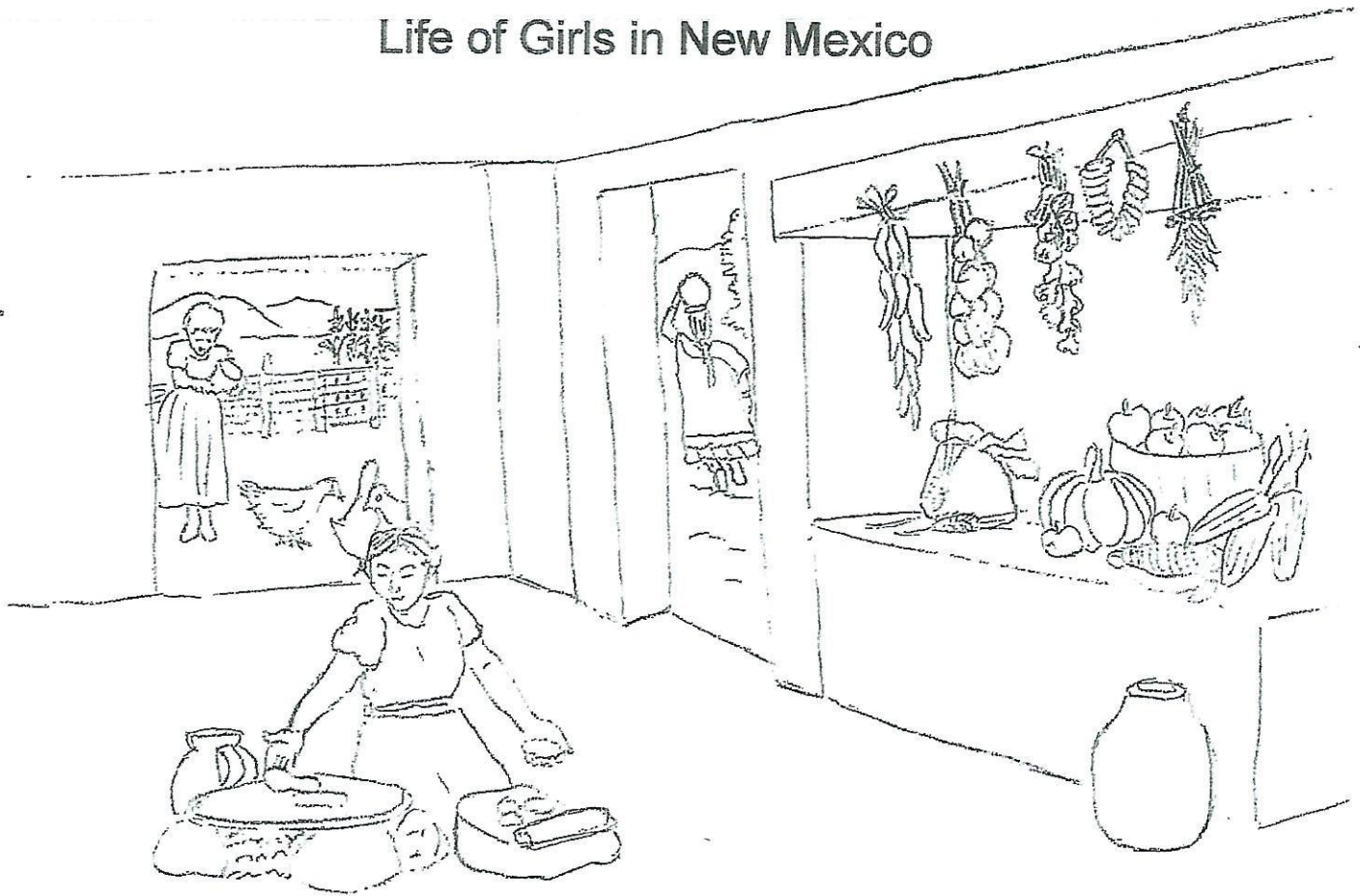
Life of Boys in New Mexico



Most boys worked with the men learning skills they would need for ranching and farming. They tended the animals, watered the fields, planted and harvested the crops, and repaired buildings and farm tools.

Some boys became apprentices and learned a trade such as weaving, blacksmithing, or leather working.

Life of Girls in New Mexico



Girls helped the women care for their families and homes. They learned to tend the sick, plant, harvest, preserve, and cook foods, fetch water, feed chickens, and tend babies. They helped with the laundry, mending, and house work. They learned to sew, knit, spin, and weave,

Here is a recipe for a cookie they might help bake in their outdoor ovens:

BISCOCHITOS RECIPE—a small anise-flavored cookie, which was brought to New Mexico by the early Spaniards. The cookie is used during special celebrations, wedding receptions, baptisms, Christmas season, and other holidays.

