Presented in five chapters, book I of the Rough Rock fourth grade Navajo social studies program text is written in Navajo and English. The first chapter is on the community of Rough Rock (Arizona) illustrated by photographs of the community and people. Chapter II discusses the four elements (air, water, earth, and fire) the community needs to survive. Chapter III tells about the weather and the community explaining the four seasons, the cycle of rain (both the Navajo version and scientific version), and the need for different types of weather. Chapter IV looks at plants and animals in Rough Rock. Presented are a geographical description of Rough Rock, effects of elevation on weather, and plant life, animal life in the community, and how Navajos take care of the land. Chapter V is on the people and our community. Chapter topics include people's dependence on plants for food, use of human resources in the community, the helping relationship of Navajo families, and what makes a community. At the end of each chapter is a list of vocabulary building words spelled in Navajo and in English. (ERB)
Our Community --
Today and Yesterday

Book One
FOURTH GRADE NAVAJO BILINGUAL - BICULTURAL SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM

Our Community - Today and Yesterday

Book One

Written, Illustrated and Produced by
TITLE IV-B MATERIALS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT*

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Navajo and English

Summary A bilingual social studies textbook emphasizing the Navajo way of life and man’s place in the natural world

1. Navajo Indians — Juvenile literature
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Our Community -- Today and Yesterday

Book One
Tséch'ízhí hoplyéedi kééhwii't'. Díí nihít hahoodzo át'é. Nihít hahoodzo lá ha'át'íí bee, hadét'é?
We live in a place called Rough Rock. This is our community. Do you know what makes a community?
Look at these pictures. Can you find something in each picture that we need in our community?
Dlí nidaashch'aą'íghí niihit hahoodzodóó ta' ádaadtingoósh tahgo át'éego niihit haz'aa dóoleet danohsin?

Would our community be different without some of the things in the pictures?
Try to think of at least ten things we need in our community.
Our community needs four elements.
Air is all around us. When we breathe, air is inside our bodies. Usually we cannot really see air. But when the wind blows, we know air is there.
Air inside our bodies helps us to breathe. You fill your body with air every time you breathe. When it is cold outside, you can see the air you breathe.
Plants and animals need air to survive.
Earth is all around us too. It has different shapes, sizes and colors.
Stories told by our elders say there are different levels of earth: black, blue, yellow and white.
The earth's surface that we live on now provides many things for us. The earth is female. We call it our mother.
Plants grow in the earth. Some plants are used for medicine. Some plants are used for food that people and livestock eat.
We can find another element, water, in the earth. It is in lakes, ponds, rivers and springs. Rough Rock was named for water that flowed from a natural spring: Tsé Ch'izhi Bito'.
We can also find water in the air. You can see it in clouds, mist or fog. The water that is dropped from clouds becomes rain.
Rain water helps plants to grow. It helps corn and other crops grow tall and strong. But, if it is very cold, the rain turns to snow. How does snow water help us?
We can find water in our bodies, too. When it is hot outside, water from your body pops out on your skin. We call this water **sweat**. It bubbles up on your forehead. You can feel it on your lip and under your arms. When water from your body meets air, the water dries or **evaporates**. Then you feel cooler again.
Fire is another element we need. Fire makes us warm. It is at the middle of the earth. It is at the middle of the hogan. It is at the middle of the universe, in the sky. We call that fire, sun. You also have fire in the middle of you.
Fire was brought to us at the beginning of time, from the underworld. Our ancestors rubbed a bow across a stick. The stick became hot. It was laid against dry plants. Then a fire started.
Air, earth, water and fire work together. They have many uses. We need air, earth, water and fire to live. Which of the four elements can you see in these pictures?
The four elements help our community. We need air, earth, water and fire for our community. We need them to build a house. Look at this hogan. Which of the four elements were needed to build it?
Do you need air to build a hogan?  
Do you need earth to build a hogan?  
Do you need water to build a hogan?  
Do you need fire to build a hogan?
Livestock, plants and people need the four elements to survive. Which of the four elements do you see working in these pictures?
How are the elements helping people, animals and plants to survive?
Because the four elements help us, we must protect them. Air helps all living things to breathe. It helps us walk, talk, and move around. Since air gives life, we must take care of it. What would our community be like if we did not respect the air?
Air, earth, water and fire help all living things to grow and survive. They give us food and water to drink. They help us build a shelter for our families. They are like our parents and grandparents.

