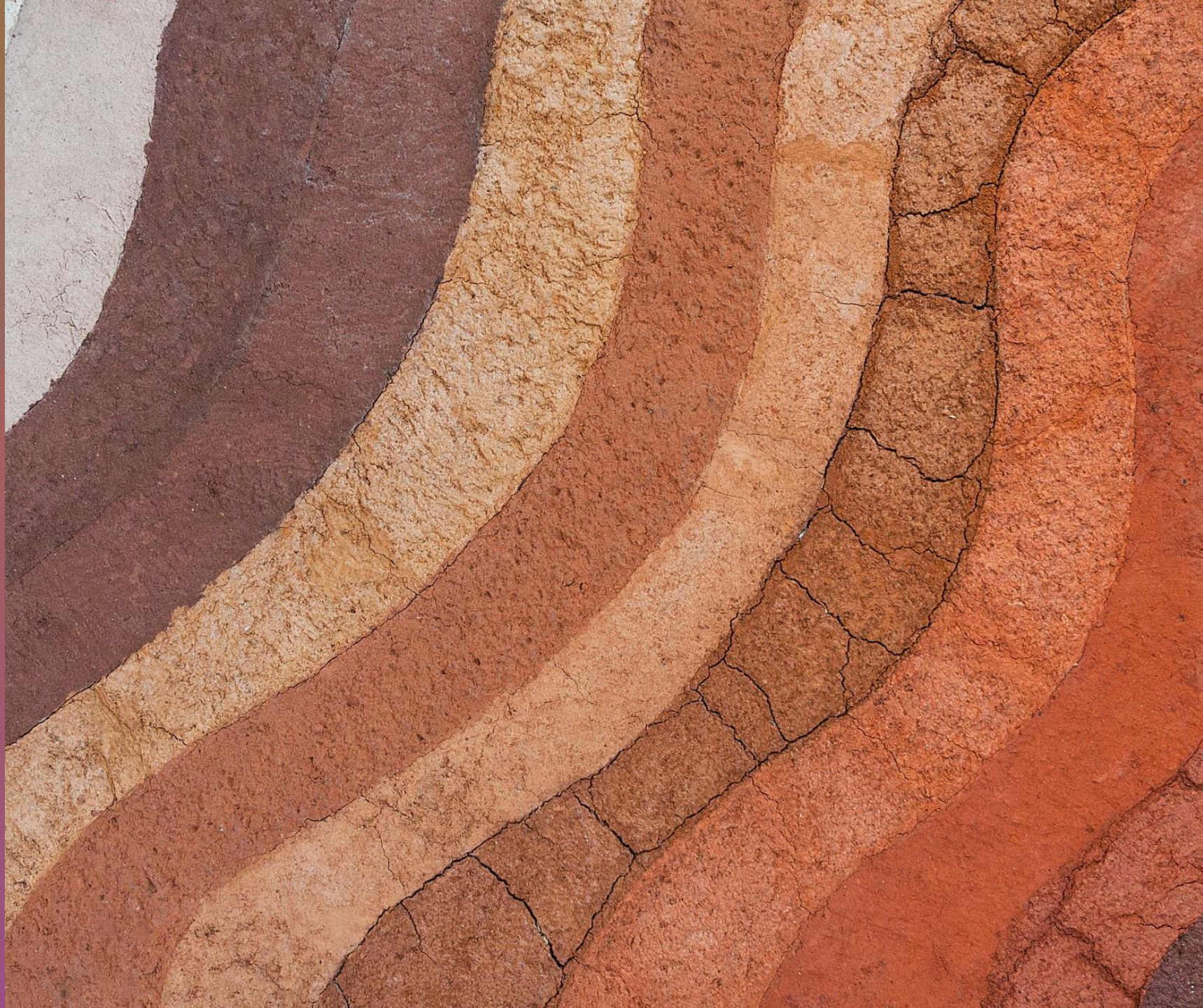


FALL 2024

NAVAJO DOLLS AND SAND PAINTINGS

