

Taos Pueblo, New Mexico, USA (2)

Kivas are the centers of Pueblo religious life. They are usually large, circular, underground rooms in the center of the pueblos that only the men of the tribe are allowed to enter. Every kiva has a ceremonial opening called the *sipapu* that represents the place where humans, coming from the center of the earth, emerged at its surface. The men of a Pueblo community belong to different kiva groups, and boys are initiated into kivas that their parents choose for them.



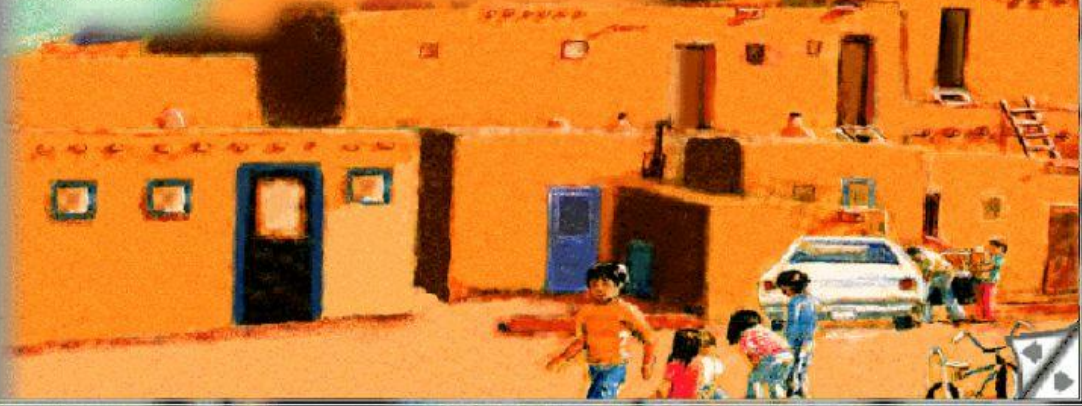
1. What are kivas?
2. Can you describe the kivas?
3. What do the kivas represent?



This mural, showing the One-Horned Buffalo Dance, is painted on a wall at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center. Being in harmony with nature is the foundation of the religious life of the Pueblos and guides their actions. They conduct special ceremonies, including dances and prayers about hunting, planting, growing, and harvesting as they approach each season of the year. These rituals have helped the Pueblo people maintain their native culture, language, and religion. Visitors can watch dances and ceremonial events on twelve feast days during the year.

1. What is the name of this mural?
2. Where is the picture painted?
3. How have these rituals helped the Pueblo people?

Every day for more than eight hundred years, the children of Taos pueblo in New Mexico have climbed up and down ladders that lead into their five-story homes. This sunbaked adobe compound continues to be the home of the Pueblo people because no one has succeeded in pushing them off their lands, though many have tried.



What did the children of Taos pueblo do every day for more than eight hundred years?

The residents of the Taos pueblo are proud that they live comfortably within the walls that their people have occupied for more than thirty generations. Visitors are welcome to watch the traditional Deer and Turtle dances at the pueblo, yet no one but the pueblo people are allowed inside the walls of the ceremonial kivas. This is one of the ways in which the people of Taos pueblo preserve the sacred, private aspects of their culture.



Visitors are welcome to watch

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