

Pima-Maricopa Irrigation Project

Education Initiative
2005-2006



Restoring water to ensure the continuity of the Akimel O’otham and Pee Posh tradition of agriculture

Establishing A Diplomatic Relationship

Part 63

While confederated for defensive purposes, the Pima and the Maricopa remained distinct in terms of their political standing. Being larger and engaging in more extensive agriculture than their Maricopa neighbors gave the Pima an economic and political edge. The fact that most emigrants approached the villages from the south and east ensured their passage through the Pima villages first. This may explain why the Pima were more widely known and conducted the bulk of the trade with American emigrants and military trains passing through their villages.

A head chief and a series of village headmen aided by village councils, governed the Pima and Maricopa. While the position of head chief was not hereditary, this did not prevent the son of a chief from succeeding his father as leader. Antonio Azul, for example, would follow his father Antonio Culo Azul as the head political/military leader of the Pima upon the death of the latter in 1855. Prior to Culo Azul, Rsan’tali Vi’akam, who served as chief until the early 1820s, governed the Pima. When Mountain men Bill Williams and Ceran St. Vrain passed through the villages in October 1826, they found Culo Azul as chief. Demonstrating the authority and sovereignty of his people, Azul requested the trappers show identification. Only when the chief concluded the men were friendly and willing to trade did he allow his people to initiate commerce. Azul also presided over the establishment of the annual trade fair on the Gila River beginning in the 1830s.

The arrival of General Stephen Austin Kearny and the Army of the West and Colonel Philip St. George Cooke and the Mormon Battalion, in 1846, brought the beginnings of a political relationship between the United States and the Pima and Maricopa. Both Kearny and Cooke presented Azul with letters of commendation, acknowledging and respecting the authority of the chief who, at an estimated 6’4” in height and dressed “in a full military suit with the gold epaulettes of a US General, and [a] regulation belt and sword,” made an impressive impact on the people.

Azul was also a benevolent man who was concerned for the well-being of his people. Henry Turner, riding with Cooke in 1846, noted, “Never did I look upon a more benevolent face than that of the old chief.” Two years later, Lieutenant Cave Coutts observed Azul’s concern for American emigrants. The chief promised he “would be responsible” for any theft that occurred while guests were among his people. Others noted Azul was “a very dignified-looking old fellow,” “Statesmanlike” and “handsome.” As chief, Azul rode one of the finest horses among the Pima.

Clearly aware of his own authority, Azul demanded a certain level of respect from the emigrants and newcomers that greeted his people. When a certain Captain White arrived with an emigrant group in the Pima villages in 1849, Azul met him in full military regalia. Failing to pay proper homage to the chief, however, offended the senses of the aged leader. Such “cavalier treatment” was inappropriate and led to difficulty in trading with Pima merchants. Such inattention to protocol could result in fruitless trade relations.

When John Bartlett arrived in the Pima villages in July 1852, he was one of a long line of civil and military officials to meet Azul. When he arrived in the villages, he found the chief “at work in the fields.” Sending a messenger with an invitation, Bartlett informed the chief of his desire to meet. Accompanied by his interpreter and dressed “in a large blue blanket overcoat, pantaloons

and a green felt hat”—and this despite a “dreadfully hot” July day—Azul presented himself and a collection of credentials to Bartlett, who estimated the chief to be about 50 years old and a man “greatly beloved by his people.”

The American boundary commissioner informed Azul of the purpose for his visit, although the chief was already well aware of it from Amiel Whipple and Andrew Gray having spent much of the winter in the villages surveying the boundary. Bartlett informed the chief of his desire to meet with all the village leaders so that he might present to them a few gifts “as a token of [the] respect” that the American government had for them. At 4:00 A.M. the following morning, the Pima chiefs assembled around Bartlett’s tent. Informing the chiefs he was not yet prepared to meet with them so early in the morning, the commissioner dressed, had breakfast and prepared for the conference. The chiefs, meanwhile, took the opportunity “to stroll around the camp, and inspect the several culinary processes (Mexican and American).”

At promptly eight o’clock, the conference commenced, with Azul and five village chiefs meeting with Bartlett and his officers. Two interpreters—one translating from Pima to Maricopa and one from Maricopa to Spanish, which Bartlett spoke—assisted with communication. A crowd of Pima and Maricopa men, women and children gathered around the open tent to witness the event and “do a little shopping after the business ... had been dispatched.”

Bartlett explained that he was well aware of the “friendly disposition” of the tribes but that he was not an Indian agent sent by the United States to treaty with the chiefs or distribute to them presents. He was, rather, simply in charge of the boundary commission that was marking the new line uniting the United States and Mexico. Since he was traveling from the west to return to the United States in the east, Bartlett told the Indian leaders he had limited goods and could not distribute presents to all the people. Nonetheless, he did present to each leader and interpreter “some shirts and cotton clothe.” To these gifts, Bartlett added to Azul’s share “blankets, calico, beads and trinkets for his wife and children.”

Bartlett was not the first American representative to meet with Antonio Culo Azul, who had met many American military leaders, including Kearny, Cook, Whipple, Gray and others. Bartlett, however, would be among the last to see Azul, as the chief died in the winter of 1855. By the time William Emory held a council with Pima, Maricopa and Papago leaders at Los Nogales, in June of 1855, Antonio Azul had assumed the role of head Pima chief in place of his father.