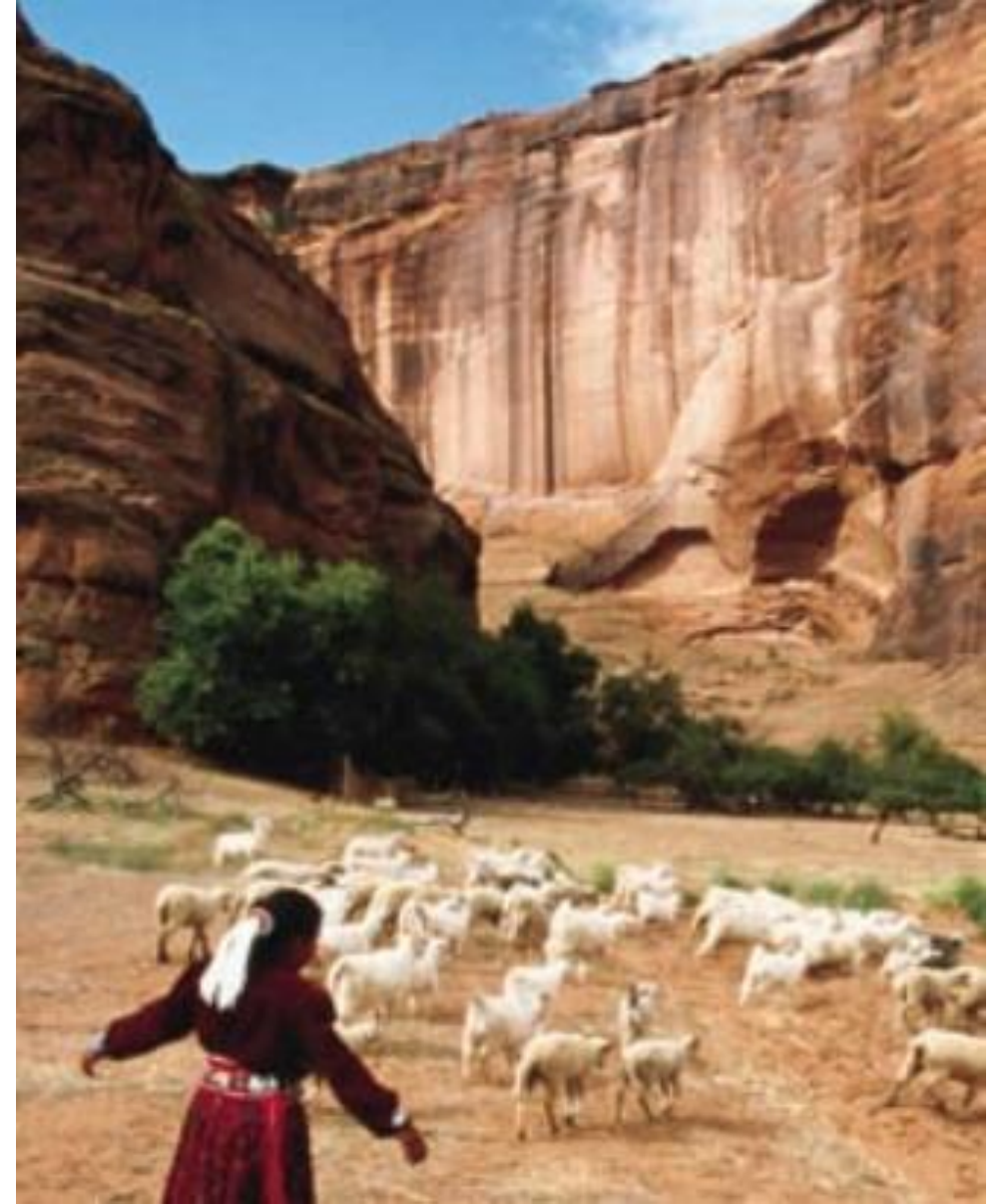


WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT DOLLS?



