

1. Description

1.1 Name of Society, Language, and Language Family: Apache, Athapaskan Language family

1.2 ISO Code: apw

1.3 Location: Apache tribes ranged from Southern Colorado all the way to Northern Mexico and from Eastern Arizona to Eastern New Mexico. Some tribes lived in parts of Texas and Oklahoma and Nebraska.

1.4 Brief History: The Apache name comes from the Yuma word for “fighting” and the Zuni word for “enemy”. This is because the Apache were known for their great fighting skill and technique. They were a much feared group because of their many raiding/ war parties. Apaches were also known for their great endurance.

1.5 Influence of missionaries/schools/governments/powerful neighbors: Settlers from Mexico and the United States moved into Apache territory causing all kinds of trouble because it destroyed the Apaches resources so they started raiding these settlers to gather supplies and food.

1.6 Ecology: Apaches lived off the land by hunting animals and gathering plants for food and medicinal purposes.

1.7 Population size, mean village size, home range size, and density: Bands of Apaches would range from 50 people to 750 people and these bands were made up of local groups which ranged from 35 to 200 people. The Western Apaches occupied about 90,00 square miles and they were only one of the six sub groups. Western Apache population in 1990 was almost 13,000 people.

2. Economy

2.1 Main carbohydrate: agave/ mescal was the main carbohydrate. They also ate fruits, nuts, berries, and seeds. Apaches used almost any plant that they ran into for something. They used sun flower seeds to make bread. They used many different kinds of berries to make jams. Apaches were able to make chewing gum out of milkweed sap and pine gum. The apaches also took advantage of the many cactuses that grew nearby. 60-65% of the Apache diet consisted of carbohydrates.

2.2 Main protein: Buffalo meat was the main protein eaten by the Apaches. They also hunted other large game animals such as antelope, deer, elk, and big horn sheep. Some small game animals the Apache ate are rabbits and opossums. In times of starvation Apaches were known to eat rats, rattlesnakes, and even horses. The diet consisted of 35- 40 % protein.

2.3 Weapons: Bow and Arrows was the main weapon for Apaches. Bows were usually made out of wild mulberry because it was believed to be the strongest. In the beginning Apaches made their arrows out of cane but the newer arrows were made out of hardened wood. Apaches would make poison out of a deer spleen to place on the arrowhead to use for hunting and even warfare. Apaches made lances or spears and almost never threw them because if you threw it then you were defenseless. War clubs were made out of hide and a stone. Apaches also made shields out of animal hide.

2.4 Food storage:

2.5 Sexual division of production: Apache men did the hunting, raiding and went on war parties. In camp they spent most of their time making weapons and things for medicine practice. Apache men also

spent some time gambling. The women were in charge of making the meals and foraging for food. Usually women would collect the fire wood.

2.6 Land tenure:

2.7 Ceramics: Sometimes clay pottery was made for cooking ware or drinking utensils. Most were never painted or decorated.

2.8 Specified sharing patterns: Sometimes a man would hire an old man to make his bow so when the man with the new bow killed a deer he would offer some of that deer to the old man. Also if the younger man went on a raiding party and came back with some horses he might give that old man a horse or two.

2.9 Food taboos: Most Apache tribes would not eat fish believing they were diseased. Some Tribes would eat birds such as quail but some tribes believed they were dirty because of the food the birds ate. Also even though bears were in abundance most Apache tribes would not eat the bear.

2.10 Canoes/ watercraft-

3. Anthropometry

3.1 Mean adult height:

3.2 mean adult weight:

4. Life History, mating, marriage

4.1 Age at menarche:

4.2 Age at first birth:

4.3 Completed family size:

4.4 Inter-birth interval: Apache women would try to conceive children every 4 years. If a man got his wife pregnant too early he was considered irresponsible.

4.5 Age at first marriage: A girl was allowed to marry after her second year of having a menstrual cycle.

4.6 Proportions of marriage ending in divorce:

4.7 Percent marriages polygamous, percent males married polygamous: Polygamy could be practiced but it was very rare. If an Apache male wanted two wives he would have to be able to take care of both families.

4.8 Bride purchase (price), bride service, and dowry: Usually after a female chose her husband the husband would give horses to the parents of the bride.

4.9 Inheritance Patterns: After one died all of the belongings would be burned or destroyed. Before one died they could give their possessions away to their family if they wanted too.

4.10 Parent-offspring interactions and conflict: Children were very well taken care of. In a child's life they would play and follow their parents and imitate everything they did. A child learned the way to live by following their parents.

