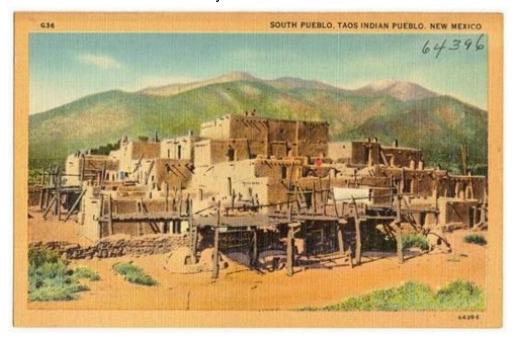
The Pueblo Revolt

by Jesse Kohn



New Mexico was a Spanish settlement founded in 1598. The first capital was San Juan de los Caballeros, and a few more towns were founded in the region in the following decade. However, the Spanish colony of New Mexico was relatively small, and only about 3,000 people lived there a century after its foundation. In 1675, the governor of New Mexico ordered the arrests of 47 Native American medicine men, religious leaders, and healers from the surrounding *pueblos*, or villages, where they lived. Of the four sentenced to death, only three faced the hangman-the fourth took his own life while waiting for his sentence to be served.

Ever since the Spanish colonists arrived in New Mexico in 1598, they had been working to suppress the ancient religion practiced by the Pueblo people. The colonial government had already outlawed festivals like the Kachina dances, where tribal members donned costumes of holy spirits. Precious religious icons such as Kachina dolls, ceremonial masks, and prayer sticks were seized and destroyed. These traditions and traditional objects were essential to the lives of the Pueblo people. Through them, they communed with their gods, honored the spirits that had dwelled beside them for thousands of years, and celebrated the land that had given them life. For the Pueblo people, to be forbidden from practicing their religion was like being separated from their own families and ancestors. The medicine men were the Pueblo people's most direct connection to their religious life. Although the Pueblo had, aside from a

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ReadWorks® The Pueblo Revolt

few small-scale revolts, peacefully suffered many of the colonists' attempts to force the Roman Catholic religion upon them, there came a significant breaking point.

Several warriors banded together from the different pueblos surrounding Santa Fe and marched upon the capital to demand the medicine men be set free. Because the governor was afraid of a revolt, he agreed to free the prisoners. But it was too little, too late. The damage had been done, the seeds of revolt already sown.

One of the 47 medicine men imprisoned by the governor was a man named Popé. Popé was from a pueblo north of Santa Fe called *Ohkay Owingeh*, which means "place of the strong people" in the Tewa language. Not only was Popé strong; he was also intelligent and charismatic. Angered by his unjust imprisonment, the unwarranted deaths of the four medicine men, the torturous treatment undergone by all the prisoners, and most of all, the general degradation and destruction inflicted upon his people, Popé resolved to confront the violence of the colonists with violence of his own. After being set free from prison, Popé relocated to the Taos Pueblo and from there began to organize a large-scale revolt.

The Pueblo people were not a single unified group. In fact the name "Pueblo Indians" comes from the Spanish colonists who wanted to distinguish the type of Native Americans that lived together in villages and cultivated the land from the type of nomadic tribe that roamed about the region. Truthfully, the so-called "Pueblo Indians" were composed of many different nations, including the Tewa, Tiwa, Hopi, and Zuni. Each nation had its own language and customs. This disunity had long prevented the different Native American groups from successfully rising against the Spanish colonists. Individually, each tribe was too small to stand a chance in a conflict with the well-armed settlers. Popé recognized that only by working together could the Pueblo people challenge the colonial government.

Popé reached out across nations, spoke across languages, and summoned together a momentous surge of over 2,000 Pueblo warriors. They were united in their common desire to overthrow the colonial government and rid the unwelcome Spanish influence from the land. It took Popé five years to organize his plan. By August of 1680, the flame that Popé had ignited could not be stifled.

On August 10, Popé declared a revolt, and the united Pueblo people unleashed their forces. They struck the small, thinly populated settlements first; each Pueblo tribe targeting the settlements nearest to it. By August 13, every Spanish settlement in New Mexico had been destroyed. The Pueblo tribes convened to invade the capital together. Even in Santa Fe, the Spanish were largely outnumbered. Victory was swift and overwhelming. The Palace of the

Governor was surrounded. Although the governor eventually escaped, both he and his men were pursued all the way to El Paso. About 400 Spanish men, women, and children were killed. The rest were driven from the land.