HISTORY OF NAVAJO PEOPLE

- The Navajo reservation makes up four states: Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado and Utah
- Diné, language of Navajo, meaning “the people” and is what Navajo people call themselves
- Traditionally, the Navajo were largely hunters and gatherers
- The tribe grew crops of corn, beans, and squash
- Sheep herding (later a form of currency)
- The practice of spinning and weaving wool into blankets and clothing became (and remains today) an important part of Navajo economy and art.



CLIMATIC ZONE MAP

Based on Köppen System

	NAVAJO DOLL	A
	INUPIAT DOLL	B
	OJIBWE DOLL	C
	SENECA DOLL	D
	SEMINOLE DOLL	E

	TROPICAL
	DRY
	MILD
	WARM SUMMER
	COOL SUMMER
	SUBARCTIC
	TUNDRA
	HIGHLANDS



Navajo Dolls

Sheep Springs, New Mexico

Made by Kay Bennett ca. 1965

Felt, cloth, yarn, sequins

Indian Arts and Crafts Board Collection, Department of the Interior, at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian.

These dolls carry shawls that, wrapped around the shoulders, are an important feature of traditional attire. Navajo women also display beautiful silver jewelry adorned with turquoise and other precious stones.





NAVAJO DOLL MAKER

CLARA BEGAY

Thoreau, New Mexico

What is being taught by the dolls you make?

Navajo, Hopi, Pueblos, and Apache are not thought of as individual tribes. People don't realize that we are different cultures, and dolls help to show the differences. We have different traditions. My dolls are correct—if it's supposed to be Navajo, it's dressed Navajo. A sash belt is a traditional way to help a woman keep her shape after childbirth, so maybe there's a doll with a sash belt.



Navajo Cloth Doll Artist Pearl Joe (left)