4.11 Homosexual activities:

4.12 Pattern of exogamy:

4.13 What is the belief of the role of males in conception; is paternity partible?

4.14 What is the belief of the mother's role in procreation exactly?

4.15 Is conception believed to be an incremental process?

4.16 Occurrence of sexual coercion, rape:

4.17 Preferential category for spouse:

4.18 Do females enjoy sexual freedoms:

4.19 Evidence of giving gifts to extra marital partners:

4.20 If mother dies, who raises children:

4.21 Adult sex ratio:

4.22 Evidence of couvades: none

4.23 Different distinction for potential fathers:

4.24 Kin avoidance and respect: An Apache man would avoid his mother-in-law by turning his back on her if she walked by. He would never enter her house and if she would come to his house then he would leave. They follow this avoidance because it is suspected that it could cause domestic problems. If the man would look at his mother-in-law he would go blind apaches believed.

4.24 Joking relationships:

4.25 Patterns of descent:

4.26 Incest avoidance rules: Any one closer than a fourth cousin was to be avoided for marriage.

4.27 Is there a formal marriage ceremony: There was no formal marriage ceremony. Usually the couple would go off on their own for a few days and then when they came back they would be married.

4.28 In what ways does one get a name, change their name, and obtain another name: Infants usually received their name from their mother. The mother would give the child a descriptive name. The first name was usually lost because when a child reached maturity they would receive a name better describing the characteristics they are best known for. If parents wanted a name for a child that was considered to be another family's name they may have to give gifts to the other family so they can name their child. Some Apaches in the tribe who were very skilled at something could give their name to a child as a gift and this was considered to give that particular skill to that child.

4.29 Is marriage within community or outside community:

4.30 Are marriages arranged? Who arranges: Marriages are not arranged. The female has the last decision in the husband she picks. At first she will give the man a hint that she likes him and then the male will pursue the female by placing a horse outside of her house for four days. If she takes the horse to water that means she chooses that male but if she leaves the horse alone then she does not want that man for a husband. The woman would usually leave the horse outside for a couple days so she did not look to desperate.

4.31 Evidence of conflict of interest over who marries who:

Warfare/homicide

4.14 Percent adult (male deaths) due to warfare:

4.15 Outgroup vs ingroup cause of violent death:

4.16 Report causes of in-group and out-group killing: One of the main causes for in-group killings is alcohol. Many fights would be caused because of alcohol and this would usually lead to some deaths.

4.17 Number, diversity and relationship with neighboring societies(external relations): Apaches had a good relationship with the Pueblos because of trade. Apache did not have a good relationship with White men.

4.18 Cannibalism: Apaches did not practice cannibalism. The only thing Apaches would do to mutilate their enemy's body after death was to scalp them. This was done occasionally but not all of the time. They would only scalp in the enemies territory and would never keep the scalp and return to their home. Usually the scalp was placed on a pole and paraded around and then before night fall it was thrown in a tree because the Apaches believed they could possibly be haunted by ghosts.

5. Socio-political organization and interaction

5.1 Mean local residential (village) group size: A group could have as few as 35 people living in it to as many as 200.

5.2 Mobility pattern: Moved with what they hunted and the natural resources they used.

5.3 Political system: The seven Apache tribes never had any political unity between each other. Most Apaches lived within their own family groups. Most of the time several family groups would live together in "local groups" and these groups were headed by a chief. Being a chief was not a hereditary position. Any one that possessed the sufficient traits could become a chief. A chief was someone who had a strong influence over others because of the skills he had. Being a chief was not like being a dictator. Anyone could ignore a chiefs direction if they so pleased. A "local group" would have the same religious and cultural practices. They would usually go to war together. In a few of the different Apache tribes many "local groups" would join together to create "bands".

5.4 Post marital residence: After marriage the husband would move to where his wife's family lived. He would then work and hunt with his new relatives and he learned to live in his new territory.

5.5 Territorial:

5.6 Social interaction divisions:

5.7 Special friendships/joking relationships:

5.8 Village and house organization: There are three different types of houses in which Apaches live. If they lived on the plains, they would live in a teepee because they were very nomadic and needed shelter they could move with short notice. A teepee is a tent made of animal skins and wooden poles. If they lived near woodlands they would construct a wickiup. A wickiup was constructed of wood and brush. It would be constructed to be waterproof and to keep them warm from cold weather and snow. The last type of home they lived was an earthen structure called a Hogan made by Apaches living in the desert. It was used to protect them from the sun and the hot temperatures.

5.9 Specialized village structures:

5.10 Sleep in hammocks or on ground or elsewhere: They slept on brush and grass that was covered with some type of animal skin on the ground. Because they were nomadic they did not have time to have different sleeping arrangements.

5.11 Social organization:

5.12 Trade: Apaches traded for pottery with Pueblos Indians who were their agriculture neighbors. The apaches gave the Pueblos buffalo robes and dried meat.

5.13 Indications of social hierarchies:

6. Ritual/Ceremony/Religion

6 Time allocation to RCR:

6.1 Specializations: Apache Indians had medicine men. These medicine men were the ones who conducted ceremonies. Medicine men would create medicine made from plants.

