

# **Elden Pueblo Archaeological Project**



## **Education Program**

## Elden Pueblo and the Sinagua People

Elden Pueblo is a 60-70 room Sinagua pueblo dating approximately AD 1100-1275 (about 800 years ago). It is located one half mile to the west of Mt. Elden. Oak Spring, located on the slopes of Mt. Elden about one half mile away, is the closest permanent water source for Elden Pueblo. The Sinagua people, named after the Spanish name for the San Francisco Peaks - the Sierra Sinagua or mountains without water, lived at Elden Pueblo. They were farmers of corn, beans, and squash. The Sinagua also gathered other foods, medicines, and other resources from plants and animals that lived in the area.

The Sinagua made beautiful plainware and corrugated pottery to store water and food and to cook and eat out of. They traded with other people in the region for other types of pottery including Black-on-white. They also traded for exotic artifacts like turquoise and shell jewelry. They also made tools, such as knives, projectile points, and scrapers from stone like obsidian and chert.

Today, archaeologists investigate the Sinagua way of life to find out how they lived, with whom they traded, and what their natural environment was like. Elden Pueblo was first studied in 1926 by archaeologist Jesse Walter Fewkes. Later, the US Forest Service began to study the site and in the process developed the education program in which you are participating.

The Sinagua people did not disappear. They left the area around A.D. 1300 to continue their migrations. Many Hopi people believe that their ancestors, the *Hisatsinom*, are the Sinagua people. There is still much to learn here; so keep your eyes and mind open.

## **Elden Pueblo Education Program Goals:**

1. To learn about the lives of the Sinagua people at Elden Pueblo.
2. To learn about field methods in archaeology.
3. To participate and contribute to on-going research and protection at Elden Pueblo.



# **Natural Resources of Elden Pueblo**

## **Common Plants**

Ponderosa Pine  
Gambel Oak  
Cliffrose

## **Common Mammals**

Elk  
Mule Deer  
Gray Fox  
Porcupine  
Abert's Squirrel  
Striped / Spotted Skunk  
Chipmunk  
Ground Squirrel

## **Common Birds**

Common Flicker  
Steller's Jay  
Common Raven  
Turkey Vulture  
Red Tail Hawk  
Dark-eyed Junco

## **Common Amphibians and Reptiles**

Gopher Snake  
Wandering Garter Snake  
Short Horned Lizard

# Field Notes Record

Please use this page to begin your field notes.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Record your observations and first impressions.

What research question do you have about this place? Think of an hypothesis for your question.

# Elden Exploration

**DIRECTIONS:** Answer each question in each square as best that you can. You may walk around the pueblo as a group. Stay on the designated path. Come back together as a large group in 10 minutes.

<p>Look at a wall. How was it made?</p>	<p>How many rooms can you see?</p>	<p>How did people at Elden Pueblo get their food? How do you know?</p>
<p>What was the roof made of?</p>	<p>How many people do you think lived here?</p>	
<p>How did they enter the Pueblo?</p>		

<p>How did people at Elden Pueblo get their water? How do you know?</p>	<p>What do you think the Sinagua people did with their trash?</p>	<p>Find an unusual opening. What was it used for?</p>
<p>Where did people gather together? For what purpose?</p>	<p>Pretend you live here. What would you do? What games would you play?</p>	<p>Why did the people leave?</p>

# Excavation Record

## Elden Pueblo NA 142

*Remember: It is not what you find. It is what you find out!*

**EXCAVATORS:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**PROVENIENCE (Grid Number):** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**LEVEL:** \_\_\_\_\_

