

BANDS

Long, long ago, Utes roamed over most of Utah and Colorado. Families gather together in bands. Each band moved between their own winter and summer ranges. Each band had they own territory. No one owned the land. They were all protectors of the land. Bands gathered food in the mountain during the hot summers. They spent the cold winters down in the valleys where the weather was milder. The band sent out hunting parties. Many band shared the same hunting grounds.

Each person in the band had a job. Every person was needed in the band.

MEN: The men did the hunting and the fighting. They made their own equipment and kept it it good condition.

WOMEN: Women gathered food, cooked, made clothes and tipis, and took care of the home.

ELDERS: The Elders raised the young children. They guided their play and taught them what was best. Everyone loved the little children. No one punished the children. The Elders also gave help and advice to the band. The men and women honored the Elders and listened to them carefull.

BOYS: Older boys learned from the men. They watched the men do their jobs. The boys helped the men, and learned from them. The best craftsmen were chosen to teach the boys. The boys were proud to make their own bows and arrows and knives

to go on a hunt with the men. The men coached them in shooting, keeping physically fit, and many other skills.

GIRLS: Older girls went with the women to learn what foods to gather, how to weave baskets, and sew clothes. They sang songs while they helped the women stretch deer skins. They were glad to learn the beautiful Ute beadwork.

Finally, when an older boy was ready, he would go out on a hunt alone. He would kill a deer, and bring back the meat without eating any. Then he would give the meat to one of the Elders. Killing the deer by himself and sharing it with someone who could no longer hunt showed that he was now a man, and would be lucky in hunting.

When an older girl was ready, she would go gather food without eating any. She would bring it back to one of the Elders to eat. This showed she had the skills to find food and the compassion to care for the tribe. She would be lucky in gathering food, and was now one of the women.

All the Utes helped the tribe in their own way. They were glad to help each other.