



## Primary Source

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# Coronado's Journey

## An Account by Pedro de Castañeda

*Francisco Vásquez de Coronado led an expedition to find the fabled riches of the Seven Cities of Cibola. His expedition crossed the Texas Panhandle and explored Palo Duro Canyon.*

The Spaniards . . . talked with an Indian slave, a native of the country toward Florida. . . . Hernando de Alvarado took him to guide them to the cows [buffalo]; but he told them so many and such great things about the wealth of gold & silver in his country that they did not care about looking for cows, but returned . . . to report the rich news to the general. They called the Indian “Turk,” because he looked like one. . . .

After four days' journey they came to a river with a large, deep current, . . . and they named this the Cicuye [Pecos] River. They had to stop here to make a bridge so as to cross it. It was finished in four days, by much diligence<sup>1</sup> and rapid work, and as soon as it was done the whole army and the animals crossed. After ten days more they came to some settlements of people who lived like Arabs and who are called Querechos in that region. They had seen the cows for two days. These folks live in tents made of the tanned skins of the cows. They travel around near the cows, killing them for food. . . . That they were very intelligent is evident from the fact that although they conversed by means of signs they made themselves understood so well that there was no need of an interpreter. . . . These folk started off from here next day with a lot of dogs which dragged their possessions.

For two days . . . they saw other roaming Querechos and such great numbers of cows that it already seemed something incredible. . . . They came across so many animals that those who were on the advance guard killed a large number of bulls. As these fled they trampled one another in their haste until they came to a ravine. So many of the animals fell into this that they filled it up, and the rest went on across the top of them. . . . Three of the horses that fell in among the cows, all saddled and bridled, were lost sight of completely. . . .

There was another native of Quivira with the army, a tattooed Indian named Ysopete. This Indian

had always declared that the Turk was lying, . . . [but] Ysopete was not believed.

The general sent Don Rodrigo Maldonado, with his company, forward from here. He traveled four days and reached a large ravine . . . in the bottom of which he found a large settlement of people. . . .

While the army was resting in this ravine, . . . a tempest came up one afternoon with a very high wind & hail, & in a very short space of time a great quantity of hailstones, as big as bowls, or bigger, fell as thick as raindrops, so that in places they covered the ground two or three spans or more deep. . . . There was not a horse that did not break away, except two or three which the negroes protected by holding large sea nets over them, with the helmets and shields which all the rest wore; and some of them dashed up on to the sides of the ravine so that they got them down with great difficulty. . . . The hail broke many tents, and battered many helmets, and wounded many of the horses, and broke all the crockery of the army, and the gourds, which was no small loss, because they do not have any crockery in this region. . . .

## Review Questions

1. What impressed the Spaniards about the buffalo?
2. What was damaged by the hail? Why were these important to the Spaniards?

## Critical Thinking

3. **Identifying Point of View** What was this author's attitude toward Native Americans?
4. **Drawing Conclusions** Why do you think the Spaniards believed the “Turk”?

<sup>1</sup> **diligence** careful work