

# San Pedro River's Rich History and Timeline

[https://kids.kiddle.co/San\\_Pedro\\_River\\_\(Arizona\)](https://kids.kiddle.co/San_Pedro_River_(Arizona))



The San Pedro is formed by a **rift valley**, an area where tectonic plates are splitting apart. The **hunter/gatherer** Cochise Culture made this area home between about **5000 to 200 BC**. They were followed by the more advanced Mogollon, Hohokam, and Salado cultures who built permanent homes and practiced **agriculture** near the San Pedro River. By the time the first Europeans arrived these cultures had disappeared and the San Pedro River was home to the Sobaipuri (soh-BY-per-ee) people in the **1400-1800's**. The Sobaipuri were a subgroup of the O'odham or Pima, surviving members of which include the Tohono O'odham, the Akimel O'odham, and the Wa:k O'odham. They were one of several indigenous groups living near the San Pedro.

The Spanish first entered the San Pedro river area around **1539**. Fray Marcos de Niza traveled in the San Pedro Valley in search of the Seven Cities of Gold. Explorer, Francisco Coronado, believing the rumors to be true, decided to lead an expedition up the San Pedro River Valley to the Gila one year later. After Coronado failed, Father Kino worked his way up the Santa Cruz River Valley and established missions all the way to Tucson. In **1776**, the Spanish started building

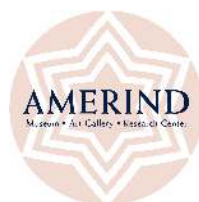
The Presidio Santa Cruz de Terrenate along the western bank of the San Pedro River, just north of where Highway 82 is today. This fort was abandoned in **1780**.

Early American exploration of the San Pedro River, like most rivers in western North America, was driven by the pursuit of beaver pelts. In **1826**, James Ohio Pattie led a party of fur trappers down the Gila River and then down the San Pedro River. This expedition was so successful he called the San Pedro the Beaver River.



In **1987** The Friends of the San Pedro River (FSPR) **Conservancy** was founded. These volunteers are dedicated to the conservation, preservation, and restoration of the natural and cultural resources in the San Pedro River. In **1988**, the United States Congress created the San Pedro **Riparian** National Conservation Area to protect the aquatic, wildlife, archeological, paleontological, scientific, cultural, educational, and recreational resources of the public lands surrounding the San Pedro River. In **1993** LIFE magazine awarded the San Pedro River the title of one of "America's Last Great Places."

Volunteers restored the old ranch house in **1989** and the old schoolhouse in **2007**. **Today** you can view pre-historic sites dating back more than 13,000 years, restored historic buildings, preserved silver mill foundations, rock art sites, and over 80 species of mammals, 14 species of native fish, and 350 species of migratory and resident birds. To learn more, explore the Friends of the San Pedro Educational Series. <https://sites.google.com/site/friendsofthesanpedroriver/>

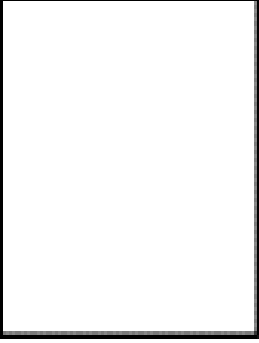




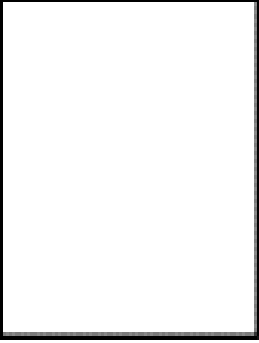


**History Chain Link Timeline.** Using information from San Pedro's Rich History, create a strip of paper for each event. Write the date in the square, the event in the rectangle, and your description on the lines. You may illustrate the event too. When you are done, link each chain event together to create a timeline chain.

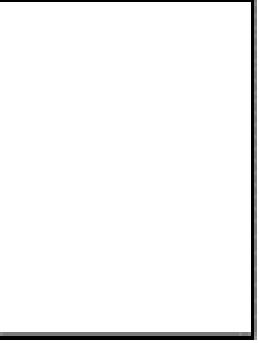
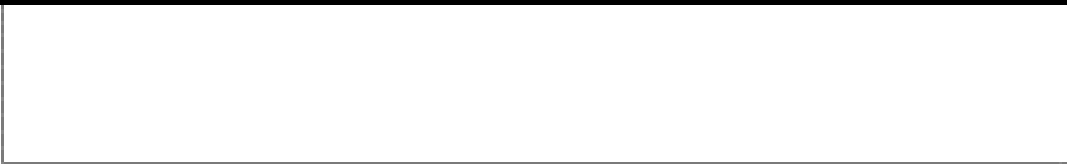

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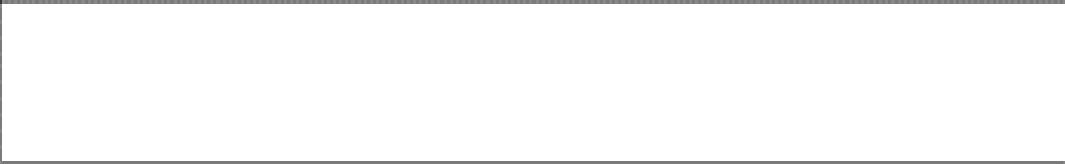

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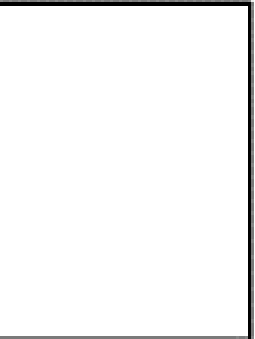
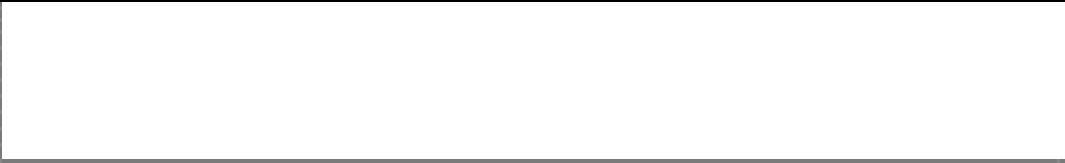

		
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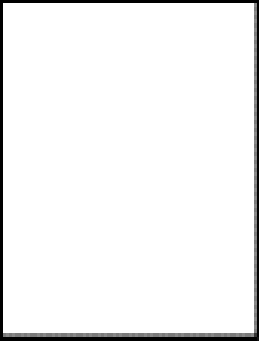


		
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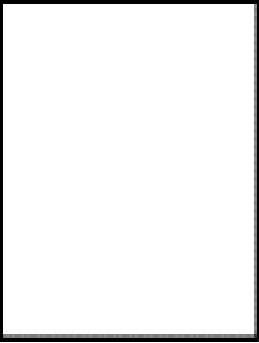


		
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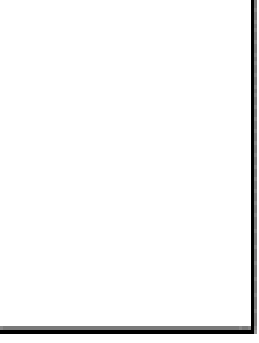


		
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