

1539

Pueblo Indians' First Encounter with the Spaniards

Fray Marcos de Niza [NEE-zah], a Catholic priest, and Esteban [ess-TAY-bahn], an **enslaved** black man, were the first to look for the Seven Cities. As they moved northward, Esteban traveled ahead of Fray Marcos. It was his job to scout the land and send word back with a messenger to tell Fray Marcos what lay ahead. Esteban was the first to arrive at the **pueblo** of the Zuni. He was carrying a sacred rattle that the Zuni recognized as belonging to a tribe they had fought. The Zuni broke the rattle and killed Esteban. Fray Marcos arrived a few days later. He did not come near the Zuni Pueblo but looked at it from a high point. He gave the Zuni Pueblo the name Cibola [pronounced SEE-buh-luh]. Fray Marcos was sure that he had found the first of the Seven Cities.



Fray Marcos de Niza

Southern Methodist University Press

Zuni Pueblo in 1879



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