6.2 Stimulants: Tulapai was the drink of choice for Apaches. It was made from fermented corn sprouts. It was like drinking a light beer. There was also a drink they could make from a mescal plant but was rarely made.

6.3 Passage rituals: Apaches had a girl and boy puberty ceremony. The girl's puberty rite of passage was more glorified than the boy ceremony and less private. When a girl had her first menstrual cycle she would then be ready for womanhood. In some tribes only the one girl would be the center of the puberty rite but in other tribes several girls would join in the puberty rite. The ceremony would most likely last four days. During those four days a medicine man would be brought in to perform the ceremony. The medicine man would sing songs about creation stories and would sing songs to bless the girl and her family. There were many different ways the girl's puberty passage was conducted because there were so many different apache tribes. For a boy his puberty rite was a little different. Usually a boy would go off by himself, but occasionally the boys would go in groups. The boy or boys would travel off to be alone to fast and pray. They would fast and pray until they had a vision or dream. This vision or dream was supposed to tell them what occupation they should chose and it would give them some sort of guidance for life.

6.4 Other rituals: Rain dance, spirit dance. Most dances were for influencing their food supplies.

6.5 Myths: It was believed that certain animals could make humans sick if consumed. These animals were snakes, bears, coyotes and owls.

6.6 Cultural material:

6.7 Sex differences in RCR:

6.8 Missionary effect: Some Apache stories reflected stories from the bible. Apaches did not have a story about a "great flood" until they came into contact with white men.

6.9 RCR revival:

6.10 Death and afterlife beliefs: When one died they were buried with the nicest clothing the family had. The body would be placed in shallow grave or small crevice in the ground. Rocks would then be placed on and around the grave so the coyotes could not reach the body. It was believed that an owl would come and take the spirit away to heaven. After the deceased was buried the person's house was burned to the ground with everything inside of it. The person's livestock was also killed. This was because they believed the person's belongings could travel with them to the afterlife. Mourning would take place for a month after the burial. If an infant died the baby was tied to his cradleboard and hung in a tree with some water so that they could drink if they needed to.

6.11 Taboo of naming the dead:

6.12 Is there teknonymy:

6.13 Briefly describe religion: Apaches believed in a creation story of how they came about but this story was inconsistent between the many different tribes. Apaches also believed animals played different roles in helping them succeed in life. Apaches believe in certain holy powers in which a human may be able to attain sometime during his or her life. It is believed that these powers must come to a human through something such as an animal or possibly the moon/sun. The human must never try to pursue and attain a power.

7. Adornment

7.1 Body paint: Usually Apaches painted their face with red, brown, and black paint.

7.2 Piercings: Earrings were made of shiny shells. A few weeks after birth the mother or grandmother would pierce the child's ears and that child would wear earrings made of white or turquoise beads.

7.3 Haircut: If a woman was unmarried and a virgin she would wear her hair up in a roll covered with a hair bow called a "virginity lapel. If a woman was married then she would wear her hair loose around her shoulders and it would be cut evenly around the end.

7.4 Scarification: Some tattoos were worn on the face and arms.

7.5 Adornment: Apaches wore clothing made of animal hide. Men would wear a breechclout made out of deerskin, most of the time without a shirt. The breechclout would hang over a belt in the front and back and would hang down in between their legs. In the winter men would wear a heavy shirt that would be made of two animal skins. Women wore loose dresses made of deer skin. Both men and women wore moccasins made of deer hide. The moccasins were almost like a boot because the skin would reach up to their knees. Clothing and shoes would be decorated by animal hide that had been dyed.

7.6 Ceremonial/ ritual adornment:

7.7 Sex differences in adornment:

7.8 Missionary effect:

7.9 Cultural revival in adornment:

8. Kinship system

8.1 Sibling classification system:

8.2 Sororate, levirate: Both sororate and levirate were practiced. This was to keep the family bond that was created by the first marriage together. If there was no sister for the husband or no brother for the wife then they were free to go on about their lives.

9. Other interesting facts:

From my research Apaches were true hunter-gatherers and had been for a long time. They did not construct homes that were built to last a long amount time. They seemed like short term homes that could be transported easily and be built in a small amount of time. Many Apaches followed buffalo herds throughout the Great Plains. The Apache society is so wide and diverse that it is very difficult to pinpoint an exact culture and way of life. Some Apaches were known to follow the Navajo tribes and herd sheep while many did not domesticate any animals. When the Apaches received the horse they continued to be nomadic. The horse was very beneficial to them because they became better raider's warriors and even hunters. They did not use the horse to develop agricultural land. White-men had a huge effect on the Apache way of life. Apaches eventually had to move onto reservations and were forced to convert their religion and were also forced to go to school.

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