With the colonists banished from the territory, Popé assumed leadership. His goal was to restore conditions to what the Pueblo people were accustomed to before the Spanish arrived. This meant outlawing the religious and agricultural practices the Spanish had imported. Even though many Pueblo people had embraced parts of the colonial lifestyle, Popé enforced his vision upon everyone. He ordered the burning of crucifixes, the destruction of livestock, and the upheaval of Spanish crops. Twelve years later, the Spaniards returned to recolonize a drought-impoverished and hunger-stricken land.

colonize col - o - nize

Advanced Definition

transitive verb

1. to establish a settlement on, and rule, a distant territory.

The British began to colonize Australia in the late eighteenth century.

2. to create a colony of.

The conquerors colonized the natives.

intransitive verb

1. to form or settle a colony or colonies.

Spain colonized more extensively than France.

Spanish cognate

colonizar. The Spanish word colonizar means colonize.

These are some examples of how the word or forms of the word are used:

1. Ultimately, scientists hope to learn enough about Mars to bring human beings to the surface for a manned research mission. Some, working with entrepreneur Elon Musk, are even devising a plan to **colonize** the planet just one decade later.

revolt re volt

Advanced Definition

intransitive verb

1. to enter into active and usu. violent opposition against an established authority or political system.

When bread was scarce and the burden of taxes became unbearable, the citizens revolted.

2. to show a rebellious attitude or act in a rebellious manner.

If you attempt to control your son's every move, he will revolt.

transitive verb

1. to cause to experience disgust or shock; repel or repulse.

The dignitaries were revolted by the conditions in the refugee camp.

Their attitude towards women revolts me.

noun

1. a rebellion against an established authority, esp. the state.

The army put an end to the revolt.

2. the state or condition of those engaged in rebellion.

The whole country is in revolt.

Spanish cognate

revuelta: The Spanish word revuelta means revolt.

These are some examples of how the word or forms of the word are used:

- 1. Brown believed that armed slaves would **revolt** against their masters and free more slaves as they spread rebellion through the surrounding areas; however, this was not to be.
- 2. And yet, despite his wealth and high standing in French aristocracy, Lafayette was not content. During a stay in Paris, he learned of the American colonists' **revolt** against the British.
- 3. When the Declaration of Independence was written and ratified in the summer of 1776, the Revolutionary War had already begun. The Battle of Bunker Hill had occurred the year before, upon which the king declared the colonies in open rebellion. He sent his army and navy to contain the revolt and hired Hessian mercenaries from Germany to supplement his forces.

| Name: | Date: |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1. When was the Spanish s | settlement known as New Mexico founded? |
| A. 1675 | |
| B. 1616 | |
| C. 1598 | |
| D. 1680 | |
| | |

2. The passage describes the sequence of events that led to a large-scale revolt of the Pueblo people.

"In 1675, the Governor of New Mexico ordered the arrests of 47 Native American medicine men, religious leaders, and healers from the surrounding pueblos ... where they lived."

What happened when a group of warriors marched upon the capital to demand the medicine men be set free?

- A. More towns were founded in New Mexico.
- B. The warriors took part in a Kachina dance.
- C. The Governor decided to leave New Mexico.
- D. The Governor set the prisoners free.

3. Read the following sentences:

"The so-called 'Pueblo Indians' were composed of many different nations, including the Tewa, Tiwa, Hopi, and Zuni. Each nation had its own language and customs. This disunity had long prevented the different Native American groups from successfully rising against the Spanish colonists. Individually, each tribe was too small to stand a chance in a conflict with the well-armed settlers...Popé reached out across nations, spoke across languages, and summoned together a momentous surge of over 2,000 Pueblo warriors."

What can be concluded about Popé based on this information?