Stories say the four elements have been with us since the beginning of time. We must protect and respect the elements, so they will be there to help us in the future.
### SAAD BÍHWİİDOO’ÁLÍGİÍ (Vocabulary)

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CHAPTER THREE
Weather and Our Community

The four elements give our community many kinds of weather. Sometimes it rains. Sometimes it snows. Sometimes it is very hot, or very cold, or very windy.
Sometimes the weather feels just right.
Our community needs all these kinds of weather. The different kinds of weather make up our climate. The climate we have at Rough Rock makes our community special. We live the way we do partly because of our climate.
Not every community has the same climate. Some places have hot, dry climates. In these places, it is like summer all year. There is very little rain. What would you do differently if you lived in a place like this?
Other places have very cold climates, with lots of snow. In these places, it is like winter all year. There is very little sunshine or warmth. What would you do differently if you lived in a place like this?
Our climate is not like any of these places. It does not stay hot and dry all year. It does not rain all year. It is not cold and snowy all year.
Our climate includes more than one kind of weather. The weather changes at each season of the year. We have different weather in \textit{spring, summer, fall and winter.}

When the weather changes, we change too. What do we do differently in each season?
Our elders say that weather changes can be predicted by the new moon. When we see the new moon in the sky at a certain place, we can tell what kind of weather is coming. The new moon tells us when one month ends, and another begins.
Where Do Rain and Snow Come From?
Do you know where rain and snow come from?
Wind brings drops of moisture from lakes and oceans that are far away. When wind picks up enough moisture drops, the drops come together in clouds. Rain water is dropped from the moisture in the clouds.
When the sun shines again, it makes the rain water dry up and evaporate. But some very tiny drops of moisture do not evaporate. They rise up into the air. There, they are picked up by the wind. The wind pulls the tiny moisture drops together.
When many moisture drops are pulled together, they form clouds. Rain falls from the clouds again. We call this the rain cycle.
There are two kinds of rain. Female rain is slow. It comes down for many hours, or many days. It travels far below the earth's surface. Female rain gives the thirsty plants a long drink.
Male rain comes suddenly, with thunder. Male rain hits the ground with hard splashes, then runs off. It does not travel far below the earth’s surface. Plants do not get much to drink from male rain.
In which seasons do we see a lot of rain? Do you think female or male rain helps plants to grow best?
Snow comes from the same place as rain. It is brought in drops of moisture by the wind. The moisture drops are pulled together into clouds. But if the air is very cold, the moisture drops get cold and freeze. When the frozen drops fall from clouds, they become snowflakes.
In which season do we see a lot of snow? What do you do differently when it snows?
We Need All Kinds of Weather
Each kind of weather is important to our community. How would our community be different if it stayed hot and dry all year?
How would our community be different if it stayed cold and snowy all year? Would we have farms? Would we wear the same clothes? Would our houses be the same?
Respect For the Weather

Our elders tell many stories about each kind of weather. Rain, snow, hail, wind and all weather are living things. They help us to survive. For this reason, we are told to talk to the weather. We are told to respect it. If we do not, the weather can act against us. Big snow storms, hail storms, tornadoes and floods can come if we do not respect the weather.
### SAAD BÍHWIIODO ÁLÍGÍÍ (Vocabulary)

**Dinéjí (Navajo):**

1. nilch’i altah ánáániilígíí
2. nilch’í át’éhígíí
3. tahgo át’é
4. bee hadét’é
5. nilch’í altah ánáániilgo nahalzhilshígíí
6. daan
7. shí
8. aak’ee
9. hai
10. aagháadi át’é hwiiniidzin
11. tahgo ánáá’niil
12. binahji’ náásgóó ééhózin
13. dahyiitá
14. niltsá
15. yas
16. hado
17. niyol
18. yishzhoh
19. tónteel
20. nahaltin bił ahééhwiiilzhíísh
21. niltsá bi’áád
22. niltsá biká
23. leežh
24. yiśtin, hastin
25. hináanii