6 C. flour	2 eggs
1/4 Tsp. Salt	2 C. lard (you can use shortening or butter)
3 tsp. baking powder	1/4 C. brandy (you can use juice)
1 1/2 C. sugar	1/4 C. sugar
2 Tsp. anise seeds	1 Tbsp. cinnamon

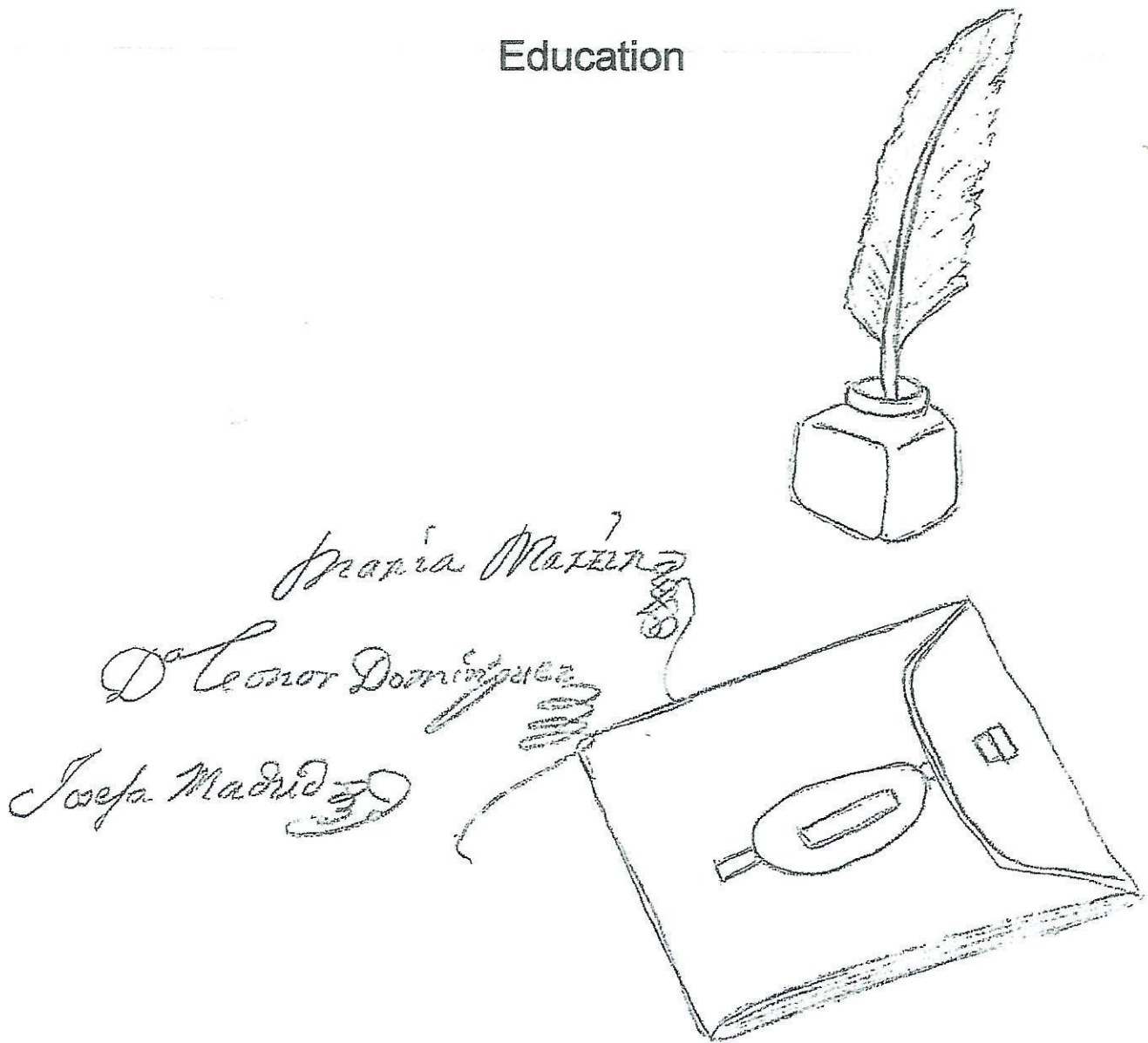
Sift flour with baking powder and salt. In separate bowl, cream lard with sugar and anise seeds until fluffy. Beat in eggs one at a time. Mix in flour and brandy until well blended. Refrigerate 2-3 hours. Turn dough out on floured board and pat or roll to 1/4- or 1/2-inch thickness. Cut into shapes (the fleur-de-lis is traditional). Dust with mixture of sugar and cinnamon. Bake 10-12 minutes at 350° or until browned.

