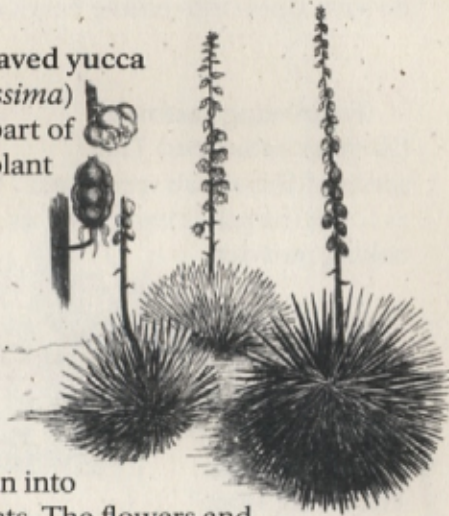


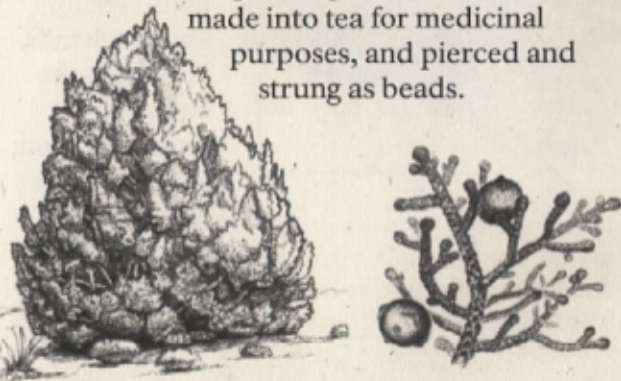
Usually, all we see in structures today are thick deposits of packrat droppings. Whenever you find potsherds, corncobs, arrowheads, or any other archaeological or historical objects, leave them in place. Removing, damaging, or even moving an artifact destroys a site's scientific value for future archaeologists. It also deprives other visitors of the enjoyment of seeing the objects on site.

7 **Narrow-leaved yucca** (*Yucca angustissima*)

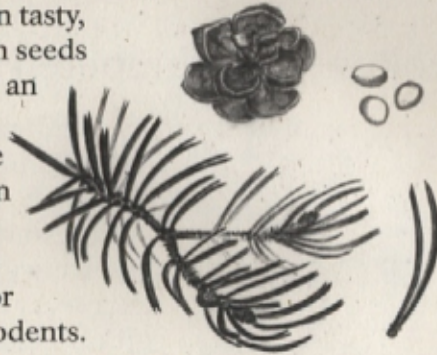
Almost every part of this common plant was used. The sharp spines on the leaf tips served as needles. Leaf fibers were made into cord and rope and woven into sandals and mats. The flowers and fruits were eaten. The roots yield saponin, a substance used as soap.



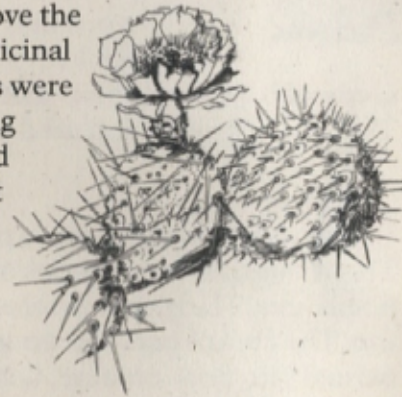
8 **Utah juniper** (*Juniperus osteosperma*) The soft, fibrous bark of this tree provided diapers and cradleboard padding. The berries were made into tea for medicinal purposes, and pierced and strung as beads.



9 **Pinyon** (*Pinus edulis*) The cones of this pine contain tasty, protein-rich seeds which were an important food for the early human inhabitants of this area as well as for birds and rodents. They can be eaten raw or roasted.



10 **Pricklypear cactus** (*Opuntia* sp.) This cactus bears a sweet, juicy, edible fruit. The pads were eaten after being roasted and scraped to remove the spines. For medicinal use, compresses were made by splitting a cactus pad and applying the cut surface to a wound.



