

Santa Fe Science Café for Young Thinkers

“Recreating the Past in A Computer: The Artificial Anasazi”



George Gumerman
School for Advanced Research (Ret.)

Wednesday, November 7
6:00-7:30 PM

Georgia O’Keeffe Museum
Education Annex
123 Grant Avenue, Santa Fe

Archaeology, like other historical sciences such as paleontology, is unable to test its ideas by experimenting. But computer modeling permits researchers to test ideas about the past. By altering population numbers and cultural and environmental conditions in the model, and comparing the results with the actual archaeological record, it is possible to understand the relative importance of the environmental and cultural variables that are observable in the archaeological record. These models have demonstrated that both the changing environment and various cultural rules effected prehistoric population movements of the Anasazi.

Admission is Free. Youth (ages 13-19) seating a priority. Light refreshments will be served. George will also appear at 8:30 AM the same day on the **Santa Fe Radio Café** (KSFR 101.1 FM) with host Mary Charlotte streaming from www.ksfr.org.

George is an anthropologist and archaeologist who has extensively studied ancient peoples of the Southwest. He has published over twenty books on archaeology and formerly was Interim President at the School of Advanced Research and Vice President at the Santa Fe Institute.

Sponsors: Santa Fe Alliance for Science; Santa Fe Public Schools; Georgia O’Keeffe Museum; Santa Fe Institute. Call 603-7468 for more information.