CHOCOLATE NUEVO MEXICANO (New Mexico Chocolate)—traditionally served with Biscochitos
Yield: 12 servings Cooking Time: Approximately 15 minutes Temperature: Medium-High

1/2 cup sugar	1 teaspoon cinnamon
2 tablespoons flour	3/4 teaspoon cloves
1/4 cup cocoa	6 cups milk
1 1/2 cups water	1 tablespoon vanilla
1/4 teaspoon salt	

1. Combine sugar, flour, cocoa, water, and spices in a large saucepan. Cook mixture at medium-high for approximately 4 minutes, stirring occasionally.
2. Add milk to mixture and scald, but do not boil. Remove saucepan from heat and add vanilla.

Education



There were few schools in the colonial times. Children were taught to read and write by traveling teachers, teachers hired by large ranchos, or by family members. They learned to read by using spellers and simple readers which had pictures and examples of simple words. The family probably owned a prayer book. Any books they had were precious and treated with great care.

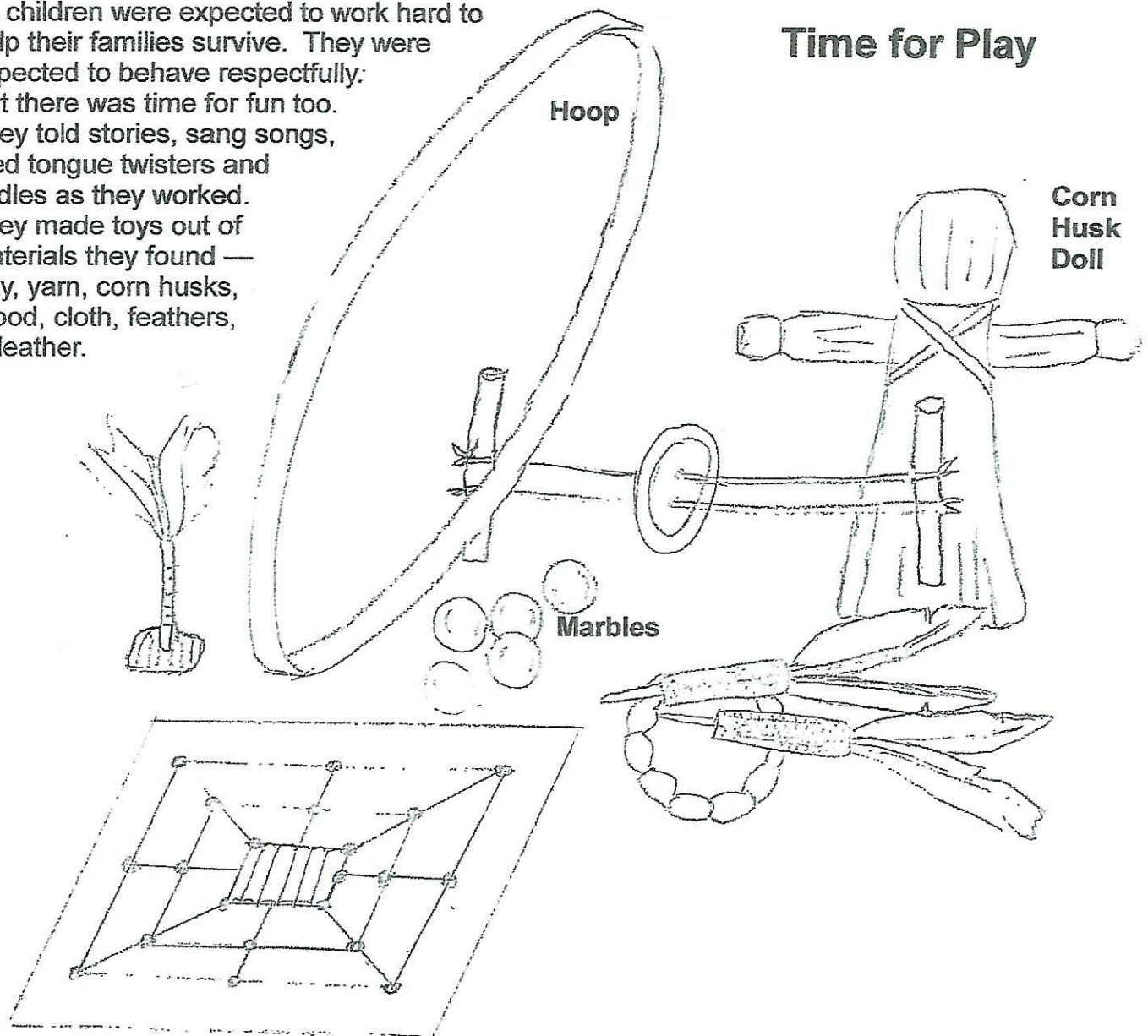
In New Mexico during the 1800's, it was important for people to know how to write for legal records such as wills, deeds, and court cases. A quill was used for a pen and was dipped in ink which was made in China or made from soot and water. People signed their names in distinctive ways with great flourish, making them easy to identify, but hard to copy. This fancy flourish was called a **rubric**. Paper was precious and often stored in a leather **ledger**.

