

# MESA VERDE

## NATIONAL PARK

— COLORADO —



# Mesa Verde

Covering 82 square miles in Southwestern Colorado, you'll find Mesa Verde National Park, which showcases the culture of the Ancestral Puebloans who once lived there. Visitors today can get a glimpse of the park's thousands of archaeological sites, including its famous cliff dwellings.

## The Early Days...

The Ancestral Puebloans who called Mesa Verde home lived in the area from 550 A.D. to 1300 A.D. Though they once made their homes mostly on the tops of the mesas, the people eventually built cliff dwellings, which still exist today. Among the archeological sites at Mesa Verde are pueblos, pithouses, and masonry towers. And there is still more to discover.

The pueblos that were constructed underneath the cliffs and between the canyon walls featured different structures, like granaries and storage units, as well as villages with numerous rooms for dwellings. Toward the latter part of the 1200s, the Puebloans began to leave the area, moving to the south, which we now know as Arizona and New Mexico.

## Modern Times...

In June of 1906, President Theodore Roosevelt signed a bill from Congress establishing Mesa Verde National Park. What makes Mesa Verde a standout among national parks is that it was the first one dedicated to the preservation of structures made by man, rather than just natural elements like forests. In 1978, the park became a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Today, Mesa Verde is a popular tourist attraction, with hundreds of thousands making their way to the park each year. July and August bring the most visitors to the park, with up to 3,000 per day during peak season.

## Fun Facts:

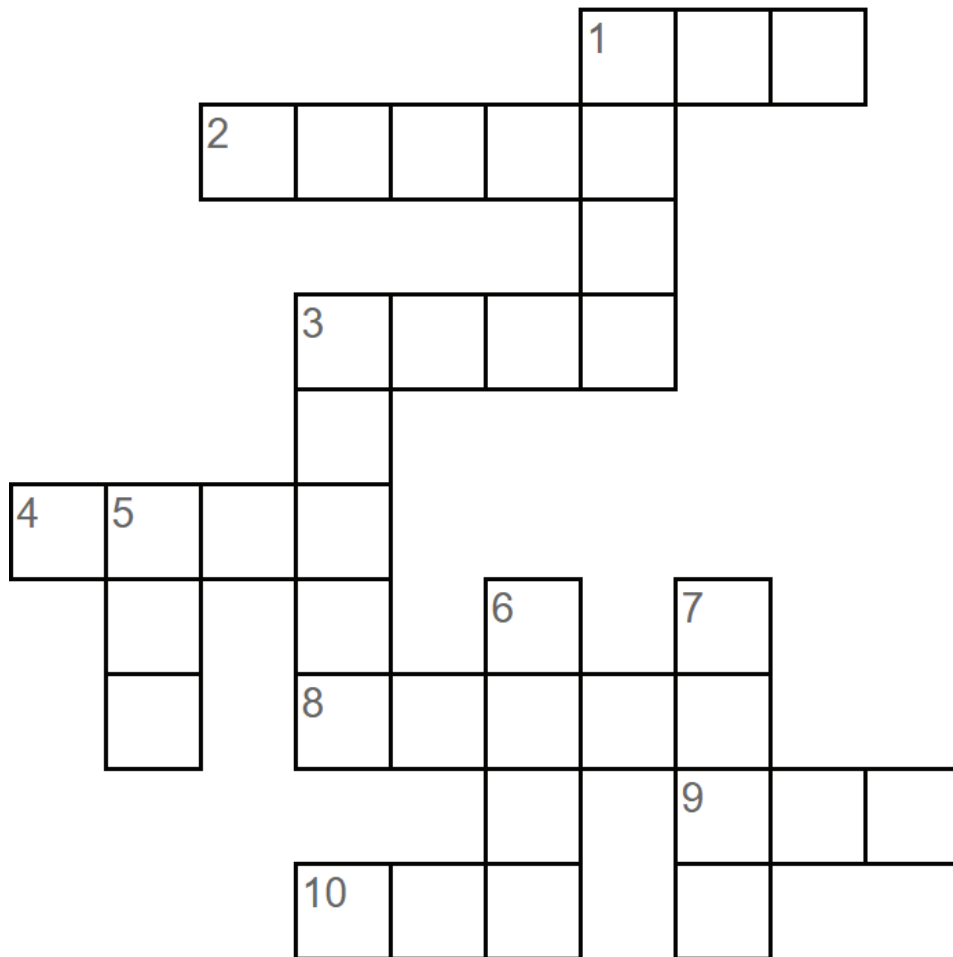
- Mesa Verde means green table in Spanish, so named because of the many juniper and pinon trees that color the landscape.
- The layout of the cliff dwellings allowed the Pueblo people to rely on solar energy, with enough shading in the summer and adequate sunlight to warm the masonry.
- It is the seventh oldest national park in the United States.
- Some of the cliff dwellings have small doorways. At the time that the Pueblo people lived here, the men stood between 5'4" and 5'5", and women were between 5' and 5'1", on average.