ARTIST UNKNOWN
NATIVE AMERICAN,
DINÉ (NAVAJO)
DOLL, 1950
11.75 X 4.25 INCHES
GIFT OF HILDA P.
BERNARDS

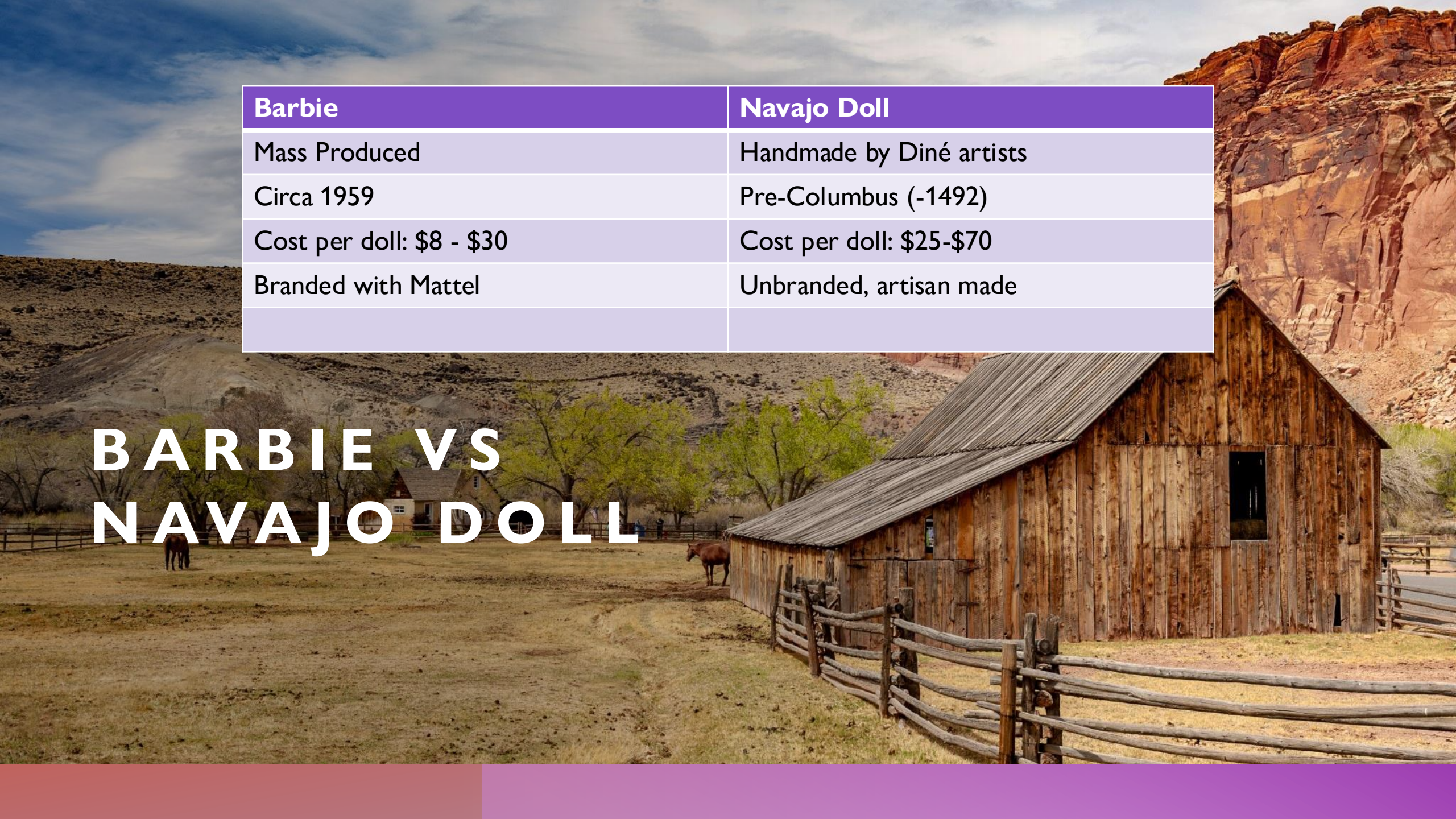




A pair of Native American Navajo dolls from the 1940s

PRESENT
DAY DINÉ
DOLL BY
ARTISAN
ROSE
BAKER





Barbie	Navajo Doll
Mass Produced	Handmade by Diné artists
Circa 1959	Pre-Columbus (-1492)
Cost per doll: \$8 - \$30	Cost per doll: \$25-\$70
Branded with Mattel	Unbranded, artisan made

BARBIE VS NAVAJO DOLL

**MATTEL NET
WORTH:
\$7.54
BILLION**



Barbie

NAVAJO SAND PAINTING



SAND PAINTINGS ARE LIVING, DYNAMIC, AND SACRED ENTITIES

- Sand paintings possess the ability to transform a patient's mental and physical state by focusing on the powerful mythic symbols in the work
- The performative power of sandpainting creation and ritual use reestablish the proper, orderly placement of the forces of life, thus restoring correct relations between the patient and those forces upon which the patient's spiritual and physical health depend