With American acquisition of the land on the north bank of the Gila River, Commissioner of Indian Affairs George Manypenny appointed John C. Hays as the first Indian agent for the tribes along the Gila River. While technically a “subagent for the Rio Gila,” Hays was the first official United States ambassador to the tribes in the newly acquired territory that included those few Pima and Maricopa who lived on the north bank of the Gila River. Hays traveled west, arriving in the Pima villages in November of 1849 and spent three days among the Pima before continuing on to California, where he resigned as agent the following month. Not until 1857 was another appointed government agent to the territory made. Nonetheless, the establishment of an official diplomatic relationship with a government-to-government protocol was in place.

Establishing a Diplomatic Relationship

Find the words in the grid. Words can go horizontally, vertically and diagonally in all eight directions.

V	V	W	P	X	Y	Z	D	W	V	Q	X	T	Y
N	P	Q	R	X	P	I	M	D	M	K	Y	R	G
Y	R	D	O	Z	P	J	X	V	L	F	A	C	D
V	R	Y	T	L	S	J	K	T	R	T	B	J	E
X	K	H	O	R	L	U	D	C	I	K	D	X	T
M	B	M	C	K	T	G	R	D	K	L	M	V	A
R	A	P	O	N	D	K	E	V	K	X	X	B	R
T	K	M	L	C	Y	R	G	M	E	F	C	L	E
S	O	V	E	R	E	I	G	N	T	Y	R	V	D
K	Z	Z	J	H	R	F	W	K	R	Y	P	B	E
G	V	I	N	D	I	A	N	A	G	E	N	T	F
N	A	M	S	E	T	A	T	S	L	J	T	W	N
B	E	N	E	V	O	L	E	N	T	X	N	R	O
J	G	R	O	D	A	S	S	A	B	M	A	M	C

AMBASSADOR
 CONFEDERATED
 HEREDITARY
 PROTOCOL
 STATESMAN

BENEVOLENT
 DIPLOMAT
 INDIAN AGENT
 SOVEREIGNTY
 SURVEY

Teacher Plan for “Establishing a Diplomatic Relationship”

Terms to know and understand

- Confederated
- Hereditary
- Benevolent
- Interpreter
- Survey
- Protocol

Students will be able to:

1. Define a diplomatic relationship and explain what it means.
2. Identify examples of Pima and Maricopa sovereignty and the United States’ recognition of that sovereignty.

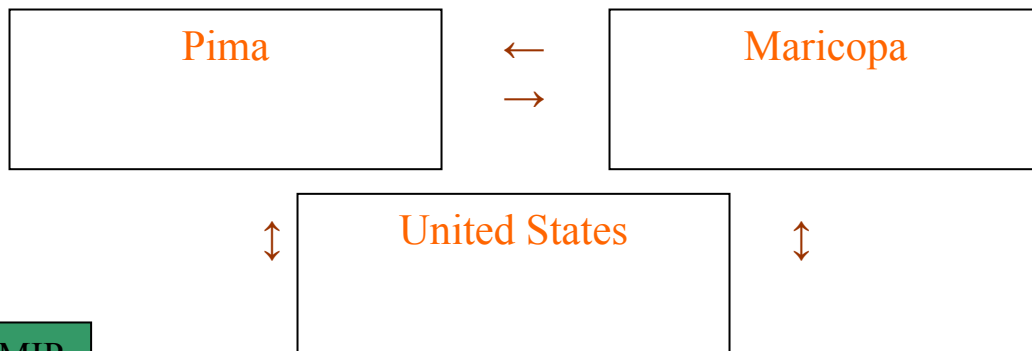
Objectives

Critical Thinking:

- When diplomats/ambassadors are dispatched to a nation, what does this signify? Was this a reflection of Pima and Maricopa sovereignty? In what ways did Antonio Culo Azul exercise the sovereignty of the Pima? What examples are there of the United States recognizing this sovereignty? Why might this be important?

Activities

- The arrival of John Bartlett (and the settlers who would soon after follow) presented new challenges for the Pima and Maricopa. Divide the class into three groups. One will represent the Pima, one the Maricopa and one the American boundary commission. Remind students they are diplomatic representatives of their respective nations. Have the groups discuss the new international boundary (the Gila River, with everything to the north now under the administration of the United States). What challenges might exist? Think about the road traveling through the land of the Pima and Maricopa. Other challenges included water issues, the introduction of new trade items (including spirituous drinks) and increased traffic. Use the matrix to diagram these challenges.



About P-MIP

The Pima-Maricopa Irrigation Project is authorized by the Gila River Indian Community to construct all irrigation systems for the Community. When fully completed, P-MIP will provide irrigation for up to 146,330 acres of farmland. P-MIP is dedicated to three long-range goals:

- Restoring water to the Akimel O’otham and Pee Posh.
- Putting Akimel O’otham and Pee Posh rights to the use of water to beneficial use.
- Demonstrating and exercising sound management to ensure continuity of the Community’s traditional economy of agriculture.