

Journal #5991 from sdc 5.27.25

Ak-Chin Rider

Supreme Court declines to hear case about mining on sacred land

Move Aside for Tomorrow's Indigenous Graduates

Here's what a Texas oil executive from DOGE is doing inside the Interior Department

Governor Katie Hobbs Honors Native Veterans After Trump Removes Flags from VA Hospital

The Language Puzzle

A Love Letter to Nevada's Wide Open Spaces

Picuris Pueblo uses genetic testing and finds ties to Chaco Canyon

Have some spare time? List of videos to watch

How artificial intelligence is helping keep Indigenous languages alive



[Ak-Chin March 2025](#)

Supreme Court declines to hear case about mining on sacred land

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2025/05/27/supreme-court-declines-religious-freedom-mining-case/76821391007/>

Move Aside for Tomorrow's Indigenous Graduates

Native American college graduates are innovators, healthcare providers, forestry techs, senators, and NASA rocket scientists. They are leaders, mentors, and future change makers. When you make room and #MoveAside for tomorrow's Indigenous graduates, you support the future. When you become a friend and ally, you are legitimizing our place in the world.

Words from Student Ambassadors of the American Indian College Fund:

Meet Annalise Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma
Haskell Indian Nations University / University of Kansas

"I want to remind non-Indigenous humans of their relationship with the land and that they too are part of this world and not separate from it. I hope to teach at a TCU and let new Indigenous scholars know that they belong in STEM and that their aspirations for their communities are valid. Seeing the increase of Indigenous scholars in STEM gives me hope for the future that we will have a paradigm shift and that other humans will start to think more like Indigenous people."

Meet Promise Yankton and Santee Sioux/African
Sinte Gleska University

"I will be the first person in my family to buy a house, I get to be the first person in my family to not be incarnated, I get to be the first person in my family to receive a master's degree, I get to be the first administrator in my family. I get to build generational wealth for my family, I get to heal the hundreds of years' worth of generational trauma. I pave the ways for all my relatives, my future is bright like the stars at night on the Ihawnktowan lands where my feet were molded in the grass at my family's cemetery."

Meet Deanna Navajo Nation
Haskell Indian Nations University

"I realize we cannot live in a system that is there to destroy us. After being silent for so long and enduring so much, I finally had enough. I am here to tell my story and encourage and guide other Native scholars on the path we all deserve, to take up space in the "white world." I want to be able to grow and thrive as a tribe. We are here, we are persevering, we are human. We deserve to heal, and we deserve better."

Meet Amanda Lower Brule Sioux Tribe
Sinte Gleska University

Amanda has always worked hard and done her best to support her children, but because she was told she would never amount to anything, she didn't have the confidence to pursue a college education. Then she was hired at her local tribal college, and she realized she was smarter, stronger, and far more capable than she could have ever imagined. Fueled by both her determination to prove people wrong AND be a strong role model for her own children and the children in her community, Amanda enrolled in college and completed her bachelor's degree, charting a different path for her future – all while working full-time and as a single mom of six kids.

One of her greatest challenges in her journey has been to silence the negative voices in her head and replace them with positivity, confidence, and trust in herself, especially during and following the pandemic. Amanda committed herself to healing and helping others in her community heal as well – and is a huge advocate for using all available resources to look inward to find the best version of yourself and to find contentment and happiness.

It is Amanda's strongest belief that through healing, we can eradicate the addiction, suicide and mental health issues in Native communities. ***"Healing is possible, it's not fun, it's not pretty, but it's possible," says Amanda, "and by healing yourself, you are essentially healing everyone who comes after you, especially your children, your future grandchildren, and so on and so forth ... I would love for my legacy to be healed, and that's what I'm currently doing."***

Meet Lisa Blackfeet, Assiniboine Sioux
Blackfeet Community College

"I know change takes time. I used to say soon as I was educated, I was leaving our small town. I now have the mindset that my hometown needs me, and I am not going anywhere. I always felt that running away would be the best for me. Now I see what I can do, and I am running to my town. My future has me creating a safe space where individuals are free to be who they are. A space where I can provide counseling and resources."

Meet Selena Pascua Yaqui Tribe of Arizona
Northwest Indian College

Throughout her journey, Selena has seen the barriers that prevent her people from traveling on the path they want to take. Being a single mom with four kids, two of whom have special needs, she has first-hand experience with the lack of resources and culturally centered support available in Native communities. This is why Selena has taken it upon herself to receive the education she needs to be a guiding light for her tribal community and help clear a better path for them.

