



WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Contrasting Indigenous & Western Names in the Grand Canyon

Recommended location: The Roaring Twenties (RM 20-30), Nankoweep (RM 52-53), Phantom Ranch (RM 88-89)

OVERVIEW

- Share names of 11 affiliated tribes and introduce the Grand Canyon as a cultural homeland
- Share three Indigenous place names
- Discuss differences between Native and Western names

1) Ask

Who knows how many tribes have traditional and modern-day connections to the Grand Canyon? Can you name them?

These 11 tribes are the canyon's original stewards. They have been here since the beginning of time, and they are still here today. We're floating through their ancestral homelands. They have their own cultures, cosmologies, histories, and languages.

2) Ask

What languages do you all speak? What do you call this place in your language?

The Grand Canyon goes by many names. Everything we see and every place we go in the canyon has at least a dozen or more Native names.

Havasupai Tribe
Arizona

Hopi Tribe
Arizona

Hualapai Tribe
Arizona

Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians
Arizona

Las Vegas Band of Paiute Indians
Nevada

Moapa Band of Paiute Indians
Nevada

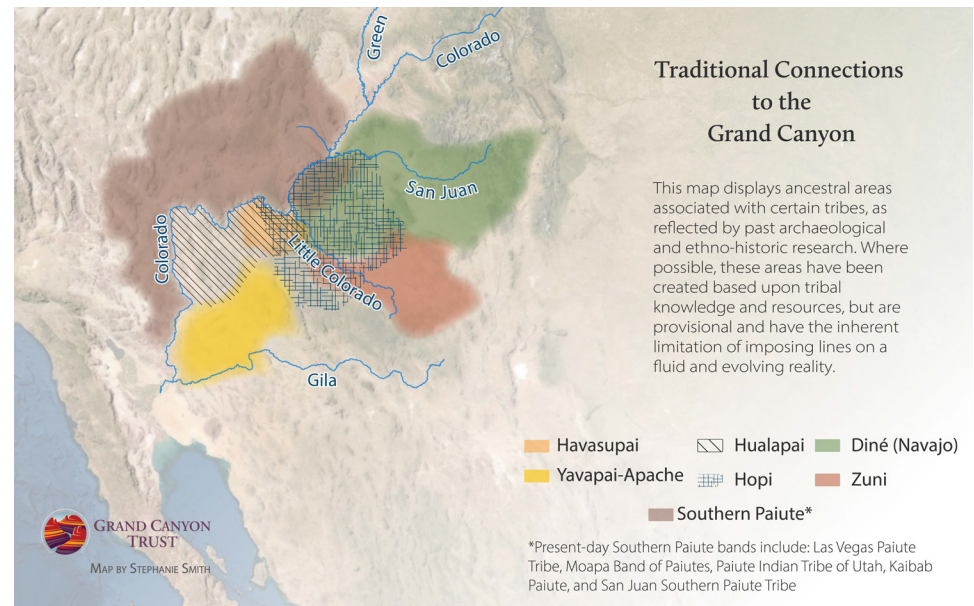
Navajo Nation
Arizona

Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah
Utah

Pueblo of Zuni
New Mexico

San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe
Arizona

Yavapai-Apache Nation
Arizona



3) Share

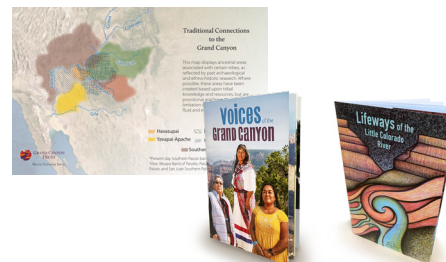
Grand Canyon: **Wambodajwogo** (wum-bo-dodge-woe-go) in Havasupai “where the train stops”—Voices of the Grand Canyon booklet, page 8

Colorado River: **Ha’ Ka-Ama** (Ha-ka-ama) in Hualapai, “flowing water”—Voices of the Grand Canyon film

Little Colorado River: **K’yawinan A’honna** (Kia-wee-nun Ah-hoe-na) in Zuni, “red river”—Lifeways of the Little Colorado River, page 19

Resources

www.grandcanyontrust.org/grand-canyon-names



4) Discussion

Look at the guidebook or think back to the names of places we've visited so far.

Lee's Ferry

Brown's Inscription

Badger Camp

Vasey's Paradise

Where do you think those names came from?

How old do you think those names are?

What are some differences between Native and Western names?

A name of a person vs. a natural value

Tribes are still contemporary living groups that are here and participating in the canyon today. **Should places be renamed with Indigenous guidance?**



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