Children learned about proper behavior from stories called *cuentos* and sayings called *dichos*. When parents said "The saints cry over lost time," they were reminding their children to keep busy. Even when the parents could not write or read, they knew lots of songs, poems, sayings and stories that they taught their children. They also taught them about Faith in God and would lead the family in prayer in the mornings and evenings.

1. Practice your own signature with a rubric in the space above.
2. Label the picture, using the words in bold.
3. Underline the example of a "dichos". Write a saying your parents use with you to teach you a valuable lesson in how to behave.

All children were expected to work hard to help their families survive. They were expected to behave respectfully: But there was time for fun too. They told stories, sang songs, tried tongue twisters and riddles as they worked. They made toys out of materials they found — clay, yarn, corn husks, Wood, cloth, feathers, or leather.

Time for Play



Hummers Take a four-hole button, run a string through two opposite holes, and fasten the ends together. Holding the string so that the button is in the middle, swing the button around and around, then pull the string loops so that the button revolves first one way, then the other. When a rhythm is made, pulling the string harder each time will make a hum.

Darts have traditionally been made by the Zuni of New Mexico from corncobs, sticks, and two feathers. The corncob is pierced with a pointed stick a few inches long from one end of the cob. Into the other end of the cob, two wing feathers are inserted into the hole. When this dart is tossed the feathers pull on the air causing the dart to spin like a pinwheel! Players set a certain number of points to reach, and keep score with a point earned for every time the dart lands inside a wheel made of willow or husks tied together.

A **three-in-a-row** game adopted by Natives of New Mexico from the Spanish. In the Pueblos of New Mexico this game was called *pitarilla* or *picaria*, (similar to Spanish for 'little stones'), and used a stone board with etched lines and playing pieces of pebbles or grains of corn.

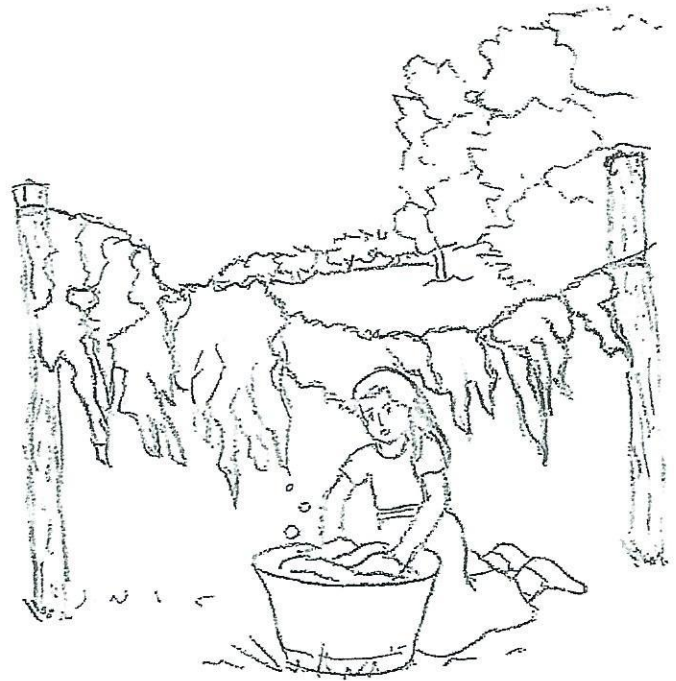
The Zuni use **shuttlecocks** made of green corn husks neatly interlaced and wrapped into a flat square about an inch to two inches square, and on one side are placed two upright feathers. A Zuni game called 'Po-ke-an' used this shuttlecock and their hand for a battle door to see how many times they could knock it into the air as they count aloud in their own language - *To-pa, quil-e, hi, a-we-ta, ap-ti, etc.* Another Zuni game called 'Po-ki-nanane' is so named because the sound produced by the shuttlecock coming into contact with the palm of the hand is similar to the noise jack rabbit treading upon frozen snow.

Label the toys using the bold words and descriptions. Color them.

