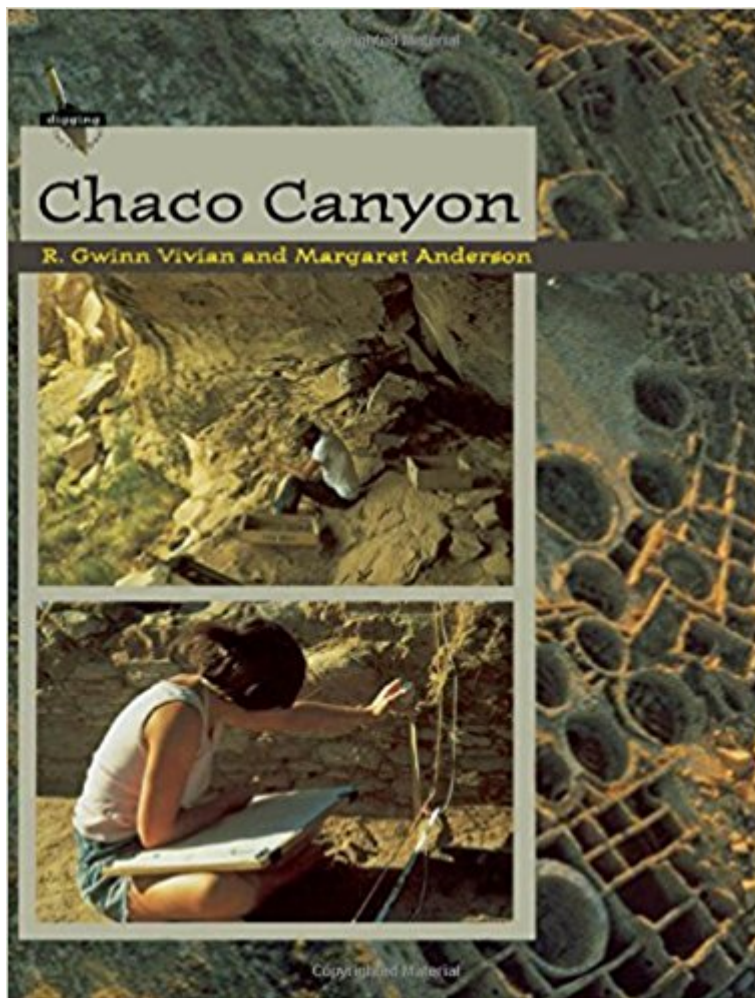


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# Chaco Canyon (Digging For The Past)



## Synopsis

New Mexico, northwestern corner. Here, amidst the greasewood bushes and clouds of dry, sandy soil, are the silent ruins of colossal mud and wooden houses, a mysterious remnant of an ancient civilization. In Chaco Canyon, readers learn about the discovery of these amazing structures and follow generations of archaeologists as they uncover the secrets of the canyon's past. A veritable early Native American detective story, the book includes numerous sidebars on archaeological techniques, timelines, related sites, photographs and illustrations of the sites and artifacts, and a fascinating interview with archaeologist Gwinn Vivian who grew up in the canyon.

## Book Information

Series: Digging for the Past

Hardcover: 48 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #3,056,280 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #25 in [Books > Teens > Education & Reference > Social Science > Archaeology](#) #9921 in [Books > History > Americas > Native American](#) #12408 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Linguistics](#)

## Customer Reviews

Grade 5 Up-This is not so much about the canyon as it is about the archaeological finds in the Four Corners area of northeastern New Mexico between 1823 and 1971. Its emphasis is on the scientists, their discoveries, their lives, and their techniques, with information about the Chacoan civilization for those researchers who are willing and able to ferret it out. Complete with maps, history charts, and information on related sites, the book has a clean, spacious format. Its four chapters highlight mysteries of Chaco Canyon: a house with 800 rooms; clues in floors, walls, and rafter; and 30-foot-wide highways. The small, full-color pictures focus on the archaeologists working rather than on the canyon itself. Most of them are museum collection or National Park Service photographs, and they do little to aid an understanding of the subject. Eleanor H. Ayer's The

Anasazi (Walker, 1993) offers more detailed information for reports on the ancient people and good diagrams that make for better understanding of the architecture, while Susan E. Goodman's Stones, Bones, and Petroglyphs (Atheneum, 1998) has great photos. Sprinkled with personal anecdotes and experiences, Vivian and Anderson's book is interesting, but it's an additional purchase. Susannah Price, Boise Public Library, ID Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Reviewed with Caroline Malone and Nancy Bernard's Stonehenge. Gr. 7-10. Written by a science writer and an archaeologist, each title in the new Digging for the Past series brings young readers up close to the field of archaeology. These books begin with maps and time lines of the sites' history and past archaeological digs. Subsequent chapters offer theories about how the structures were built and the people and traditions associated with the sites, always showing how scientists have formed opinions from archaeological discoveries. Of the two titles, Chaco Canyon offers a more in-depth view of how scientists live in the field, while Stonehenge gives a more organized overview of the mysterious site itself. But both books offer plenty of facts for reports, and they close with interviews between the writer and archaeologist that are filled with personal stories and invite readers to learn more about the field. Sharp color photos show the sites, artifacts, and the scientists at work, and each book concludes with a further reading list and a glossary. Gillian Engberg Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

great and good experience. OK . as a gift to my colleague, Great product. Feels good in the hand. will buy next time .

Young people will be delighted in addition to being informed. And even adults will be charmed by the personal history of Gwinn Vivian, who grew up in glorious, mysterious Chaco Canyon and became the "living history" reporter on this amazing place. We are so lucky to have this book to enlighten our minds and our hearts.

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