

# *What Is Community: Community Features of the American West, Then (1890) and Now (Your Community)*

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## WHAT IS COMMUNITY?

Communities are groups of people with something in common, something that is similar. Communities have features, or things, that connect the people in them.

Most of us think of communities as those living in the same place. But people who share the same religion are a community even though they may not live near each other.

Sometimes what connects people in the community is the kind of work they do. Other times it is traditional food or traditional games or holidays. Many times, it is all of those things.

The Community Gallery at the Autry Museum is about communities of the West in 1890. Many of these communities are still here today.

In this lesson, you will learn about these community features. First, you will look at artifacts (objects from the past and present) from various communities of the American West in 1890. Next, you will find artifacts for your own community. Finally, you will compare your community features to Communities of the American West in 1890.

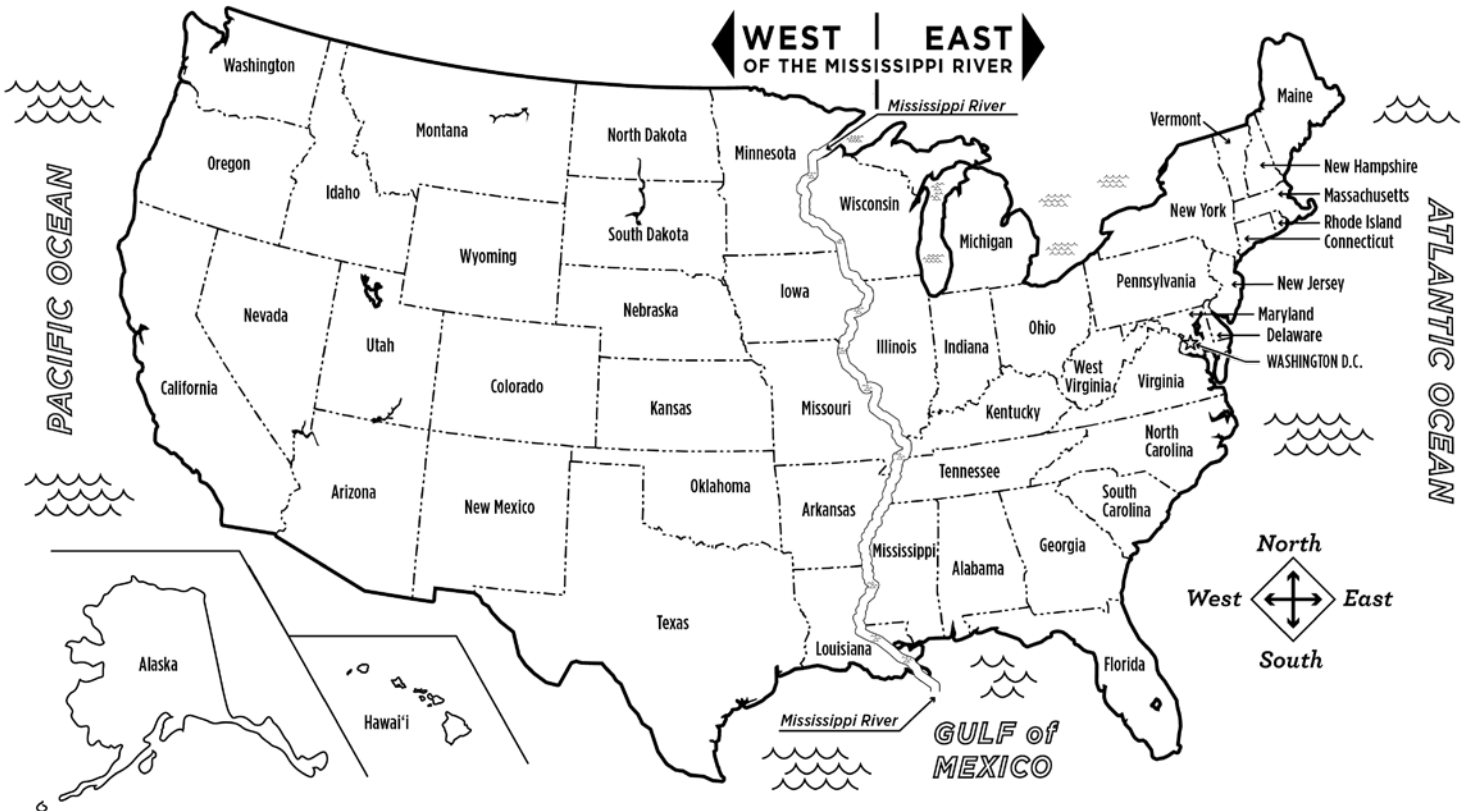


# What Is Community: Then and Now

## PART A - WHAT IS THE WEST?

Find out where the communities of the West are on the map.