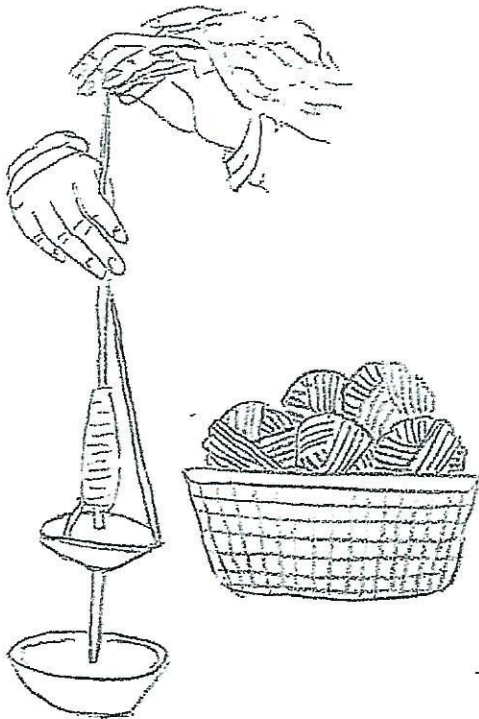
From Sheep



Sheep are **sheared**, which is like shaving. It does not hurt the sheep. The shavings are called **fleece**.



The fleece are washed and dried.

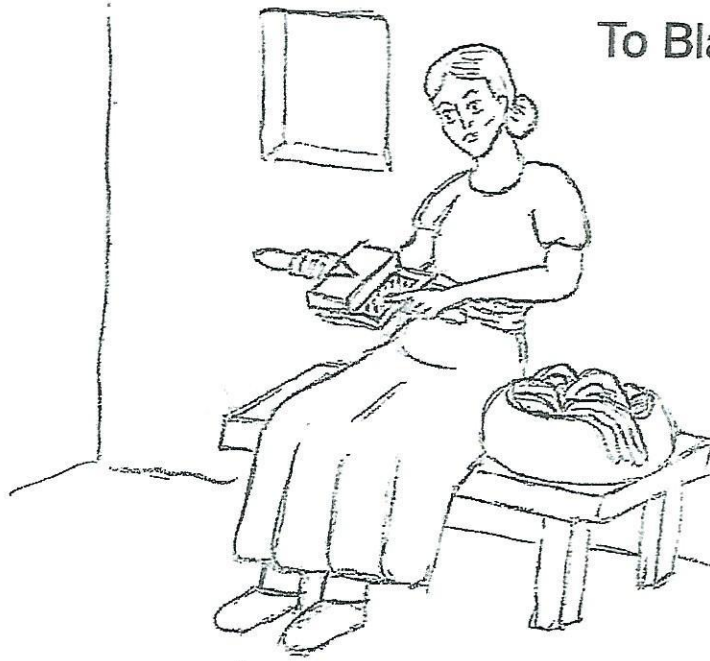


The dyed roving is twisted to keep the fibers together and to make a strong yarn. This is called **spinning**.



A **warp** of cotton or wool is strung on a 4-harness floor loom. Generally 7 colors are chosen for the **warp** of a blanket—one is the background color, the other 6 are for the borders and design—which are woven over and under the **warp**.

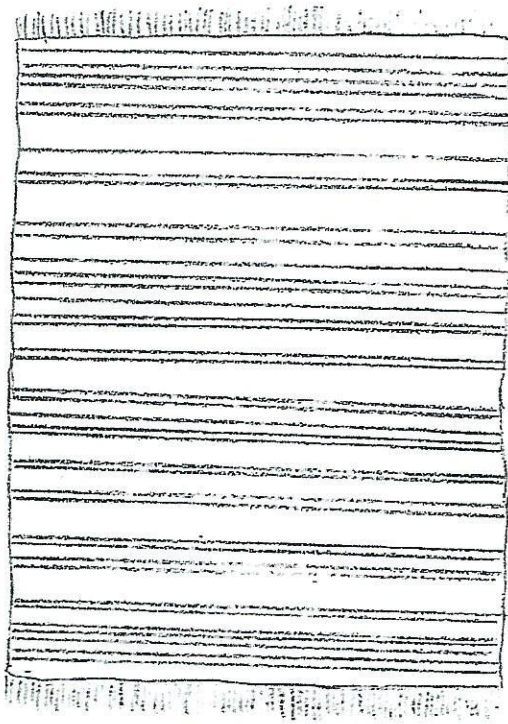
To Blanket



The fleeces are **carded**—all the strands are made to go in one direction. The carded fleece is slightly twisted into rolls of **roving**.



The light colored roving was **dyed** with plant dyes of yellows, golds, and greens. Red and blue dyes were traded for from Mexico City.