MEDICINE MAN AND SANDPAINTINGS



HEALING CEREMONIES

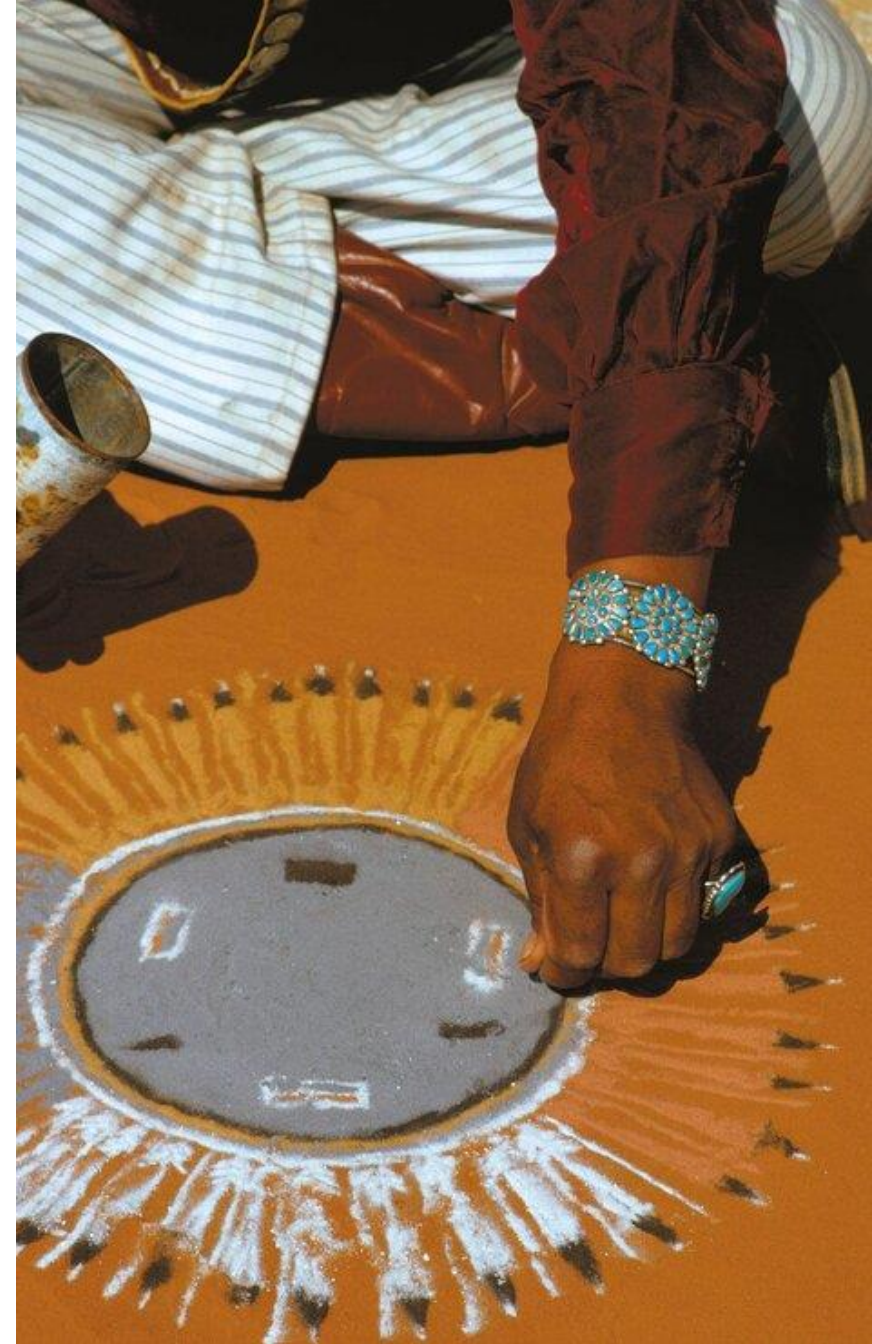


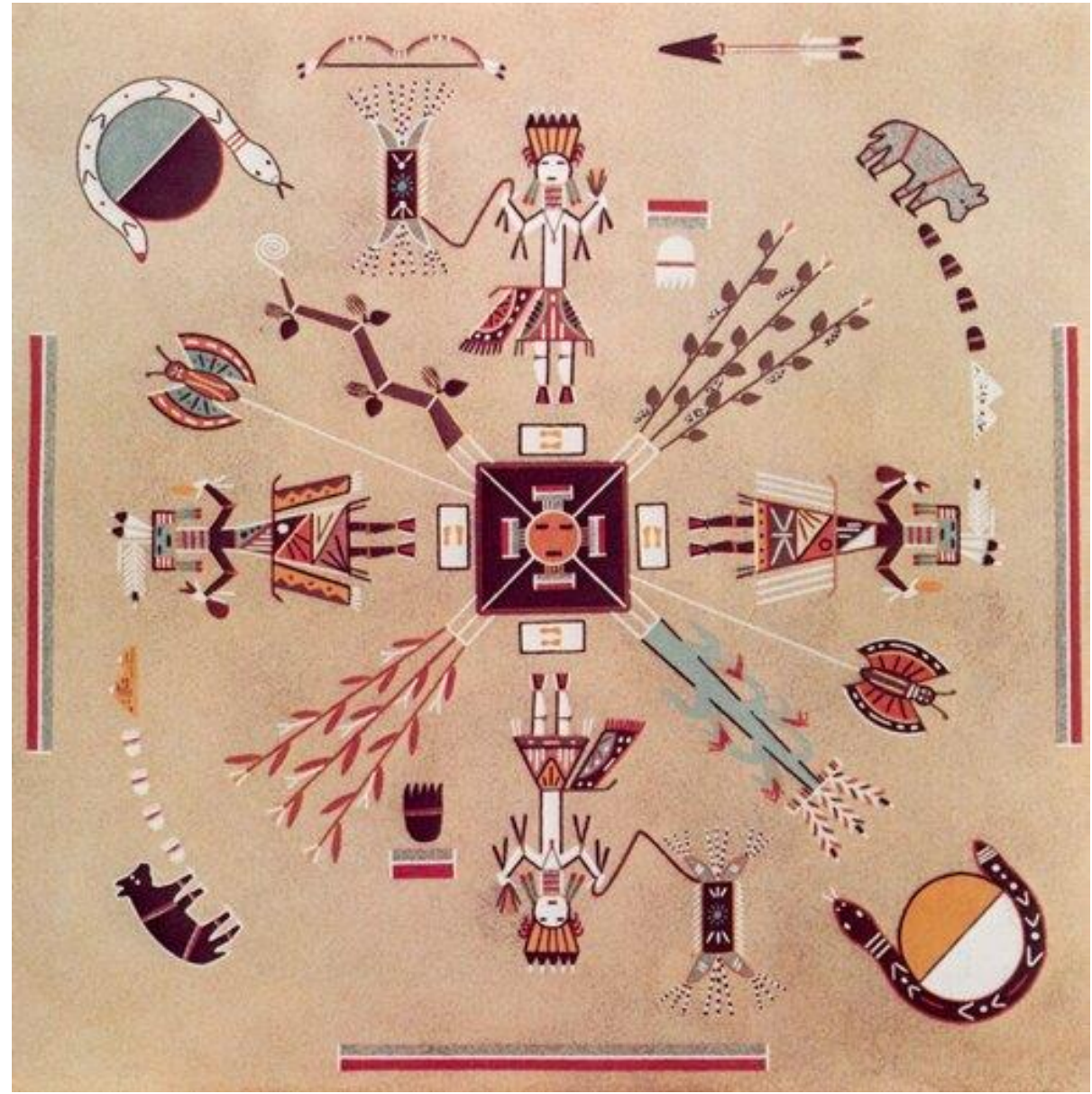
