The Hopi are known as one of the oldest living cultures in documented history, having migrated north to Arizona in the 12th century. The Hopi are guardians of the sacred land they call Hopitutskwa.

The Hopi Reservation, located on high and dry land, forced the Hopi to develop a unique agricultural practice known as “dry farming,” a system of relying on water-retentive tillage methods rather than irrigation.

The Hopi and Navajo Tribes have a long history of conflict over land. After years of escalating conflict, the Navajo-Hopi Settlement Act of 1974 split land across tribes and forced relocation for those on the wrong side of the partition line.

According to the 2006-2010 American Community Survey, approximately 15,016 Hopi Tribal members live in Arizona.
SOCIAL AND HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS*

The Hopi are a matrilineal society organized by clan membership. The Tribe is fairly young with a median age of 29.4, and almost 30 percent of the population is under age 18.

Traditional Hopi houses were made of dried clay and stone, with flat roofs and multiple levels accessible by ladder. The bottom level was underground (called a Kiva), and was used for religious ceremonies. Today, there are approximately 4,031 occupied housing units on the Hopi Reservation.

ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Members of the Hopi Tribe have a significantly high poverty rate (30.6 percent). Female-headed households are especially vulnerable to living in poverty (73.6 percent of households in poverty are female-headed). The median household income for the Hopi Tribe is $39,411.

ENTERPRISES

In 1995 the Hopi Tribe by a referendum vote rejected gaming as a source of revenue generation or economic development, and have since continued to vote down building a casino. They do operate a major hotel, the Moenkopi Legacy Inn near Tuba city, to accommodate tourists visiting Hopi Tribal lands.

The Hopi Cultural Center, Restaurant, and Inn is located on Second Mesa.

Hopi artisans are known for pottery, paintings, weaving, and carvings. In particular, First Mesa is known for pottery, Second Mesa is known for coiled basketry, and Third Mesa is known for wicker basketry, weaving, Kachina doll carving, and silversmithing. Visitors are welcome to visit the Three Mesas, but photography, video recording, audio recording, sketching, and note-taking are not allowed.

HOPI RESEARCH CODE

The Hopi Cultural Preservation Office has established a protocol for research, publication, and recordings: motion, visual, sound, multimedia and other mechanical devices. To review the Hopi Research Code, see http://www.nptao.arizona.edu/protocols.html.

*All statistics on this page are from the 2006-2010 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates.