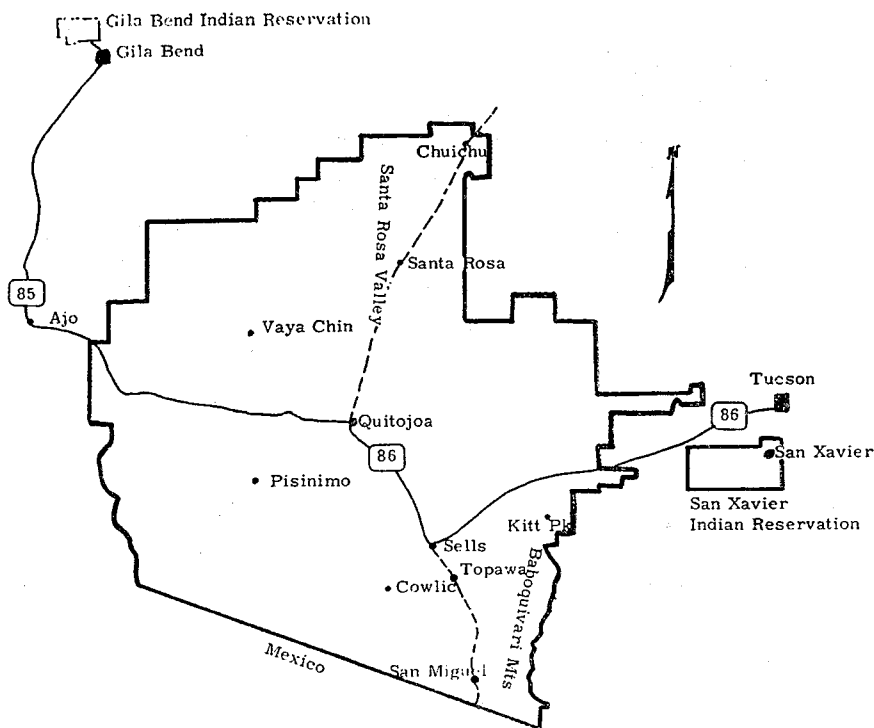




PAPAGO RESERVATION, ARIZONA

C. PINE RIDGE RESERVATION

1. *Historical and Cultural Background*

The Teton Dakota Indians, known generally as the Sioux (last syllable of a French corruption of the Ojibwa name for them), migrated from the northeastern woodlands around the middle of the 18th Century, probably due to population pressure. The seven tribes comprising the Teton Dakota, or western division of the Dakotas, moved in two steps. The Oglalas and Brulé subtribes moved westward to the Missouri by way of the Blue Earth River in Minnesota and the James River in North and South Dakota. The Minneconjou, Sans Arc, Two Kettles, Hunkpapa and Blackfeet Teton Dakota moved westward on a route parallel to, but north of, the Oglala and Brulé. The first step took the Teton Dakota from eastern woodlands into high grass prairies, and required rapid culture change to adapt to the new conditions. During this trek they acquired a few guns and horses, apparently by trading with the tribes that had had contact with whites.

The Teton Dakota were held back for years by the Arikara, who held the region of the Missouri Valley in the path of the Oglala and Brulé. When smallpox decimated the Arikara, the Teton Dakota broke through them and were able to overcome the neighboring Cheyenne with ease. In extending their control over the region of western Nebraska, South and North Dakota, and eastern Montana and Wyoming, the Dakota had to overcome the Pawnee, Kiowa, Crow, and Mandan. They developed a culture borrowed in part from neighboring Plains tribes and an economy based on the large buffalo herds.

Among the institutions borrowed by the Teton Dakota were military societies, an elaborate system of chieftaincy, councils, and camp policemen, all with their rites, ceremonies and well defined roles. It is questionable whether these foreign culture elements were well assimilated, however. Wissler's uncritical descrip-