Ednishodi Yazhe: The Little Priest and the Understanding of Navajo Culture

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The Navajo culture used Sandpainting as a spiritual way to heal the sick. When they sandpainted, they made the painting in a smooth bed of sand, which was only temporary. Crushed yellow ochre, red sandstone, gypsum, and charcoal were used to create the images during their chants. The chants were for the Earth people and the holy people to come back into harmony, which provides them protection and healing. In the Navajo culture, color has many symbolic meanings. For example a single color can have many different meanings, it all depends on the context in which the color is used. The four mai The Navajo culture today encompasses over 200,000 people, spanning more than 14 million acres of reservation land and nearby cities. Many Navajo children are fluent in both Navajo and English. The Kinaalda literally translates "puberty ceremony," and this term is interchangeable with both the girl and the ceremony. The Kinaalda is based on a myth about the first Kinaalda Ceremony performed by and for Changing Woman, who is the female deity identified with the Earth and she is the source and sustenance of all life on the earth's surface, controlling particularly fertility. During the Kinaalda the legendary origin and its transmission to mankind is retold and enacted.