

## About these photographs

These photos are of Salinas Pueblo pottery on display at Gran Quivira and Quarai. Some of the pieces may have been produced as early as A.D. 1175.

As you view these photos, think of reasons why this pottery was a popular trade item in the southwest.

The photos in this section are all either jars or canteens. If someone showed you a bowl from this area, what characteristics of Chupadero Black-on-White style do you think you would find on it?

Tap any image to enlarge.

# Salinas Pueblo Missions Pottery



These three examples of Chupadero Black-on-White are jars from Las Humanas. They were used to store food items such as beans, corn, squash seeds or pine nuts. Click on each thumbnail to enlarge.

Pottery analysis is one of the most important clues to the understanding of prehistoric cultures. For almost three centuries, Tompiro-speaking Pueblo people of Gran Quivira manufactured a unique pottery type called Chupadero Black-on-White. It was the only decorated pottery known to the southeastern borders of Pueblo Indian country. Chupadero Black-on-White is one of the most distinctive and abundant pointed wares found in wide distribution across Texas and into Mexico. This wide distribution is evidence that it was a popular trade item; large quantities of imported ceramics indicate a formalized trade network.

Chupadero Black-on-White pottery consists of two basic groups—“smooth” Chupadero, and “regular” Chupadero. Both are obviously related because of their paste, slip, polish, and the following attributes: jar tops are almost universally flared; jar handles are usually made of from two to three rolls of clay placed side by side, and bowl bottoms seem to indicate that they were made with sides applied to the outer edge, giving the appearance of a disc bottom. Bowl rims are usually thin, and are most frequently decorated with a black line. Both the outsides of bowls and the interiors of jars are finished very roughly. The most prominent features of the designs are the use of broad black lines and the alternating use of solid black and hatched elements, the latter having a frame line seldom heavier than the hatching. Dotted between heavy lines is often used.



*Water was a precious resource at Las Humanas. These ceramic canteens could each hold four to five gallons. They were carried on the back, supported by a trumpline around the forehead or chest.*



*Chupadero Black-on-White ceramics are decorated with distinctive patterns. These patterns have been found in many areas of the Southwest indicating an extensive trading network among tribes. For more examples of Chupadero Black-on-White ceramics and other styles of pottery found at Las Humanas, but received in trade from other areas, please visit the [Salinas Pottery gallery](#) on ClipPix ETC.*