An ancient people lived high in the cliffs,..Kathrine visited the ruins of Cliff Palace, one of the cliff dwellings, with Leighana Sisneros and Landon Wigton, both ten and from Durango."We climbed down into a kiva (KEE vuh)," says Landon.The Navajo called them the A group of these ancient people settled at what is now Mesa Verde, in Colorado, about A.D. 550.Around the year 1200, they began moving off the top of the mesa into high-altitude dwellings they built of stone and mud under the cliff ledges."But," Kathrine observes, "you wouldn't have had things like lightbulbs, and I would have missed reading books."2 Mystery surrounds the ancestral Pueblo people.At first they dug pit houses in the mesa, or flat topped hill.Why did they build their homes in the cliffs?It may have been to cultivate more farmland."It would have been neat to be an Anasazi kid," Leighana says."Only the men were allowed in the kiva," Landon says."Maybe the people left because of the drought," says Leighana.It swirls around them like the dry wind of the high country where they lived.Why did they abandon those homes?Some archaeologists think they moved for protection.then disappeared.Or did they?And who were they, .really?Even their name is a mystery.No one knows why they made this move

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