1. First, find the Mississippi River—look for the big line in the middle of the map. Trace the line from north to south.
2. Next, shade in the states that are to the west (left) of the Mississippi River.
3. Now, mark where you live with an “X.”
4. Do you live in the West or East? \_\_\_\_\_



# What Is Community: Then and Now

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## PART B – WHAT IS A COMMUNITY FEATURE?

The images in the **Artifact Image** handout show different community features, things that connect people in that community.

The artifacts in the images are from the Autry Museum Community Gallery. Artifacts help tell the story of a person/people, place, or time period. Artifacts can be objects, photographs, letters and other documents, art, and more.

The artifacts are from five communities of the West in 1890. The communities are: African American, Mexican American, European American, Chinese American, and Native American.

**Task #1:** Cut out the images with the description from the **Artifact Image** handout.

**Task #2:** Find community features in the **Artifact Images**.

*Optional Discussion Question: What are some everyday examples of the community features?*

For each image in the **Artifact Image** handout,

1. Look at each image.
2. Share what you see in the image.
3. Discuss if the image is about one of the following community features.

Is the image about ...

- religion
- food
- dress/clothing
- work
- education/school
- entertainment/fun
- family life

*Optional Discussion Question: What is in the **Artifact Image** that makes you think represents that community feature?*

**Task #3:** Make “Community Feature” Posters.

Make posters for each community feature. Paste the **Artifact Image** on the correct community feature poster.

# What Is Community: Then and Now


## PART C – ARTIFACTS AND COMMUNITY

Artifacts help tell the story of a person/people, place, or time period. Artifacts can be objects, photographs, letters and other documents, art, and more.

**Task #1:** Read about the artifacts that show community features for Isabel Huizar’s community.

### ISABEL HUIZAR’S COMMUNITY


Isabel Huizar was a Mexican American woman living in Texas in 1890. These artifacts represent features of Isabel Huizar’s community.

COMMUNITY FEATURE (circle one)	OBJECT #1
Religion/Belief Systems	
<b>Food</b>	
Dress/Clothing	
Work	
Entertainment/Fun	
Family Life	
Education/School	

A feature of Isabel Huizar’s community was traditional Mexican food.

The object is a picture of women making tortillas, a Spanish Mexican flatbread.

The picture of women making tortillas shows the community feature of traditional Mexican food—tortillas.

COMMUNITY FEATURE (circle one)	OBJECT #2
Religion/Belief Systems	
Food	
Dress/Clothing	
<b>Work</b>	
Entertainment/Fun	
Family Life	
Education/School	

A feature of Isabel Huizar’s community was **work**. She owned and worked on a ranch.

The object is a branding iron (A branding iron marks cattle to show who the owner is).

The branding iron shows the community feature of work because ranchers use branding irons at work.

# What Is Community: Then and Now

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**Task #2:** What are things that represent your community?

1. Pick 2 objects that represent 2 different features of your community.
2. Draw OR find and cut out images of the object from a photograph or magazine. You only have to draw OR find images for 2 of the community features for your community.
3. Write a description of the object and how it represents a feature of your community. Use the sentence stems below each object.

## YOUR COMMUNITY & ARTIFACTS

COMMUNITY FEATURE (circle one)	OBJECT #1 (drawing or image)
Religion/Belief Systems Food Dress/Clothing Work Entertainment/Fun Family Life Education/School	

A feature of my community is: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of how this object shows this community feature: \_\_\_\_\_

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COMMUNITY FEATURE (circle one)	OBJECT #2
Religion/Belief Systems Food Dress/Clothing Work Entertainment/Fun Family Life Education/School	

A feature of my community is: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of how this object shows this community feature: \_\_\_\_\_

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# *What Is Community: Then and Now*

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## **PART D – COMMUNITY FEATURES POSTERS: THEN AND NOW**

**Task #1:** Post student community features from Part C: Your Community and Artifacts to the “Community Features Posters” created in Part B: What is Community?

**Task #2:** Use the Artifact Images on the posters to discuss:

Community Features “Then” – Communities of the American West, 1890  
(*Part B: What is Community?*)

and

Community Features “Now” – Your Communities Today  
(*Part C: Your Community and Artifacts*)

The following sentence stems may be used for discussion:

What is similar (the same) about \_\_\_\_\_ (community feature) in the American West in 1890 and my community today?

What is different about \_\_\_\_\_ (community feature) in the American West in 1890 and my community today?