- A. Popé was unable to help the Pueblo Indians overcome their differences and unite against the Spanish.
- B. Popé helped the Pueblo Indians overcome their differences and unite against the Spanish.
- C. Popé overestimated his ability to unite the Pueblo Indians against the Spanish despite their cultural differences.
- D. Popé was not involved in the unification of the Pueblo Indians against the Spanish.
- 4. What was the main purpose of the large-scale Pueblo revolt organized by Popé?
 - A. to free the Native American medicine men, religious leaders, and healers arrested by the Governor
 - B. to make Popé the leader of the New Mexico territory
 - C. to banish the Spanish colonists from the New Mexico territory
 - D. to banish the Spanish colonists from the capital of New Mexico
- **5.** What is this passage mainly about?
 - A. the arrest of Pueblo people by the Spanish in 1675
 - B. the revolt of the Pueblo people against Spanish colonists
 - C. the founding and development of New Mexico by the Spanish
 - D. the importance of medicine men to Pueblo people's religious life

6. Read the following sentence: "Angered by his unjust imprisonment, the unwarranted deaths of the other medicine men, the tortuous treatment undergone by all the prisoners, and most of all, the general **degradation** and destruction inflicted upon his people, Popé resolved to confront the violence of the colonists with violence of his own."

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|---|
| As used in this passage, what does the word "degradation" mean? |
| A. confrontation |
| B. decrease |
| C. appreciation |
| D. humiliation |
| 7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below. |
| the governor of New Mexico freed the Native American prisoners, a large-scale revolt was still organized. |
| A. Instead |
| B. Although |
| C. Especially |
| D. Initially |
| 3. What was Popé's goal once he assumed leadership in New Mexico? |
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| 9. How did Spanish colonists work to suppress the ancient religion practiced by the | |
|---|--|
| Pueblo people? | |
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| 10. The passage explains that the arrested medicine men were set free after pueblo warriors surrounded Santa Fe and marched upon the capital to demand the medicine met be set free. The passage states, "Because the governor was afraid of a revolt, he agreed to free the prisoners. But it was too little, too late. The damage had been done, the seeds of revolt already sown." | |
| Explain what damage had been done that made revolt inevitable. Use information from the passage to support your answer. | |
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6. Read the following sentence: "Angered by his unjust imprisonment, the unwarranted deaths of the other medicine men, the tortuous treatment undergone by all the prisoners, and most of all, the general **degradation** and destruction inflicted upon his people, Popé resolved to confront the violence of the colonists with violence of his own."

As used in this passage, what does the word "degradation" mean?

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- A. Instead
- B. Although
- C. Especially
- D. Initially
- 8. What was Popé's goal once he assumed leadership in New Mexico?

Popé's goal was to restore the conditions that existed in New Mexico before the Spanish arrived.

9. How did Spanish colonists work to suppress the ancient religion practiced by the Pueblo people?

Students should note:

Festivals, like the Kachina dances, were outlawed. Religious icons, including Kachina dolls, ceremonial masks, and prayer sticks, were destroyed. Pueblo people were forbidden from practicing their religion.

10. The passage explains that the arrested medicine men were set free after pueblo warriors surrounded Santa Fe and marched upon the capital to demand the medicine

met be set free. The passage states, "Because the governor was afraid of a revolt, he agreed to free the prisoners. But it was too little, too late. The damage had been done, the seeds of revolt already sown."

Explain what damage had been done that made revolt inevitable. Use information from the passage to support your answer.

Students should explain that the Pueblo people were fed up with the unjust treatment they received from the Spanish colonists. Critical aspects of the Pueblo lifestyle had been attacked or undermined by the Spanish. For example, the Spanish suppressed the ancient religion practiced by the Pueblo people and arrested and killed medicine men, who were key religious figures. The organizer of the large-scale Pueblo revolt, Popé, was "angered by his unjust imprisonment, the unwarranted deaths of the other medicine men, the tortuous treatment undergone by all the prisoners, and most of all, the general degradation and destruction inflicted upon his people." Thus, he resolved to confront violence with violence.