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EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

Roadside Ruin

TRAIL GUIDE



0.3 mile (.5km)

NEEDLES DISTRICT
CANYONLANDS NATIONAL PARK

Who Lived Here?

Around A.D. 950, as population centers in the Mesa Verde region to the southeast grew and expanded, people gradually moved into the Canyonlands area. These ancestral Puebloans were primarily farmers. They settled in locations which provided them with adequate water, arable land, building sites and other necessities of life. One of these locations was the nearby Salt Creek drainage.

Cultivated crops of corn, beans and squash were the main foods for the Indians of the canyons. They supplemented this diet by gathering seeds, roots and fruits in season, hunting deer and bighorn sheep with bow and arrow, and trapping or snaring small animals and birds. Clothing, shelter, domestic utensils and farming tools all had to be obtained from the immediate environment.

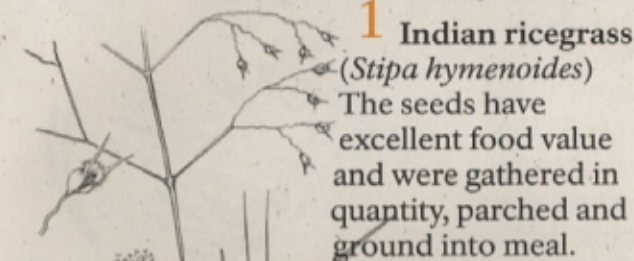
Climate change and prolonged regional droughts occurred in the late 1200s. Farming became increasingly difficult, and by the end of the century the ancestral Puebloans had moved southeast into areas with more dependable water sources. Today, their descendants live in the Hopi and Pueblo villages of the Southwest.

This 1/3-mile (.5 km) loop trail will take you to a granary typical of Ancestral Puebloan structures found throughout the park. Since few are in as good condition as this one, however, the name Roadside Ruin is more figurative than accurate.

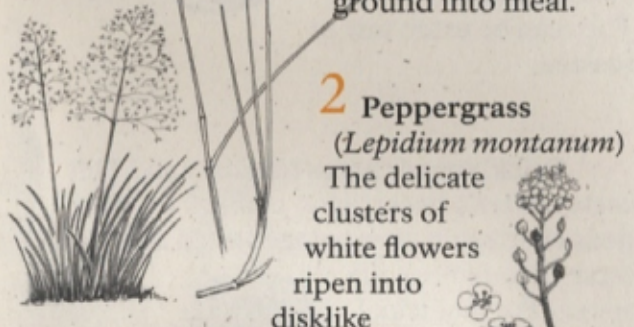
Along the way you will see various native plants which were used by the Indians to meet their daily needs. They will help acquaint you with the way of life of the early inhabitants of this area.

Trail Guide

Follow the Numbered Posts

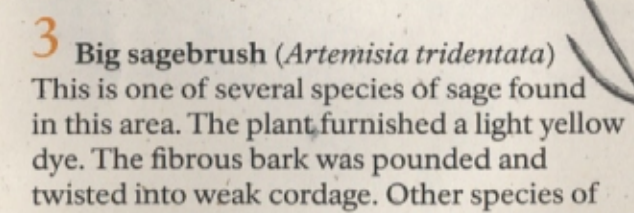


1 Indian ricegrass (*Stipa hymenoides*)
The seeds have excellent food value and were gathered in quantity, parched and ground into meal.