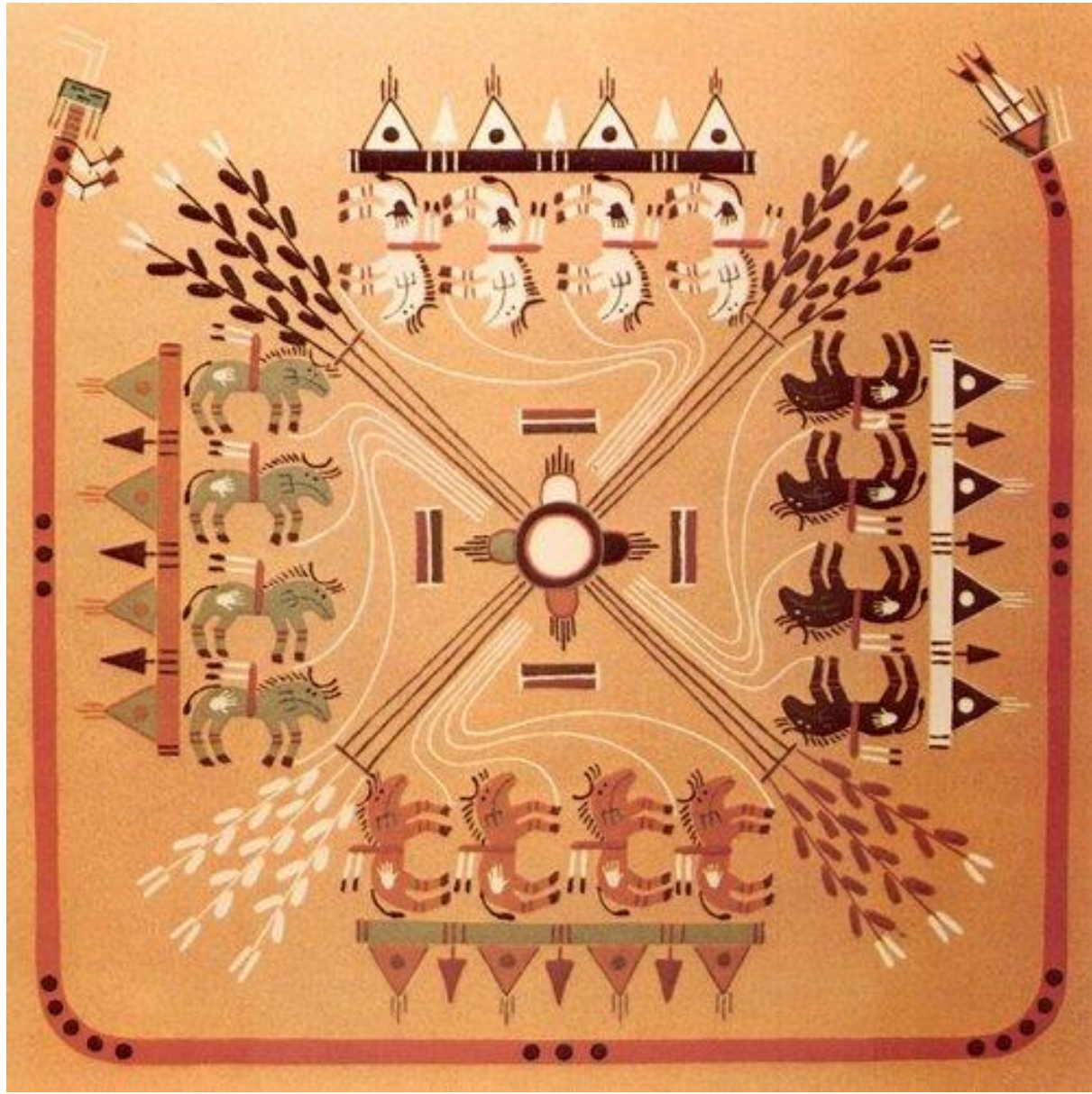