**Bilagáánají (English):**

1. weather
2. climate
3. special, different
4. include
5. season
6. spring
7. summer
8. fall
9. winter
10. important
11. change
12. predict
13. new moon
14. rain
15. snow
16. heat
17. wind
18. moisture
19. ocean
20. rain cycle
21. female rain
22. male rain
23. soil
24. freeze
25. living thing
The land we live on gives us many things. The land is a home to plants, animals and people.
We live below Black Mesa. When you look up at it, does Black Mesa seem very high to you? Is the land higher on top of Black Mesa than at Rough Rock?
Black Mesa is more than 500 feet higher than Rough Rock. How high is 500 feet? If you could stand ten gym buildings on top of our gym, they still would not be as high as the top of Black Mesa. How much taller is Black Mesa than you?
The height of the land is called elevation. We know how high the land is by comparing it to something flat, like the surface of the ocean. The land at Rough Rock is not as high as Black Mesa. But Rough Rock is still 6,500 feet higher than the ocean’s surface.
Why is elevation important? Why does it make our land special? Do you think elevation makes our weather different from other places? Are the plants and animals here different because of the land’s elevation?
Elevation and Weather

The higher up we go on the land, the cooler the air feels. Cool air helps moisture collect in clouds. So it rains and snows more on higher land. That is why there are usually more green plants at higher elevations.
We can see this when we travel to land that is much higher than Rough Rock. The highest peak in the San Francisco Peaks is 13,000 feet. How much higher is this peak than Rough Rock?
If you went to the top of this peak, what would the weather feel like there? For one thing, you might need a sweater, even on a summer day. The air on top of that high mountain would be cool. You might need a raincoat, too. Why?
If you went to the top of the San Francisco Peaks, you would be traveling to a higher elevation. What do you think the plant life would look like on top of the peak?
Elevation and Plant Life

The plants around us like to live where they can get enough water and sunshine. Some plants like cool mountain air. They need a lot of water from rain and snow. For these plants, is it better to live at a higher or lower elevation?
The ponderosa pine tree grows on land higher than Rough Rock. It does not grow on lower land because there is not enough rainfall for it there.
Other plants don’t need as much water as the ponderosa. They can survive where there is less water from rain or snow. These plants grow on lower ground. The pinyon pine tree is like this. The pinyon can survive on less water than the ponderosa.
Where do you see ponderosa pines near our community? Where do you see pinyon pines?
La' ch'il biyi'di t'áá ditlée'go nízaadgójó anídahalzhish. Hosh éí bit'áá dóó bit'il ádin. Bikágí hólógo éí bee biyi'di t'áá ditlée'go nízaadgójó anáhálzhish teh. Hosh éí doo ayóo nidahalingójó dahlóó.

Some plants have ways of keeping moisture inside them for a long, long time. Cactus plants don't have leaves or needles. They hold water inside their skin. Cactus can grow on land where it rains very little.
The cactus is like a living water storage tank. Its roots spread through the soil surface. When rain comes, the roots can pick up the water quickly. The water is stored inside the cactus skin. After it rains, the cactus looks full and fat, because its skin is filled with moisture. Every day it uses up the water inside its skin, until the next rainy day comes.
Do you think a plant like the cactus grows at high or low elevation?

Why?
Every plant has its own place where it can grow and survive best. This place is called its niche. The ponderosa has a niche on higher ground. There is more rainfall there. The ground gets wet far below the earth's surface. It stays wet longer. The tree roots can drink water that is deep down in the soil.
The cactus has a niche on lower ground. There is less rain there. The ground is drier. But the cactus has ways of catching and holding moisture for a long time. It can survive at a lower elevation.
Naaldlooshii Nihinaagóó Dahólónígí
Naaldlooshii aldó’ bił yá’ádahoot’ééhíi dahóló. Ch’iyáán dóó tó bá dahólóníi
dahóló.

Animal Life Around Us
Animals have niches, too. They live where they can find food and water to survive.
Some animals live where there are plants to eat. The porcupine lives near juniper and pinyon trees. It eats the bushy leaves and needles from these trees.
The gray squirrel also lives in trees. It eats pinyon nuts, cactus fruit and yucca seeds. The squirrel moves from high to low ground to find food. It has thick, warm fur to stay warm at higher elevation. The squirrel sheds its fur coat and moves to lower ground in the summer, when cactus fruit is ripe.
The prairie dog is a cousin to the squirrel. But the prairie dog does not climb trees to find food. It lives underground, in a burrow. The prairie dog builds its burrow in sandy soil. The burrow is like a house. It keeps out the rain. The prairie dog eats grass and weeds and other green plants. It builds a burrow where these plants are.
Kangaroo rats eat grass seeds. They live where there is grass to eat. Kangaroo rats have big pouches in their mouths. They can store food in the pouches.
The kangaroo rat is something like the cactus. The kangaroo rat can store water inside its body for a long time. There are tiny drops of moisture in the grass the rat eats. The rat can keep this moisture inside its body. So the kangaroo rat can live where there is very little water or rainfall.
Naaldlooshii ła' doo ch'il dabich'iyá'góó dahiná. Nááná ła' náaaldooshii dabich'iyá'. Naaldlooshii dabich'iyá'ígíí dahól'póógóó dahólóó.