The road has not been easy – trying to provide for and nurture her children while working towards her degree, Selena was diagnosed with breast cancer. Resilience has been instilled in Selena for generations and not only is she beating cancer, but she is also still on her path to complete her degree in human services. Selena sees the gaps in tribal communities that desperately need to be filled – and she knows that with her education, nothing will stop her from creating happier, healthier lives for her family and community.

"I keep going because I know education is the key to success. It helps Native Americans like me become self-sufficient individuals and we, in turn, show others they can do the same."

Meet Sky Navajo Nation
Drexel University

"For me, growing up my parents have always instilled in me and my younger brothers that education is something that once you have it, nobody can take it away from you ... So I think education itself, specifically now in today's world, when people think of education, they mostly think of Western education, but for me, I have my cultural upbringing, which I consider education. And coupled with Western education, like being at my university and studying

chemistry, I feel that taking these two spheres or these two facets and really combining them has helped me become such a balanced person.”

Meet Sam Cherokee Nation

Princeton University *“The first step is to complete our educations and introduce ourselves and our voices into educational institutions,” says Sam, who will use both his education and his mastery of words to challenge the status quo of silencing Native voice.*

“I most look forward to sharing my voice as a native person. When I think about what I have to share personally ... I think that I have something to share in the room.”



Gov Katie Hobbs Honors Native Veterans After Trump Removes Flags from VA Hospital
from the Ak-chin Runner.....(April) Arizonans were dismayed to find out the flags representing the 22 federally recognized Tribes in Arizona were moved from the Carl T. Hayden Phoenix Administration Medical Center in Phoenix. After the flags were left with the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, they were entrusted to the Governor by Tribal leaders. In recognition of the service Tribal Veterans have delivered to their state and their country, Governor Hobbs will display the Tribal flags in the Executive Tower rotunda.

“Arizona is proud of the Tribal Veterans who sacrificed for their country,” said Governor Katie Hobbs. “We should be recognizing their service, not disrespecting their heritage. It is my honor to display these flags at the Executive Tower, and I am grateful to all the Tribal leaders who have entrusted me with this responsibility. I will always support our Veterans and vow to keep these flags safe until they can be returned to their rightful place at the VA hospital.” [edited]

Tribal leaders were eloquent in expressing their feelings and their messages appear here: “The Community is grateful that we had the opportunity to receive the tribal flags and to have them for the short time and we are thankful Governor Hobbs has agreed to take the flags to display them at the Arizona Capitol, more prominent and appropriate place for them to be located. We are hopeful these twenty-two tribal nation flags can be viewed in recognition of the Native American veterans that served in the US Military of the United States.” -

President Martin Harvier, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community

“For generations, service members from the Ak-Chin Indian Community and each of Arizona’s tribal nations have proudly defended this country. Their sacrifice must be recognized, and the

first step is immediately returning the 22 Tribal flags to their rightful place at the Phoenix VA".
-Chairman Gabriel Lopez, Ak-Chin Indian Community

"As Chairwoman for the Cocopah Tribe, I find the removal of our tribal flags both insulting and disrespectful to all the members of the 22 federally recognized tribes in our state. The Cocopah Tribe is a small Tribe but, per capita, we have had a large percentage of our men and women serve this nation only to be disrespected by the very country they defended. I, personally, come from a family where all my uncles and brother served. All received Purple Hearts and the Silver Star. Our contribution to this country is/were great, now it seems we are being erased. We are citizens of this nation and we should be recognized for the service of our proud men and women. The removal of tribal flags send a message that the sacrifices made are irrelevant. On behalf of all tribal members who served and their families, the Cocopah Tribe requests reconsideration and reposting the tribal flags."

-Chairwoman Sherry Cordova, Cocopah Tribe

"The removal of the Colorado River Indian Tribes flag as well as the other 21 Tribal Nation Flags from the Carl T. Hayden Phoenix Veterans' Administration Medical Center in Phoenix is troubling, confusing and disrespectful. The 22 Tribal flags removed not only represent the Arizona Tribes but more importantly, they represent the countless men and women from those tribal nations who proudly served in the military. Many sacrificed and gave their lives for their country. They deserve the utmost respect and honor and CRIT urges the VA to reconsider their decision. CRIT thanks the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Community for honoring and temporarily displaying CRIT's flag in their community along with the other 21 Arizona Tribal flags."