# Word Jumble

Every answer uses only the letters in the word:

## Artifacts



### Across

1. Perch
2. Activity
3. Just
4. Blemish
8. Crown
9. Distant
10. Rodent

### Down

1. Sun
3. Have in view
5. Smooch
6. Speedy
7. Small Boat

# Word Search

N I L A J Q D W A O K U  
H Y N Z E Y W K I V A S  
A C N I B M E O V D W G  
Z J K P D T L Z F N M V  
R I N I V I L L A G E S  
M V F P L F I C S K S A  
G R E E N T N L L U A A  
P U E B L O G I O I N H  
S A N D S T O N E N F B  
A R T I F A C T S T G F  
C O L O R A D O W R M Q  
H F R A M O D F N L K G

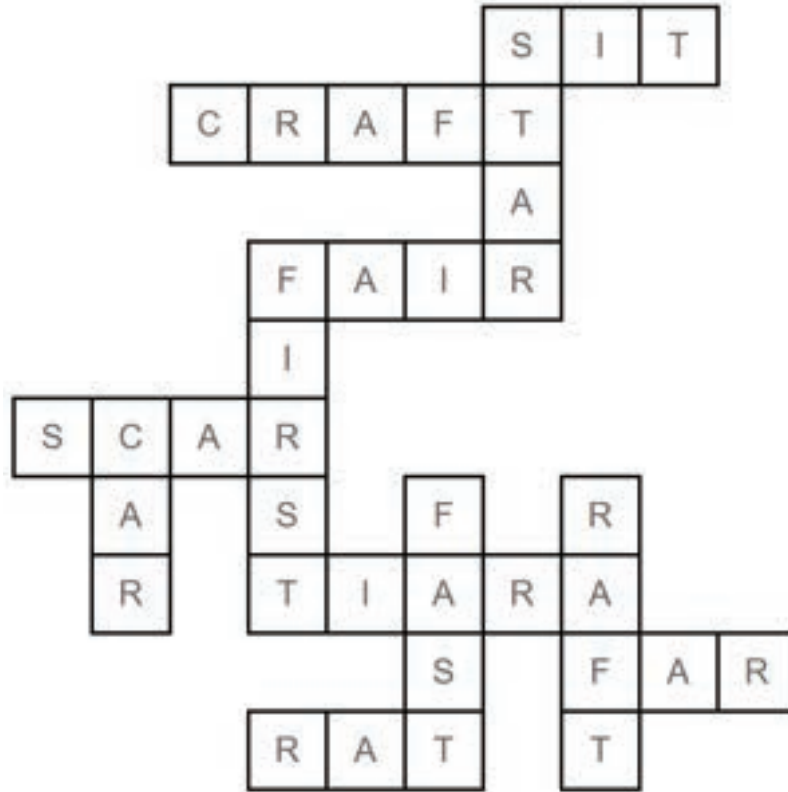
---

Mesa  
Cliff  
Dwelling  
Long

Sandstone  
Kivas  
Sun  
Pueblo

Artifacts  
Villages  
Green  
Colorado

# Solutions



N I L A J Q D W A O K U  
H Y N Z E Y W K I V A S  
A C N I B M E O V D W G  
Z J K P D T L Z F N M V  
R I N I V I L L A G E S  
M V F P L F I C S K S A  
G R E E N T N L L U A A  
P U E B L O G I O I N H  
S A N D S T O N E N F B  
A R T I F A C T S T G F  
C O L O R A D O W R M Q  
H F R A M O D F N L K G



