Study Guide
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## Study Sheet: Native American Art

Describe the general characteristics What was the main purpose or of Mimbres bowls: function of Mimbres bowls? Each bowl had a hole in the bottom, which Each is decorated in its own style, was possibly made to allow the spirit of the usually with geometric or figural deceased to escape to the afterlife. patterns. Who built Mesa Verde? What are kachinas? Kachinas are supernatural spirits that appear Mesa Verde was built by the Ancestral in the form of animals and other natural Pueblo of the Southwest. elements such as trees, water, mountains, and even weather. The deceased also join the Describe the architecture of Mesa Verde: realm of the kachinas. How were kachinas represented in art? Its buildings blend into nature, reflecting the balance of the physical world with the spiritual Kachinas were represented in murals, world. It was decorated with painted murals paintings, and most notably, in dolls. and other types of rock art. What were the two main types of art from the Pacific Northwest? Totem poles Masks Made from tree trunks Highly stylized, used in Describe each style of artwork Often portray animals or ritual performances legendary figures or festivals Depict stories, notable events, -Called animal spirits when or family lineages worn Are there any similarities Both totem poles and masks were three-dimensional artworks, between the two? yet their decorations were usually conceived in two dimensions and then "wrapped" around the objects. Their decoration was usually very stylized, with exaggerated figures and no sense of proportion or realism. What is the most common decorative art What primary factor affected the art of the Plains Native Americans? found among the Plains Native Americans? Since they led a nomadic or wandering The most common artistic items included decolifestyle, they had to create art that was rated clothing and headdresses. portable.