AN ART OF HEALING: NAVAJO SANDPAINTING

Diné

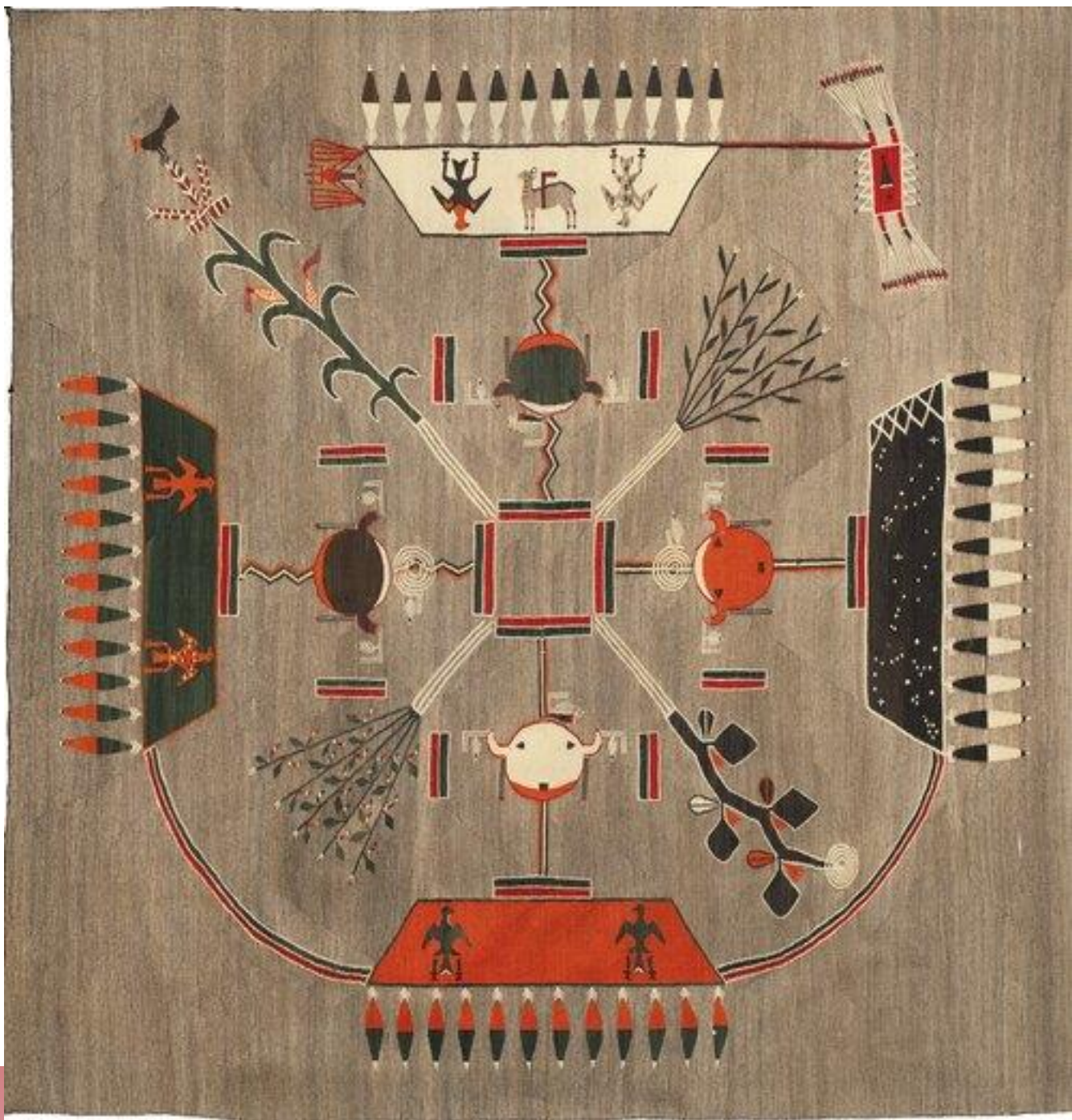
- Nearly 150,000 Navajo people speak Diné today
- Some of the most important symbols in Navajo culture are found in Sand Paintings (or “dry paintings”)
- Sand paintings are a part of a sacred religious ceremony for the Navajo people
- The Navajo word for Sand Painting is: iikaah ("ee-EE-kah")





**SAND
PAINTINGS:
ABSORB
AILMENT
AND
PROVIDE
RELIEF**







Navajo Sand Painting Rug, c. 1930

NAVAJO

Wool

WHERE THE TWO
CAME TO THEIR
FATHER, ND.
NAVAJO
CEREMONIAL
SANDPAINTINGS
BOOK OF PRINTS

