



Spanish-Colonial, Navajo, or Pueblo? Identifying Weavings of the Southwest

Overview: Compare and contrast three images of southwestern textiles from three different cultures and determine which culture produced which textile.

Objectives:

1. Compare and contrast three southwestern textiles
2. Identify the culture a weaving belongs to based on its distinguishing characteristics

Materials

Three images of southwestern textiles from the CU Museum collection – one Spanish-Colonial, one Navajo, one Pueblo
“General Criteria for Distinguishing Nineteenth-Century Spanish-Colonial, Navajo, and Pueblo Weavings (1800-1880)” information sheet for southwestern textiles
“Three Southwest Weaving Cultures” background information

Preparation:

Print/make color copies of the three southwestern textiles
Make copies of the “General Criteria” information sheet
Review the Three Cultures of Master Weaving: Southwestern Textiles from the CU Museum Collection exhibit vocabulary list, if necessary
Review “Three Southwest Weaving Cultures” background information

Procedure:

With participants in small groups, review the images of the three textiles. Compare and contrast the three textiles, developing a list of the similarities and differences. Review the “General Criteria” information sheet.
Using the list the groups developed and the “General Criteria” information sheet, determine which textile is Spanish-Colonial, which is Navajo, and which is Pueblo, based on each weavings’ distinctive characteristics.
Share each group’s findings and observations.
Review each weaving and reinforce the groups’ findings and observations, pointing out the distinctive characteristics of each.

To Extend the Experience: Visit the exhibit at the CU Museum *Three Cultures of Master Weaving: Southwestern Textiles from the CU Museum Collection*. Using the “General Criteria” information sheet, identify the origins of the textiles in the exhibit. Record and discuss the observations. Remember: the origins of the weavings on exhibit will be listed on the exhibit label text.