

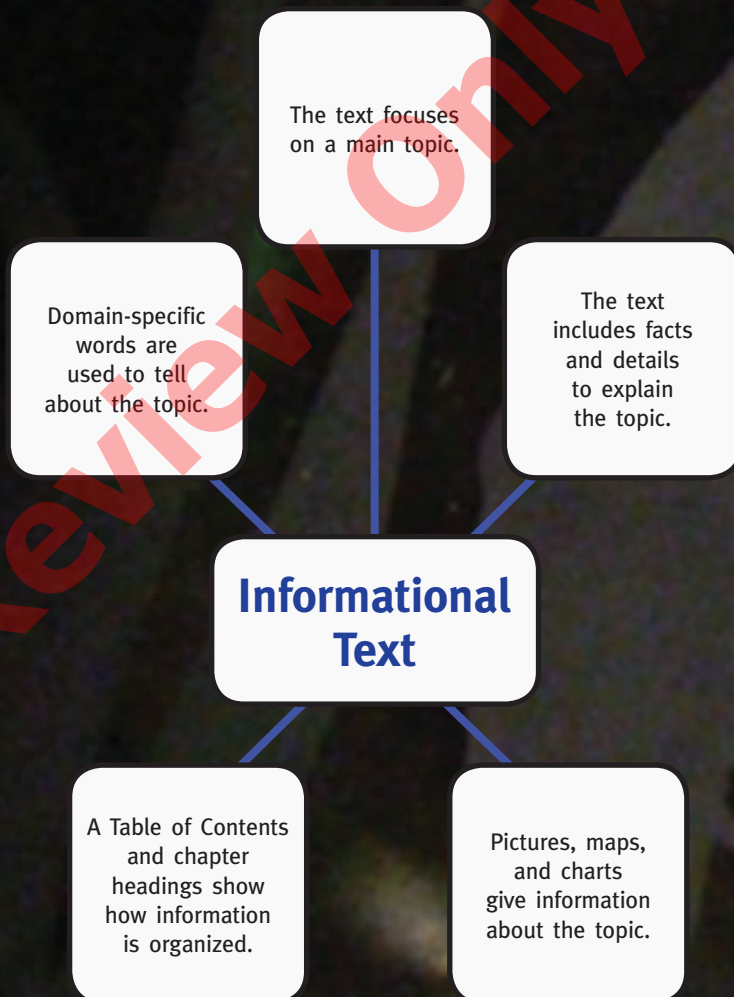
The Potter of San Ildefonso

by Max Prinz



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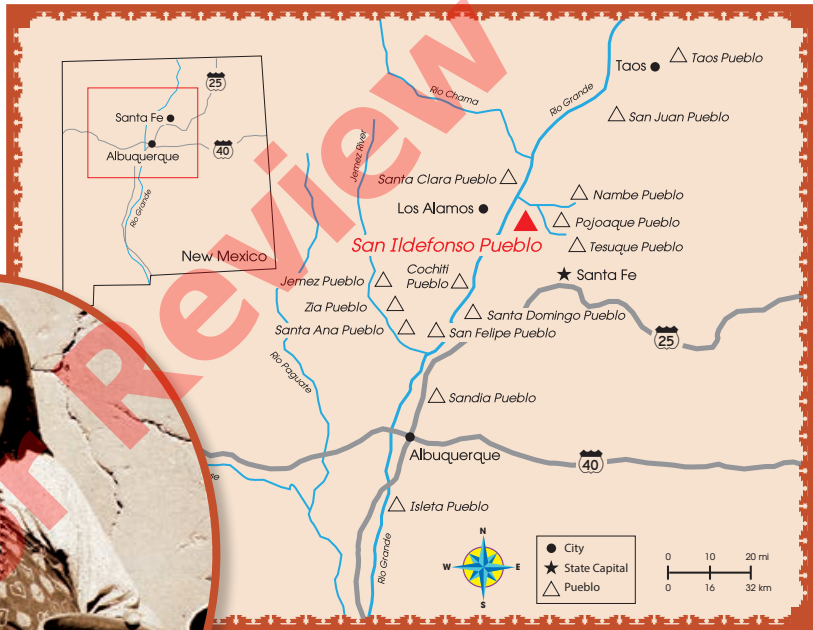
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A Potter Is Born

Maria Martinez was a celebrated **Pueblo** artist. She was born in the late 1800s. She lived in San Ildefonso Pueblo. This village is near Santa Fe, New Mexico.



▲ San Ildefonso Pueblo, New Mexico

◀ Maria Martinez

The Pueblo people have lived in this area for hundreds of years. The word *pueblo* has different meanings. The word means “people” in Spanish. The word also refers to the homes and villages the Pueblo people live in.



▲ This postcard shows life on a pueblo in New Mexico.

Maria was a famous **potter**. She made pots, bowls, and plates out of clay. Clay is a type of fine-grained soil. Maria was a master of this craft. She became known around the world. Her work helped the Pueblo people keep their traditions alive.

Maria Martinez (in red)
with her family ►

▼ **Clay like this can be
used to make pottery.**



When Maria was very young, her aunt taught her to make pottery. She watched her aunt and other potters in the pueblo. She learned from them. The villagers noticed how skilled she was.



▲ Maria learned how to be a potter by watching others, from an early age.

Maria first learned to make the traditional Pueblo pottery of her village. These pieces were red or tan with black designs. She sold her pots to earn money. This money helped her family and the people of her pueblo.

In 1904, Maria was invited to the world's fair. She showed her work there. She began to sell more and more pots. That same year, she married her husband, Julian. He was a painter. He often helped decorate her pots.

Steps in Creating Pueblo Pottery

1



Roll clay
into a ball

2



Form bottom
shape

3



Add coils, or
strips, of clay

4



Shape
and turn



▲ Maria (right) with her husband, Julian, and son,



Dry and
sand



Coat with
color slip



Smooth



Apply
white slip



Fire
outdoors

A Mystery from the Past

For hundreds of years, the Pueblo people have made pottery. They used the pots to cook, store, and serve food. Maria was one of many Pueblo whose pottery was part of this special tradition.

▼ Pueblo potters of all ages



In the early 1900s, an **archaeologist** was working near San Ildefonso Pueblo. His name was Dr. Edgar Lee Hewett. His team dug and found Pueblo pots. The pots were from long ago. Maria's husband, Julian, helped the team with the dig.

Edgar Lee Hewett ►

▼ **broken pieces of Pueblo pottery from long ago**

