

## USA tour med mera Livsstil

*Denna text är ett komplement till produkten "USA tour med mera" (Specialpedagogiska institutet 2004).  
Texten motsvarar helt den engelska texten i den aktuella delen av programmet.*

### Navajo indians

In the state of New Mexico, not far from the city of Santa Fe, is where two deaf Navajo indians live: Glenn Arthur and Jack Kelly. We'll also meet Sharon Wood, who will tell us about the indians.

My father ... Well, he cleared an area of 13 hectares. This was when I was a little boy and lived in the South. After I lived in the South for five years, I came here. I got a deed from an agency called the BIA showing that I owned the land. So, I planted hay and grew corn so I could earn a living. Well, I've been lucky.

I didn't go to school until I was 15 and studied for only 4 1/2 years. I wanted to study more.

I didn't start school earlier because my mother didn't know of my possibilities. There was nothing out here back then. We lived in the mountains and here there was only forest. But Jack's father worked at the school and took me to meet the principal to ask if there was a school nearby that I could go to. So I could finally start going to school in Santa Fe, which is south of here.

Navajo indians have always lived in two traditional types of dwellings. They look like tents and are called hogans and teepees. But when the US government began to study Navajo living conditions ... for both children and adults ... they took away all the hogans and teepees. But ... later ... after ten years or so...



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The social welfare office offered us real houses to live in, like the ones we have here now. So some of us bought houses. We also got access to indoor plumbing eventually. We also got electricity. I think that it worked out okay. Life has gotten better for us.

The Navajo live in isolated groups but the Pablo indians are the opposite. They live together to babysit for each other and so on. The Navajo have a tradition of moving to a new place when someone dies. So the tribe moves around a lot. That's why you were lucky to find deaf people such as Glenn and Jack.

If you look at Hollywood Westerns with indians, 90 % is exaggerated. Only 10 % of it is true. Unlike the movies, 90 % of all indians are peaceful. There are over 50 indian tribes. Navajo indians don't live in teepees. The Hopi indians don't live in Pablo buildings like the movies portray. The teepees in films are usually used by tribes south and north of here. They exaggerate.

Glenn was born in a canvas teepee, not a hogan. This type of teepee is suspended better. He lived there as a little boy. When he was born, a sheep was slaughtered and he was put in its belly to keep warm. That was a tradition back then. Things are different now. Now men and women have their own hogans. And there's a campfire in the middle. Let's see ... I think the women's hogan has a domed roof and the men's a square roof so you know where they live.

There used to be indians everywhere. Now we're scattered on reservations ... here, in New Mexico, and other places. The government sees to it that white people don't move here. If they do, we can tell them to leave.

As you can see, we don't use traditional indian clothing anymore. Everything's changed.

I work as a shoemaker, plus I've bought land here. I took out a loan to buy it. I paid 100 dollars a month for the loan. After ... seven years, I was free of debt.

