

Hohokam Ball Courts By Garrett Morales

Over 2500 years ago the Hohokam indian people lived in the area now known as Phoenix. They were skilled farmers that lived in various villages that were connected by irrigation canals that carried water to the farms. Some of the larger villages had ball courts. Some scientists think that the Hohokam used the game that was played at the ball courts as part of special events for trading their goods . They entertained different tribes and they also traded with different tribes at the ball courts.

The ball courts were introduced to the Hohokam by the Mesoamericans. The Mesoamericans were ancient tribes further south in areas such as Mexico. Around 600 AD trading increased between the civilizations. Many goods and services as well as culture were traded between the Hohokam and the Mesoamericans .

The courts were very big. They were up to 250 feet long by 90 ft wide and up to 9 ft deep. They were dug into the ground and had dirt piled on the sides and the shape was oval. The ball courts were being built in between approximately 750 AD to 1100 AD. Archaeologists have found rubber balls at ancient court sites but not much is known about the game that was played at the ball courts. The researchers believe it was similar to the games played in Mexico at that time.

The ball courts were one of the most popular things to the Hohokam. It brought trade, food, money and allies. It is thought that it could have brought cooperation between villages because it was a way to fix problems. It is also

believed there was no ruling class during this time period because the ball courts brought people together.

The Hohokam ball courts were an important part of their lives. They became a social and economic center point for every day activity. The construction of the ball courts and canals show these people were ingenious for living advanced lives so many years ago.

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