### **Community Features**

- religion
- food
- dress/clothing
- work
- education/school
- entertainment/fun
- family life



# What Is Community: Then and Now

## ARTIFACT IMAGES

1



Accordion made in San Francisco, 1888. A lightweight musical instrument that was easily carried and played by both men and women.

2



A school in Arizona from around 1896-1911.

3



Woman's dress made and used by Janet Sherlock Smith, a Scottish (European) American living in South Pass City, Wyoming in 1875.

4



The Los Angeles Mission Church and Plaza, Los Angeles, California, in 1898. This is a place where people prayed, learned about their religion, and celebrated their faith through ceremonies and gathering as a community.

# What Is Community: Then and Now

## ARTIFACT IMAGES

5



A Chinese woman selling abalones (shellfish) along 17-Mile Drive, Monterey, California, late 1800s to mid-1900s.

6



An Isleta Native American Pueblo girl of New Mexico baking bread in a hornos (an outdoor oven made of adobe), late 1800s to early 1900s.

7



Portrait of an African American husband and wife, Coffeyville, Kansas, 1870s.

8



A dragon puppet at a parade in Chinatown, Los Angeles, California, an area where Chinese immigrants and Chinese Americans lived and celebrated holidays with their community.



# What Is Community: Then and Now

## ARTIFACT IMAGES

9



The first school in Pasadena, California, late 1800s.

10



Saltillo serape, a cloak or poncho owned by California governor Pio Pico, 1850–1880s.

11



An African American farmer plowing a field at a farm in Compton, California, early 1900s.

12



Children watching their mother make tortillas, a traditional Spanish Mexican flatbread, early 1900s.

# What Is Community: Then and Now

## ARTIFACT IMAGES

13



Photograph of a Mormon family and house in Utah, late 1800s to early 1900s.

14



Moccasins, or shoes, from the Plateau Native American culture, 1850s.

15



A Chinese altar from the 1880s. People honor their religious god/s or family members who have died. The altar is used for praying or placing offerings.

# Resources

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## Images

Wood and metal accordion designed and manufactured by G. Galleazzi, circa 1888. Elaborately decorated wood inlay in geometric design, stamped "San Francisco, Cal." 95.87.1.

Lantern slide of a dragon in a parade, Chinatown, Los Angeles, California, late 1800s to early 1900s. F.H. Maude Collection. LS.12344.

Lantern slide of a church and Los Angeles Public School, Los Angeles, California, late 1800s to early 1900s. F.H. Maude Collection. LS.12365.

Lantern slide of a school in Arizona, circa 1896-1911, photographed by Frederick Monsen. LS.3800x.

Photograph of the first school in Pasadena, California, late 1800s, photographed by Charles Chester Pierce. P.14424.

Woman's dress made and used by Janet Sherlock Smith, a Scottish American, South Pass City, Wyoming, 1875 as her wedding dress. 98.142.4.

Saltillo serape, hand woven wool, mid- to late 1800s. Belonged to California governor Pio Pico. Saltillo serapes were detailed and tightly-woven cloaks or ponchos made for wealthy landowners in Mexico. 93.21.14.

Stiff sole moccasins, Plateau Culture, suede leather decorated with beaded floral design, circa 1850s. These moccasins have features that show adaptation and cultural change among Indian culture: traditional Plateau moccasins have soft soles, but as the tribes moved onto the plains to hunt buffalo, they replaced these with hard soles of the type found on this pair. 2000.29.2.

Painting by Amedee Joulin, *Yeong Wo Joss House*, circa 1880s. This painting was probably shown at the California Midwinter Expo in 1894. 91.183.1.

Lantern slide of the Los Angeles Mission Church and Plaza, Los Angeles, California, 1898. F.H. Maude Collection. LS.12335.

Lantern slide of a Chinese woman selling abalones along 17-Mile Drive, Monterey, California, late 1800s to mid-1900s. F.H. Maude Collection. LS.13129.

Photograph of farmer plowing a field at a farm in Compton, California, early 1900s. Joseph Amasa Munk Collection. P.14954.

Lantern slide of Isleta Pueblo girl baking bread, late 1800s to early 1900s. LS.400.

Photograph of a painting by A.F. Harmer titled MAKING TORTILLAS, California, printed early 1900s. P.15371.

Photograph of a Mormon family and house in Utah, late 1800s to early 1900s. P.38840.

Studio portrait tintype of an African American couple, Coffeyville, Kansas, circa 1870s. 93.158.3.2

Branding iron of AB brand used for marking cattle, from ranch owned by Concepcion Palomares, wife of Ygnacio Palomare. Mexico, circa 1800s. 93.21.208.