G. colonists

| Nam | ne: Date: |
|-------------|--|
| 1. V | hat is a meaning of the word colonize ? |
| | A. to cause annoyance |
| | B. to settle on (land) |
| | C. to realize |
| 2. V | hat is another meaning of the word colonize ? |
| | A. to say something to someone that expresses praise |
| | B. to establish a territory governed by a distant country |
| | C. to move away from a place and to another direction |
| con | ase use each answer choice only once. Choose the one word that best apletes the sentence. here were thirteen at one time. |
| ••• | |
| | A. colonies |
| | B. colony C. colonialism |
| | D. colonial |
| | E. colonials |
| | F. colonized |
| | G. colonists |
| 4. A | is like a whole city of ants. |
| | A. colonies |
| | B. colony |
| | C. colonialism |
| | D. colonial |
| | E. colonials |
| | F. colonized |

| 5. In 1629, long before the American Revolution, Charles I gave land to wh went to live there. | 10 |
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| A. colonies | |
| B. colony | |
| C. colonialism | |
| D. colonial | |
| E. colonials | |
| F. colonized | |
| G. colonists | |
| 6. From morning to night, times were very different from today. | |
| A. colonies | |
| B. colony | |
| C. colonialism | |
| D. colonial | |
| E. colonials | |
| F. colonized | |
| G. colonists | |
| 7. This system is described as imperialism or | |
| A. colonies | |
| B. colony | |
| C. colonialism | |
| D. colonial | |
| E. colonials | |
| F. colonized | |
| G. colonists | |
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| 8. Ei | rik this inhospitable land and then tried to push on to new discoveries. |
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| | A. colonies |
| | B. colony |
| | C. colonialism |
| | D. colonial |
| | E. colonials |
| I | colonized |
| | G. colonists |
| 9. M | ercantilist policy discouraged making cash payments to |
| | A. colonies |
| | B. colony |
| | C. colonialism |
| | D. colonial |
| | E. colonials |
| ļ | colonized |
| | G. colonists |
| 10. F | Please write your own sentence using the word colonize . |
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| 1. What would you like to remember about the meaning of the word colonize so thou can use it when you write or speak? | nat |
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| |
| Please use each answer choice only once. Choose the one word that best completes the sentence. |
| 3. There were thirteen at one time. |
| A. colonies |
| B. colony |
| C. colonialism |
| D. colonial |
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| Answers will vary. |
| 11. What would you like to remember about the meaning of the word colonize so that you can use it when you write or speak? |
| Answers will vary. |

| Name: | Date: |
|---|---|
| 1. What is a meaning of the word revolt? | |
| A. organized opposition to authority | |
| B. a physicist who studies astronomy | |
| C. a building where people go to eat | |
| 2. What is another meaning of the word re | volt? |
| A. to explore something unknown | |
| B. to act in a rebellious way | |
| C. to act in a royal manner | |
| Please use each answer choice only on completes the sentence. | ce. Choose the one word that best |
| 3. Georgia kept the name even after the A | merican, when England no longer |
| ruled the United States. | |
| A. revolutionaries | |
| B. revolutions | |
| C. revolt | |
| D. revolts | |
| E. revolted | |
| F. revolution | |
| G. revolutionary | |
| 4. When the War started in 1776, A | mericans fought under many different flags. |
| A. revolutionaries | |
| B. revolutions | |
| C. revolt | |
| D. revolts | |
| E. revolted | |
| F. revolution | |
| G. revolutionary | |

| 5. The colonists felt they should |
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| A. revolutionaries |
| B. revolutions |
| C. revolt |
| D. revolts |
| E. revolted |
| F. revolution |
| G. revolutionary |
| 6. After many, the process reversed and the circular motion died out. |
| A. revolutionaries |
| B. revolutions |
| C. revolt |
| D. revolts |
| E. revolted |
| F. revolution |
| G. revolutionary |
| 7. A variety of events, however, changed many of them into |
| A. revolutionaries |
| B. revolutions |
| C. revolt |
| D. revolts |
| E. revolted |
| F. revolution |
| G. revolutionary |
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| 8. "They were afraid of slave and they wanted us to learn the Bible's teachings |
|---|
| about slaves being loyal to their masters," he said. |
| A. revolutionaries |
| B. revolutions |
| C. revolt |
| D. revolts |
| E. revolted |
| F. revolution |
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| 9. The colonists thought he made unfair laws, so they and formed their own country. |
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