- Colorado River Indian Tribes

"The decision to remove the flags of Arizona's Tribal Nations from the Phoenix Veterans Affairs Hospital is profoundly disrespectful to the legacy of Native veterans who have honorably served this country. These flags are not just symbols...they represent the sovereignty, sacrifice, and unwavering patriotism of our Tribal Nations. Refusing to fly the flags of the twenty-two Arizona Tribal Nations dishonors the Native American service members who defended freedoms they were historically denied. We stand united in demanding the immediate restoration of these flags to their rightful place." - **Vice President Paul Russell, Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation**

"As a veteran of the United States Army, the display of the 22 Tribal flags at the Phoenix VA hospital was a symbol of honor and appreciation for generations of Native American veterans who served on behalf of this country. In recognition of the critical contributions Native Americans have made to the United States through military service, we feel the decision to remove Tribal flags from public display at the Phoenix VA hospital should be rescinded." — **Shan Lewis, Vice Chairman, Fort Mohave Indian Tribe and President of the Inter Tribal Association of Arizona (ITAA).**

I strongly object to the recent removal of Arizona tribal flags from the Phoenix Veterans Affairs Medical Center. This insulting action ignores the long-standing recognition that Tribes and tribal membership is a political status, not racial classification. The Supreme Court has recognized the critical importance of this distinction and so should any policy from the federal government. What is particularly inappropriate is that the new policy apparently allows any political

sovereign in the state of Arizona to have its flag displayed except an Indian tribe. This is an insult to the tribal members who serve in our armed forces at a higher per capita rate than any other group in America. The removal of these flags sends a harmful message that their sacrifices are being diminished or erased. I urge the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to reconsider this policy and take immediate action to restore the display of tribal flags at the Phoenix VA Hospital.” — **Governor Stephen Roe Lewis, Gila River Indian Community**

“The Hopi Tribe strongly disagrees and opposes the removal of their flag and the flags of the other 21 federally recognized tribes of Arizona at the Carl T. Hayden Veterans Administration Medical Center in Phoenix. The Hopi have willingly served our Armed Services in the protection and defense of our homeland and our country. Our sacrifices are evident as witnessed by individuals like Pfc. Lori Piestewa along with our Hopi Code Talkers who used our Hopi lavayi (language) to protect the freedoms for all United States citizens. This action of the flag removals needs to be rescinded immediately.”

—**Chairman Timothy Nuvangyaoma, Hopi Tribe**

“The removal of our flags, symbols of our sovereignty, heritage, and the sacrifices of our Native American veterans, is an affront to the very principles of respect and recognition that the VA should uphold. We are grateful for Governor Hobb’ leadership and unwavering support. We are confident that together, we can ensure that the voices of our tribal nations are heard and that the service of our Native American veterans is honored with the dignity and respect it deserves.

—**Chairman Duane Clarke, Hualapai Tribe**

“The removal of Arizona Tribal Nation flags from the Phoenix Veterans Affairs hospital is overtly offensive and a complete dishonor to our long history of selfless sacrifice to this country. I demand that we, a Sovereign Nations who have given so much to this nation, be allowed representation by allowing our flags to be unfurled in VA facilities.”

—**Chairman Roland Maldonado, Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians**

“Last week Native Americans have served at the highest rates of any demographic, demonstrating unwavering dedication to the defense of this nation. Our flags are symbols of our sovereignty, we worked closely with our federal government to reinstate materials associated with our Navajo Code Talkers on federal websites. Although that action has since been resolved, our tribal flags being removed from the Phoenix VA hospital is completely disheartening. Especially since Native Americans and Alaska Natives are proud members of the military, enlisting at higher rates than other nationalities, inspired by patriotism, cultural values and the desire to protect their homelands. Although the VA has implemented a new policy to limit flag displays at its facilities, it is essential that the sovereignty of tribes continues to be presented.”