Some animals do not eat plants to survive. They eat other animals. They live where they can find other animals to eat.
Coyote and mountain lion are like this. They eat prairie dogs, squirrels, kangaroo rats and porcupines. Sometimes coyote tries to steal and eat the sheep. Coyote and mountain lion live where they can find other animals to eat.
Taking Care of the Land

The land is a very special thing to Navajos. Plants, animals and people live together on the land. They help each other survive. The land, plants and animals are important to our community. We need to take good care of them.
Dinéji (Navajo):
1. kéyah
2. hooghan
3. wóyah
4. bideijí
5. hódah
6. ni’ ánizahígíí
7. ahaah naa’nil
8. teh
9. dził bilátah
10. nidíshchíí’
11. chá’olt
12. hosh
13. hast’e’ azhja’a
14. bit ya’áhoot’ééh
15. táádlítłéeh
16. dahsání
17. dložítgaíí
18. dlóó’
19. a’aán
20. ma’ii
21. náshdóltsoh

Bilagáanají (English):
1. land
2. home
3. below
4. above
5. height
6. elevation
7. compare
8. usual
9. peak
10. ponderosa
11. pinyon
12. cactus
13. storage
14. niche
15. shed
16. porcupine
17. squirrel
18. prairie dog
19. burrow
20. coyote
21. mountain lion
People are like plants and animals in some ways. People need food, water and shelter to survive. But people are different, too. They are able to change the place where they live.
People do not have to depend on the plants that grow around them for food. They can raise their own food.
They do not have to depend only on rainfall for water. They can use the four elements to find new ways of getting water and other things they need.
The four elements are resources. A resource is something living things can use to help them survive. Plants and animals use the resources in their niche. People use resources, too. But people are able to make new resources. What are some resources we use in our community?
People can pass their knowledge of how to use resources from generation to generation.
People do not have to do everything to survive by themselves. Most people live with other people. The people can help each other. They can share resources.
In a family, some people help with the cooking. Some people take care of livestock. Some people plant and harvest the crops. Some people have jobs away from home. The money they earn at the job helps the whole family. The family is sharing resources.
People in the same clan help each other. They help to build a house. They bring food to a ceremony. They give their relatives a ride into town. They are sharing resources.
Our community has many families, and many clans. The people in our community do different things to share resources and help each other.
Some people help us with food. We do not have to raise all our food by ourselves.
Some people help us when we are sick. We do not have to make our medicine by ourselves. We can go to someone who knows more about this than we do.
Some people are leaders. If we have a question or a problem, the leaders can speak for us at the chapter house or tribal council.
Every person in a community has a job he or she can do best. Some people are teachers. Some people are cooks. Some people drive us to school. Some people help keep our school clean.
Some people are farmers. Some people raise livestock. Some people weave rugs.
Many Kinds of People Live in a Community

Our community is made up of many kinds of people. Not everyone is the same. The people live in different houses.
The people in our community wear different kinds of clothes. They wear their hair different ways.
Some people live close together. Other people live far apart. We need all kinds of people to have a community.
What Makes a Community?
We need many things to have a community. We could not survive without the four elements. We need rain, snow, and many different kinds of weather. Plants and animals are also part of our community. The land we live on is part of our community. Because the land is a certain elevation, we have plants, animals and weather that other places do not have.
Dií t'áá altso niidzin nihíl hahóodzo dooleéél biniiyé. Nidi ha'át'íísh éí ádin?

We need all these things to have a community. But what is missing?
People are needed to have a community. The people do not have to be all alike. They do not have to live the same way. They do not have to live close together. But they are a community because they share resources. The people in a community help each other.
Our community is a special place.
**SAAD BÍHWIIDOO’ÁLÍGIIÍ (Vocabulary)**

**Dinéjí (Navajo):**

1. diné
2. lahgo ánáá’niil
3. bee iináanii
4. bíhoo’áá’ii
5. naás oochííł
6. a[ch’ishdéé’ chidajoot’í
7. na’idíkid
8. áká’e’elyeed

**Bilagáañaají (English):**

1. people
2. change
3. resources
4. knowledge
5. generation
6. share
7. question
8. help