Blankets had simple stripes or a center diamond pattern. The finer and tighter woven blankets were more valuable than the loosely woven ones. Blankets were sometimes used as day covering and then used to sleep with at night.



Sarapes are blankets designed as clothing.

Old Spanish Trail Days

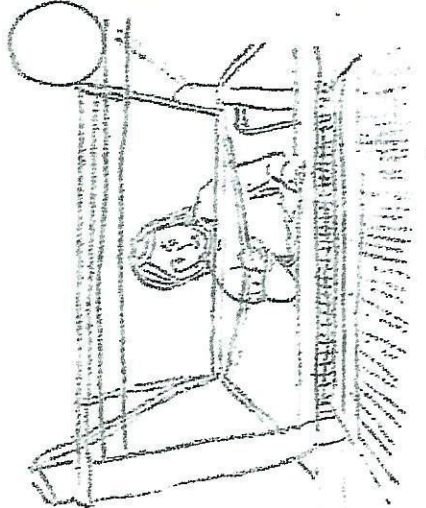
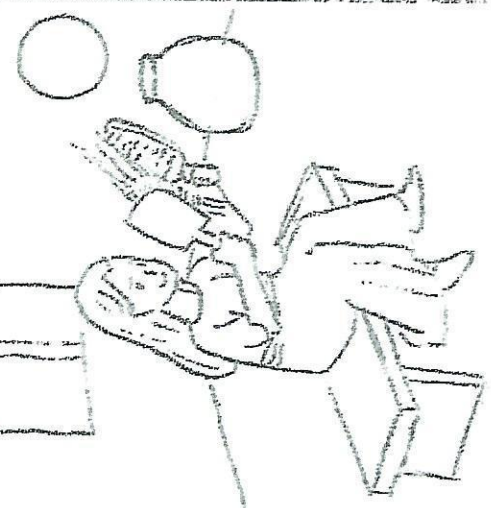
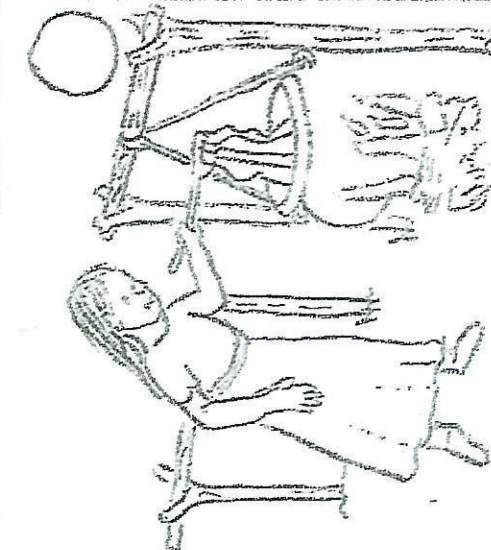
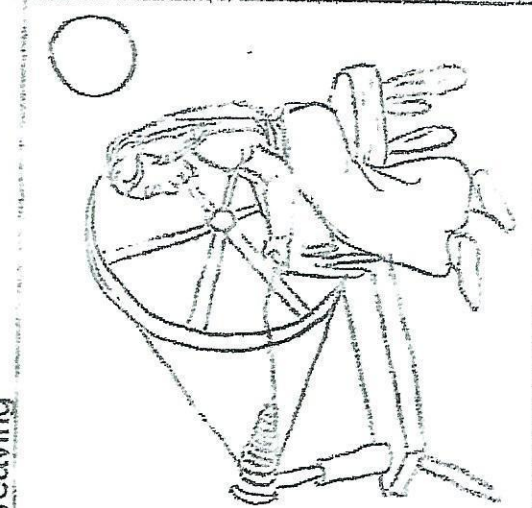
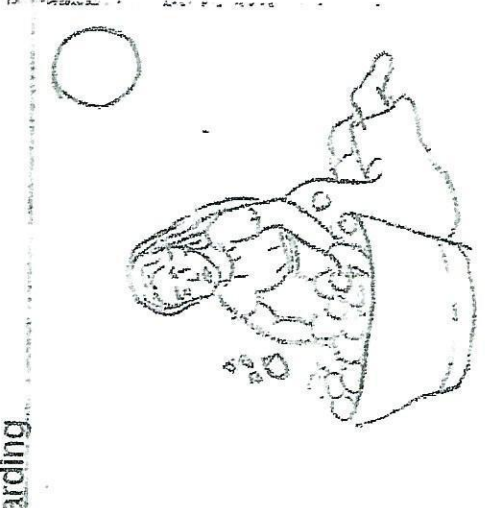