—**President Buu Nygren, Navajo Nation**

“The Pascua Yaqui Tribe expresses deep disappointment in the decision by federal agencies to remove the flags of Arizona Nations from their facilities or any removal of the memory of Native American figures in US Military history. These actions disregard the significant contributions and sacrifices made by Native American veterans, including those from the Pascua Yaqui community who have served honorably in the US Armed Forces. For generations, Native Americans have served at the highest rates of any demographic, demonstrating unwavering dedication to the defense of this nation. Our flags are symbols of our sovereignty, history, and

the enduring commitment of our people to the values of service and honor. The removal of these flags or the memory of Native American figures in US Military diminishes the recognition and the recognition and respect that our veterans rightfully deserve. We urge these agencies to reconsider their decisions and work collaboratively with tribal nations to ensure the sacrifices of Native verans are properly acknowledged and honored. The Pascua Yaqui Tribe remains committed to advocating for the rightful representation of all tribal nations within spaces dedicated to those who have served.the enduring commitment of our people to the values of service and honor. The removal of these flags or the memory of Native American figures in US Military diminishes the recognition and respect that our veterans rightfully deserve, We urge these agencies to reconsider their decisions and work collaboratively with tribal nations to ensure that the sacrifices of Native veterans are properly acknowledged and honored. The Pascua Yaqui Tribe remains committed to advocating for the rightful representation of all tribal nations within spaces dedicated to those who have served.” —**Pascua Yaqui Tribe**

“There is no reason to do this other than to attempt to erase our history Arizona has 22 sovereign tribal nations whose members have proudly and courageously served in the U.S. Armed Forces for generations, with many giving the ultimate sacrifice. Removing our tribal flags is insulting and disrespectful. But let me be clear: The Apache people stand shoulder-to-shoulder with our Native brothers and sisters from across Arizona and the United States. We are here. And we are not going anywhere.” —**Chairman Terry Rambler, San Carlos Apache Tribe**

Chairwoman Tanya Lewis, Yavapai-Apache Nation: “As Chairwoman of the Yavapai-Apached Nation, I strongly oppose the removal of the 22 Arizona tribal nation flags from the Phoenix Veterans’ Administration Medical Center. Native veterans have served this country with unwavering dedication for over 200 years. By removing these flags, the VA dishonors their sacrifices and undermines the sovereignty of tribal nations. It is an unacceptable and hurtful act that diminishes the contributions of Native verterans and we urge the immitate restoration of

“For generations, veterans from the Tohono O’odham Nation and other Arizona tribes have served in the U.S. armed forces with courage and honor. Unilaterally removing the 22 tribal flags from display at the Phoenix Verterans Administration Hopital is an insult to their service and sacrifice. The VA must correct this misguided action at once.”
—**Chairman Vernon Jose, Tohono O’odham Nation**

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Here’s what a Texas oil executive from DOGE is doing inside the Interior Department

https://apnews.com/article/hassen-burgum-musk-interior-energy-conflicts-830e9df68c7869e943f96c4b5e384f20?user_email=e073fe83cf6e594f0fa68c85167471226da0e93d55247b60e6f1153aa19d8ac8

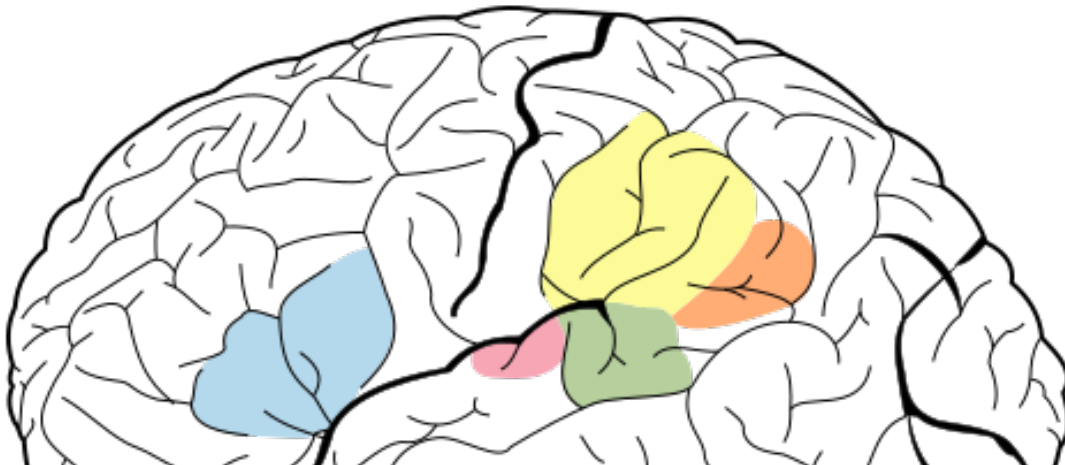
Today's selection--from *The Language Puzzle* by Steven Mithen. Modern brain imaging has revealed that language is processed across a widespread neural network. This challenges earlier views that language was confined to just a few specific brain areas.