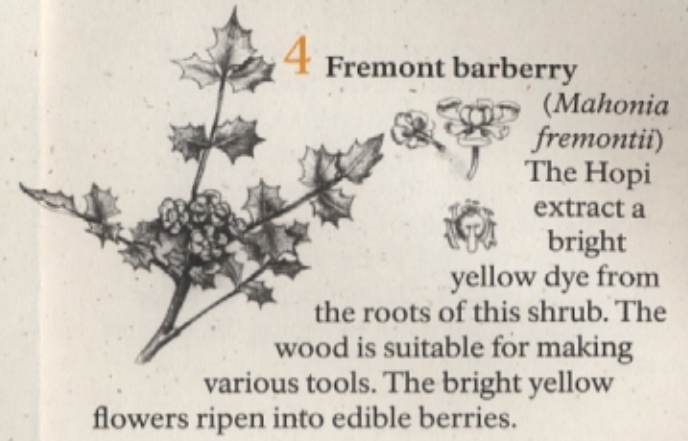
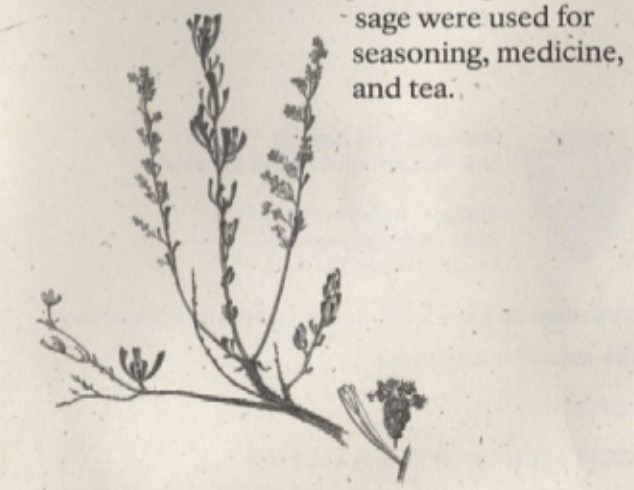


2 Peppergrass (*Lepidium montanum*)
The delicate clusters of white flowers ripen into disklike

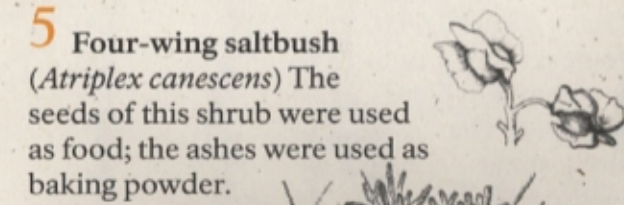
seeds with a hot, peppery taste. These were ground and used as spice.



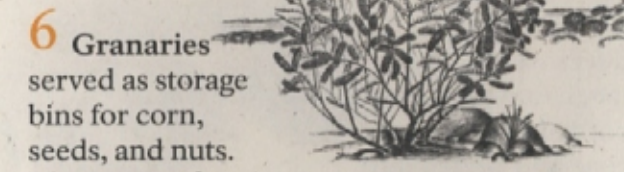
3 Big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*)
This is one of several species of sage found in this area. The plant furnished a light yellow dye. The fibrous bark was pounded and twisted into weak cordage. Other species of sage were used for seasoning, medicine, and tea.



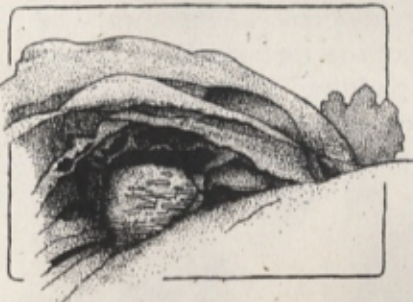
4 Fremont barberry (*Mahonia fremontii*)
The Hopi extract a bright yellow dye from the roots of this shrub. The wood is suitable for making various tools. The bright yellow flowers ripen into edible berries.



5 Four-wing saltbush (*Atriplex canescens*)
The seeds of this shrub were used as food; the ashes were used as baking powder.



6 Granaries
served as storage bins for corn, seeds, and nuts. They were often well hidden, and sometimes located in almost inaccessible places. The small, rectangular doors were covered with slabs of rock. The door of this structure is located on the roof. A



few granaries still contain corncobs, gourd shells and foodstuffs. However, the contents of most were long ago devoured by rodents or removed by looters.

Please do not climb on this granary or disturb it in any way. The mortar is very fragile and even touching it will hasten its collapse.