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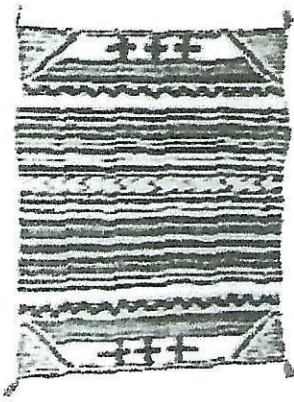
ARMIJO
 BLANKET
 CARD
 CHURRO SHEEP
 DYE
 EL CAMINO REAL
 EMIGRANT PASS
 FANDANGO
 HORSES
 MULES

OLD SPANISH TRAIL
 RESTING SPRINGS
 RUBRIC
 SANTA FE
 SANTA FE TRAIL
 SARAPE
 SPIN
 TRADE
 WEAVE

From Sheep to Blanket Activity

Look at the pictures below. In the circle, write a number from 1 to 6 showing the correct order of the pictures. Then color!

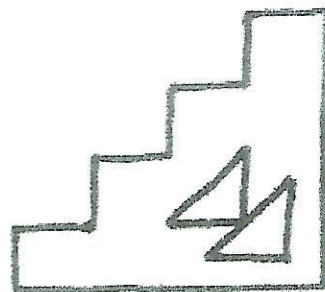
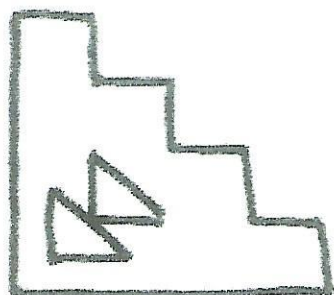
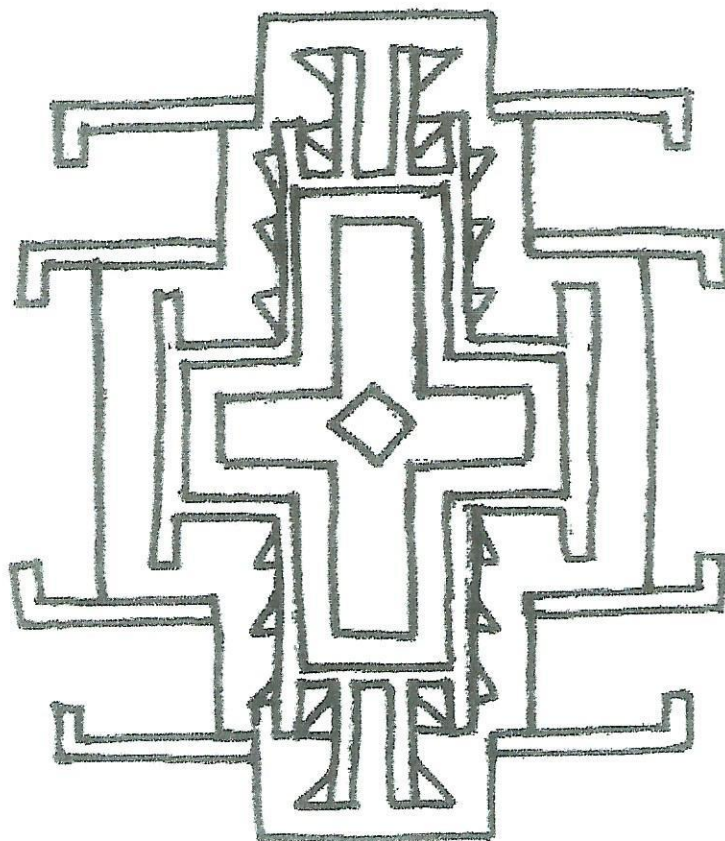
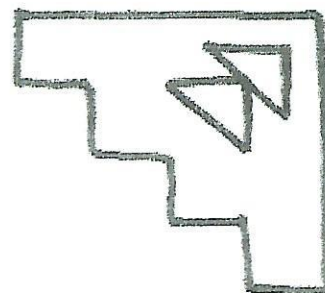
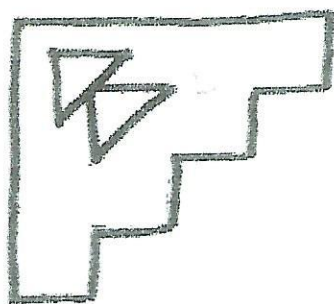
 <p>Weaving</p>	 <p>Carding</p>	 <p>Dyeing</p>
 <p>Spinning</p>	 <p>Washing</p>	 <p>Shearing</p>