“Since the 1990s we have had a range of sophisticated techniques for identifying which parts of the brain are associated with which bodily and cognitive processes, including language. Most notable is fMRI (functional magnetic resonance imaging) scanning. This detects the locations of changes in blood flow in the brain of subjects when they perform designated tasks, with increased flows indicating brain activity. Other techniques include electroencephalography (EEG) and magnetoencephalography that rely on detecting electric signals in the brain and their magnetic fields respectively. Before the development of such imaging methods, we were reliant on discovering how the brain works only after parts of it broke down.

“During the mid-nineteenth century, the French anatomist Paul Broca undertook post-mortem studies of the brains of people who had suffered aphasia — the loss of all or some aspects of speech. He concluded their disorders had arisen from damage to an area of the frontal lobe that became known as Broca's area. This is also known as Brodmann areas 44 and 45, Korbinian Brodmann being a German neuropsychiatrist who gave each area of the brain a specific number. Inspired by Broca's work, the German anatomist Carl Wernicke identified another area of the brain that impacted on language, one located within the temporal lobe. When damaged, comprehension rather than the production of speech becomes disrupted.

“Broca's and Wernicke's areas are both in the left hemisphere and were later found to be connected by a bundle of nerve fibres called the arcuate fasciculus. These dominated our understanding and further research into the neuroanatomy of language until the 1990s, encouraging a view that language is entirely located in the left hemisphere of the brain. Even before the advent of fMRI, however, the three-component system for language provided by Broca's area, Wernicke's area and the arcuate fasciculus had been questioned. Why was it that some patients with aphasia were found to have undisturbed Broca's areas? Conversely, why did those with damaged Broca's areas not necessarily suffer a loss of speech function?

“The answer was provided by fMRI and other brain-imaging techniques that showed language is distributed throughout the brain rather than being located in a small number of specific areas. Moreover, by developing a closer association with linguistic science, neuroscientists have begun to identify where specific aspects of language are processed. Broca's and Wernicke's areas remain important, with the former identified as critical to processing hierarchical phrase structures, such as embedded clauses. The cerebellum is recognised as playing key roles regarding language perception, processing and production, with a notable contribution to overall verbal fluency. Although the basal ganglia do not appear to be involved in basic linguistic functions, when damaged or diseased they can have a negative impact on language capability. The connection between Broca's area in the frontal lobe and Wernicke's area in the temporal lobe remains critical. But rather than the single-fibre tract of the arcuate fasciculus, two pathways are now recognised, a ventral pathway supporting how we connect the sounds of words to what they mean and a dorsal pathway responsible for speech production.



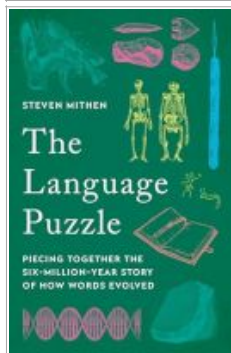
“The global network view of language is exemplified by semantic mapping. This is a method to identify where the brain stores and processes words or, more accurately, the concepts attached to the sounds designated as words. This research began by using fMRI to identify which areas of the cortex are activated when subjects hear different types of words, such as those relating to objects, actions and social narratives. It found these were processed at different locations in the brain, but predominantly in the left hemisphere. Further work derived a 'semantic atlas' for the brain. This stretches across both hemispheres, with some preference for narrative-related words on the right. Rather than being stored at single cortical locations, abstract concepts are represented by spatially distributed networks, thought to reflect the open-ended nature of such concepts. To quote Yizhen Zhang, the lead scientist, the takehome message from semantic mapping is that 'the human brain encodes a continuous semantic space'. This exemplifies the new understanding of how language in the brain relies on extensively distributed neural networks, extending into all four lobes, both hemispheres, the cerebellum, and most likely every anatomical part of the brain.

