

Anasazi Timeline

1200 B.C.- A.D. 50 Beginning of the Anasazi Basketmaker II Era (Early)

- 1000 - Anasazi: Evidence of agriculture in Chaco Canyon
- 800 - Anasazi: Beginning of occupation of Bandolier National Monument area, New Mexico

50A.D. – 500 A.D. Anasazi Basketmaker II Era (Late)

- 306 - Anasazi: Earliest pithouse construction identified in Canyon de Chelly
- 350 - Anasazi: Earliest above-ground structures of jacal and adobe
- 400 - Anasazi: Pithouses exist on Black Mesa in the Kayenta Region

500A.D. – 750A.D. Anasazi Basketmaker III Era

- 500 - Anasazi: Settlers at Hovenweep plant corn, beans, squash and watermelon
- 600 - Anasazi: Pithouse settlements spring up at Mesa Verde
- 700-750 - Anasazi: Aggressive construction of above-ground structures supplanting pithouses

750A.D. – 900A.D. Anasazi Pueblo I Era

- 800-900 - Anasazi: Population boom around Mesa Verde; new above-ground buildings constructed
- 850-900 - Massive Anasazi construction project at Chaco

900 A.D. – 1150A.D. Anasazi Pueblo II Era

- 900 - Edge of the Cedars and Lowry pueblos built near Hovenweep
- 900 - Chetro Ketl pueblo started at Chaco
- 900-1000 - Construction in Mesa Verde area with stone masonry
- 920 - Chaco Canyon outlier system develops
- 950 - Keet Seel at Navajo National Monument, second largest cliff dwelling in the U.S.
- 1075-1123 - Pueblo Bonito constructed at Chaco
- 1076 – Anasazi build five astronomical observatories at Chaco
- 1100 - Chaco Canyon at its peak
- 1100 - Tewa and Keresan speaking Anasazi clans move into Bandelier area and build two- and three-story pueblos
- 1100 - The Pe-Kush migrate from the Four Corners Area to the Pecos area
- 1100 - Population of Montezuma Valley, west of Mesa Verde is about 30,000
- 1130-1180 - Fifty-year drought in the Southwest. Rain and snow cease to fall
- 1132 - Last log cut for construction at Chaco
- 1140 - Chaco outlier system of communities collapses

1150A.D. -1350A.D. Anasazi Pueblo III Era

- 1150 - Chaco Canyon collapses. Some Chacoans migrate, perhaps to Hopi, Zuni and the Rio Grande River pueblos. Mesa Verde ascends as Chaco goes down
- 1200 - Mesa Verdeans begin building cliff dwellings

- 1200-1280 - Cliff dwellings constructed and occupied in canyons of Kayenta Region, including Canyon de Chelly and Navajo National Monument
- 1272 - Expansion of Keet Seel pueblo begins
- 1276-1299 - Severe drought in Southwest leads to Anasazi abandonment and migrations
- 1299 - Mesa Verde abandoned. Rains end the long drought
- 1300 - Keet Seel abandoned
- 1300 - Gran Quivara, Abó and Quarai pueblos occupied (Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument)
- After 1300 - Kuaua Pueblo built near Río Grande (Coronado State Monument)

1350A.D. -1600A.D. Anasazi Pueblo IV Era

- 1400 - Multi-storied pueblo under construction at Pecos
- After 1400 - Prophecies of strangers from afar circulate among Southwestern cultures
- 1539 - Spaniards observe more than 100 pueblos in what is now Arizona and New Mexico. (Now only 20 remain.)
- 1539 - Spaniard de Niza mistakenly identifies farming pueblo of Hawikuh, near Zuni, as the mythical Seven golden cities of Cíbola
- 1540 - Coronado conquers poor Hawikuh farmers and finds no gold
- 1598 - Don Juan de Oñate leads an expedition to establish Spanish presence in New Mexico. He camps at the base of the plateau on which Acoma Pueblo stands
- 1599 - Pueblo rebels. Oñate attacks and subdues the pueblo after a bloody battle. On his orders, the right foot of every Acoma man over 25 years of age is cut off and most men and women over 12 are forced to provide 20 years of slave labor

1600A.D. - 1906 Anasazi Pueblo V Era

- 1627 - Spanish observer estimates Gran Quivara pueblo houses 3,000 people
- 1680-1692 - Pueblo Revolt and end of occupation of Kuaua Pueblo
- 1692 - Spanish re-conquest by de Vargas after Pueblo Revolt
- 1765-1848 - Spanish and Mexican explorers pass by without noticing Mesa Verde
- 1780 - Wild Mustard Clan flees drought at Hopi and takes refuge in abandoned villages of Canyon de Chelly
- 1838 - Last 17 residents vacate Pecos Pueblo and move to Jemez
- 1869 - 72 - John Wesley Powell mentions ancient ruins
- 1870s - First U.S. buildings equal or exceed the 4- and 5-story height of Anasazi buildings built before 1300
- 1874 - As a member of the Hayden surveys, William Henry Jackson photographs cliff dwellings at Mesa Verde
- 1887 - Wetherill spots Cliff Palace in Mesa Verde, but doesn't tell his brothers
- 1888 - Discovery of the Cliff Palace, Spruce Tree House and Square Tower House by Richard Wetherill and Charlie Mason

- 1890-1891 - Amateur archaeologist Richard Wetherill notices differences in earlier remains removed from caves near cliff dwellings. He calls these people the "Basket People," then "Basket Makers."
- 1893 - Wetherill identifies Basketmakers (no pots, atlatl, baskets, taller than cliff dwellers, round skulls) as distinct from later (Pueblo) Anasazi.
- 1906 - Manitou Cliff Dwellings opened to the public