### LINE LEVEL MEASUREMENTS:

NW CORNER \_\_\_\_\_

SW CORNER \_\_\_\_\_

NE CORNER \_\_\_\_\_

SE CORNER \_\_\_\_\_

CENTER \_\_\_\_\_

**RESEARCH QUESTION:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Bag Label:**

<p><b>Site Name - Elden Pueblo</b> <b>Site Number - NA 142</b> <b>Today's Date:</b></p> <p><b>Grid Unit #:</b> <b>Level:</b></p>
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**Describe the soil in your unit (What color is it? What does it feel like? Is it full of small rocks? Large rocks?):** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Describe the different types of artifacts found in your grid unit:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Grid Interpretation:** (What do you think the people were doing in this area? Use the data or information you gathered as your evidence.) \_\_\_\_\_

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# Elden Pueblo Artifacts

**NAMES:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PROVENIENCE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**LEVEL:** \_\_\_\_\_

<b>CERAMICS</b>	<b>Number of “RIM” Sherds</b>	<b>Number of “Body” Sherds</b>	<b>PURPOSE (For what was the whole pottery used?)</b>
<b>PAINTED SHERDS</b>			
• <b>Black and White</b>			
• <b>Black and Red</b>			
<b>PLAIN WARE or BROWNWARE SHERDS</b>			
<b>CORRUGATED SHERDS</b>			
<b>TOTAL NUMBERS OF SHERDS</b>			

<b>STONE ARTIFACTS</b>	<b>NUMBER OF PIECES</b>	<b>PURPOSE (For what was the whole tool used?)</b>
<b>LITHICS</b>		
• <b>OBSIDIAN</b>		
• <b>BASALT</b>		
• <b>CHERT</b>		
• <b>GROUNDSTONE</b>		
<b>TOTAL NUMBERS OF STONE ARTIFACTS</b>		

**Based on the numbers and types of artifacts found in this area, what do YOU think the people were doing? What kind of place was this? Tell the story of the artifacts.**



# **ELDEN PUEBLO FIELD EXPERIENCE**

**Express your experience at Elden Pueblo in writing.  
For example, you could write a story or poem, or draw  
a picture.**

## **HOUSE RULES FOR VISITING ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES**

1. ***Keep your feet off the furniture.*** Due to their age, archaeological sites are very fragile. Walls crumble and topple easily. Walk carefully and avoid stepping on walls, artifacts and easily eroded slopes. Do not climb, sit or stand on the walls. Do not dig or remove artifacts. Stay on trails, and obey signs. They are there for a reason
2. ***Don't eat in the living room.*** Avoid picnicking in archaeological sites. Crumbs attract rodents who may nest in the site. Crumbs from your meals may also alter lab tests done later on the site. Pick up and carry out all of your trash and garbage.
3. ***Don't rearrange the furniture or mess with the knickknacks.*** Leave everything right where you found it. Artifacts, where they lay, tell a story. Once they are moved a piece of the past is forever lost. Avoid making collection piles or adding anything to a site. Do not remove anything from a site. Even the soil on an archaeological site is important for scientific testing to reconstruct past environments. Leave everything as it is.
4. ***No Slumber Parties or Fires.*** Do not camp in ruins or archaeological sites. These sites are extremely fragile and your inadvertent activities will damage these wondrous places. Fire destroys prehistoric organic materials, ruins dating potential of artifacts and damages or destroys rock art by covering it with soot.
5. ***Don't touch the paintings.*** Oils from even the cleanest hands can cause damage to pictographs and petroglyphs. It can ruin the dating potential for future scientists. Never deface this artwork by adding your own. These irreplaceable masterpieces are easily destroyed. And it's illegal.
6. ***Don't pee in the Parlor – or any other Room.*** Pa-leese! I mean really! Why would anyone think this was acceptable behavior? Your mom would be REALLY mad if you did this at home. This applies to pets, also. Which is why, NO PETS ARE ALLOWED on archaeological sites.
7. ***Tell Mom if you see anything Wrong.*** Contact a ranger if you find archaeological sites defaced or see people vandalizing sites. Call (928) 526-0600, 24 hours a day, to report an incident. This heritage belongs to us all. Protect it!

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