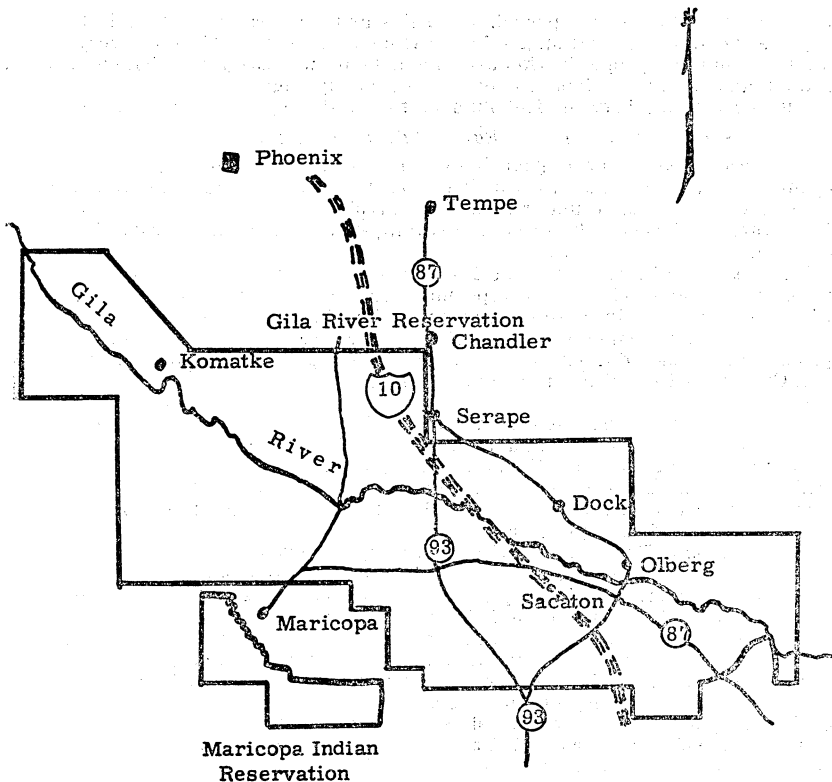




GILA RIVER & MARICOPA RESERVATIONS, ARIZONA

B. PAPAGO RESERVATION

1. Historical and Cultural Background

The history of the Papago may be divided into three periods for the purpose of indicating the nature of their adjustment to their physical and social environment, which in turn has implications for their response to opportunities offered by OEO programs today.

a. Early History

Excavations by Dr. Emil Haury at Ventana Cave in the northwestern part of the Papago Reservation have uncovered evidence that man has been in the Southwest for at least ten thousand years. The lowest levels in the cave contained bones of now extinct animals hunted by the inhabitants. The earliest cultures found in the bottom of the cave are called "hunting and gathering" because their projectile points, scrapers, and bone awls show that the people hunted wild animals and prepared them for food and clothing, and the various grinding tools indicate that they gathered wild seeds and roots and ground them for food. There is no evidence that these early people practiced agriculture or made pottery.

In the next stage, beginning about the first century A.D., corn and pottery are found for the first time. This period marks the beginning of a more or less sedentary agricultural population who lived in the cave until about 1400 A.D. Besides the corn and pottery archeologists also found human mummies, cotton textiles, woven sandals, and baskets. This cultural material seems to have been a local variation of the general Hohokam culture which was spread widely over southern