“Two other key lessons have been learned. The first is that no area of the brain appears to be entirely dedicated to language — they are all multifunctional. Broca's area, for instance, consists of at least ten sub-regions, supporting both language and non-language roles, including complex hand movements. While the cerebellum has a significant role in language processing, it also has a controlling role for balance, movement, motor skills and memory.

“Second, there is considerable variability in the neural networks for language found in different people. While this can have a genetic cause and lead to language dysfunction, some people develop different networks for no apparent reason and with no impact on their linguistic ability, such as having a greater prominence of their language-significant neural networks in the right hemisphere. The language that one speaks, signs or reads also influences the neural networks that develop: a study comparing Italian and English found that the words of these languages influence the extent to which areas of the temporal gyrus and frontal gyrus are activated when reading, probably because English words have a more complicated mapping of letters to sounds. Such studies have mainly been undertaken using spoken English or other languages of the Indo-European family, and hence share many linguistic features. **We have no idea how the neuroanatomy of language would vary for a language that has a much greater reliance on word morphology than English, such as indigenous Australian and North American languages with their extremely long words. How would the brain respond to a language that lacks word order entirely?**

“Only a few studies have been undertaken to explore the brains of people who speak more than one language. **Bilingual and multilingual people have been found to have a greater quantity of grey matter in frontal regions of their brains and of white matter that provides connections between different brain regions.** Rather than switching between languages, their brains keep all their languages activated at the same time, although how this occurs remains unknown.”

author: Steven Mithen	
title: <i>The Language Puzzle: Piecing Together the Six-Million-Year Story of How Words Evolved</i>	
publisher: Basic Books	
date:	
page(s): 235-238	



<https://us5.campaign-archive.com/?e=085bdd9791&u=6557fc90400ccd10e100a13f4&id=1471888546>

Meet the 7 people who keep Nevada Gov. Joe Lombardo in the know on legislation

Lombardo's policy team — visible in the Legislature but rarely in the public eye — helps him understand the effects of the hundreds of bills he weighs in on.

thenevadaindependent.com/article/meet-the-7-people-who-keep-nevada-gov-joe-lombardo-in-the-know-on-legislation

A Love Letter to Nevada's Wide Open Spaces

"Rural Nevada is a place unlike anywhere else I've been. The seventh biggest-by-land state in the country, Nevada boasts an enormous amount of open space once you get outside the metro-areas of Reno or Las Vegas, and it's one of the only places I've been where you could get pulled over for driving under 80 miles per hour. And with the way I like to drive through the state, getting pulled over for being too slow is a real risk, but I can't help it: rural Nevada is a place I want to linger." ([Via Daily Yonder](#))

Picuris Pueblo uses genetic testing and finds ties to Chaco Canyon

[KRQE.com](#) Albuquerque TAOS COUNTY, N.M. (KRQE) – A New Mexico pueblo is going against the norm and using genetic testing, looking to answer questions about their history. The results show they have ties to Chaco Canyon going back hundreds of years. "It's what we always talked about, what was passed on through generations – through our fore-fathers and our [...]"

<https://www.pbs.org/video/colorado-experience-original-coloradans>

[Colorado Experience | The Original Coloradans | Season 1 - PBS](#)

The Original Coloradans. Season 1 Episode 113 | 28m 19s Video has Closed Captions | CC. Discover The Ute Nation, **original** residents of **Colorado**, and their impact on the state. Aired 06/13/2013 ...

- *(Great Bear Story and others)*

The Best Documentary Ever Mystery of the Anasazi (SECRET ANCIENT HISTORY)

Barnard Hosts the Indigenous Nation of Picuris Pueblo

<https://barnard.edu/news/barnard-hosts-indigenous-nation-picuris-pueblo>

google [How do you save a language from extinction?](#)

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Wanderer Writes <https://wandererwrites.com/how-to-visit-chaco-canyon-a-complete-guide-to-the-ancient-structures>

## [Chaco: Exploring Ancient Ruins In The Desert Southwest - Wanderer Writes](#)

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## **How artificial intelligence is helping keep Indigenous languages alive**

27 September 2023

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[Communities in North America and New Zealand are working on teaching algorithms to understand Indigenous languages. But what happens when corporations get involved, asks https://www.newscientist.com/article/0-how-artificial-intelligence-is-helping-keep-indigenous-languages-alive/](#)