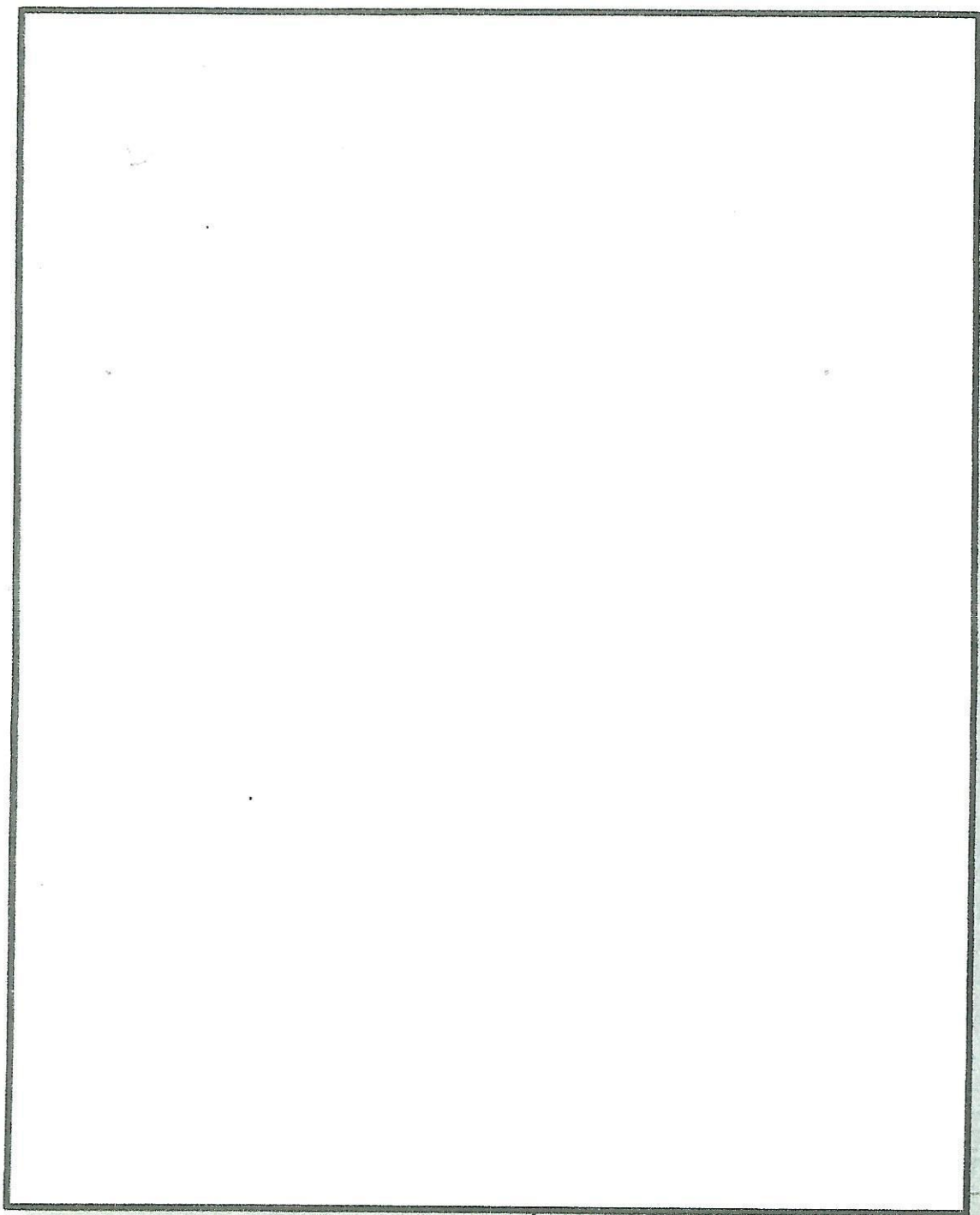
Color the picture like a Ganado rug.

Ganado rugs were usually red,

gray, black and white. Red was used the most in these rugs.



***Draw a design for a blanket
and color it***



This booklet was compiled by Sarah Bennett, Secretary of the Tecopa Chapter of the OSTA.

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(661) 747-7678

Some of the resources used are listed below.

Resources

Books

Hafen, L. and Hafen A., *Old Spanish Trail*

Josefina's Craft Book

Leda Schubert, *Feeding the Sheep*

Lyon, George, *Weaving the Rainbow*

Ortega, Cristina, *Los Ojos del Tejedor*

Tripp, Valerie, *Josefina, the American Girl Series*

Websites

http://azstateparks.com/trails/historic/trail_11.html

<http://www.museumtrail.org/OldSpanishTrail.asp>

<http://www.nps.gov> Old Spanish Trail: History and Culture

<http://www.oldspanishtrail.org> Trail Notes: Antonio Armijo and Churro Sheep

<http://www.santafetrail.org/>