

THE McADORY ART TEST APPLIED TO NAVAHO INDIAN CHILDREN

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In the fall of 1934 the McAdory Art Test¹ was given to 300 Navaho Indian children from 11 to 18 years of age, on their reservation in Arizona and New Mexico. It was hoped that the test would reveal the native artistic capacities of the Navaho Indians, although the objects to be judged by the children were representative of European culture. In table 1 are listed the mean scores of the Indians, with norms published for this test.² From these data it will be seen that the scores for the Navaho children for each age are less than the average for New York City children. It will be seen also that the Indian females are considerably better than the males, as is also characteristic of the whites.

The test was also given to Dutch school children in Holland, Michigan, who, although the numbers are small, are even better than the norms from the schools in New York City. The scores for the Dutch children are given in table 2.

The test is so designed that plates 1, 4, 7, 10, etc. test the capacity for judging form; plates 2, 5, 8, 11, etc. test the judgment for arrangement (notan); plates 3, 6, 9, 12, etc. test the judgment for color. Believing that the Indians might vary from the whites in one or more of these capacities, the means were calculated for each of them. The comparison of Indians with Dutch whites is given in table 3. (The norms for New York

¹ See *The Construction and Validity of an Art Test*, No. 383, Teachers College, Columbia University, Contributions to Education.

² *Validity and Standardization of the McAdory Art Test*, by Margaret McAdory Sicheloff, Ella Woodyard, and Staff of the Division of Psychology, Institute of Educational Research, Teachers College. Bureau of Publications, Teachers College, Columbia University, New York City, 1933.

TABLE 1
Mean scores for Navaho Indians as compared with norms of New York City children

AGE GROUP	NAVAHO		NORMS SCORE
	Number	Score	
13 year females.....	18	106.7 \pm 2.7	136
13 year males.....	20	101.0 \pm 2.3	119
14 year females.....	24	106.6 \pm 1.9	142
14 year males.....	35	99.6 \pm 2.2	125
15 year females.....	31	101.3 \pm 2.8	148
15 year males.....	32	107.9 \pm 2.4	130
16 year females.....	26	98.4 \pm 2.6	152
16 year males.....	19	105.6 \pm 3.9	135
17 year females.....	27	110.8 \pm 2.8	155
17 year males.....	15	95.2 \pm 3.4	138
18 year females.....	25	110.5 \pm 3.5	158
18 year males.....	15	95.2 \pm 3.4	142

TABLE 2
Mean scores for Dutch children

AGE GROUP	NUMBER	SCORE
15 year females.....	7	157.4 \pm 5.1
15 year males.....	12	132.8 \pm 4.2
16 year females.....	6	156.2 \pm 4.0
16 year males.....	16	127.6 \pm 4.4

TABLE 3
Mean scores for Navaho Indians and Dutch whites for form, arrangement, and color

AGE GROUP	NUMBER	FORM	ARRANGEMENT	COLOR
11 year Dutch females.....	14	50.9 \pm 1.8	50.2 \pm 2.0	28.8 \pm 1.6
11 year Dutch males.....	15	46.5 \pm 2.6	45.8 \pm 1.4	26.1 \pm 2.8
11 and 12 year Indian females.....	10	47.5 \pm 2.5	39.5 \pm 2.6	26.5 \pm 2.1
11 and 12 year Indian males.....	10	36.5 \pm 1.6	35.5 \pm 1.2	20.5 \pm 1.4
15 year Dutch females.....	7	57.4 \pm 2.6	60.2 \pm 3.0	38.8 \pm 1.3
15 year Dutch males.....	12	47.0 \pm 3.0	49.5 \pm 1.5	34.5 \pm 1.4
15 year Indian females.....	31	37.1 \pm 1.1	38.4 \pm 1.4	25.8 \pm 0.9
15 year Indian males.....	32	39.2 \pm 1.3	45.4 \pm 1.0	25.1 \pm 0.8
16 year Dutch females.....	6	57.8 \pm 2.1	56.2 \pm 1.9	41.2 \pm 1.3
16 year Dutch males.....	16	50.8 \pm 2.5	46.4 \pm 1.7	28.9 \pm 1.0
16 year Indian females.....	26	35.7 \pm 1.1	36.4 \pm 1.4	25.7 \pm 1.2
16 year Indian males.....	19	40.8 \pm 2.0	39.2 \pm 1.7	24.5 \pm 1.1

City children have not been published.) From this table it is again seen that the whites surpass the Indians in all the points considered. In other words, the Indian ability to judge all three of the capacities here tested, i.e. form, arrangement, and color, is poorer than that of the Dutch whites.

The results presented confirm the general findings of psychologists, namely that the standards procured from whites are higher than the means procured from other races. They also emphasize the need for tests which will show fundamental artistic (or other) capacities, regardless of the culture of the people to be tested. Thus in place of the objects used in this test based upon "white" culture, such as chairs, hats, dresses, interiors of rooms, etc. one would substitute trees, horses, fields, jewelry, and objects more fundamental to all cultures. Such a test might produce more significant results.

There can be no doubt that the Navaho Indians are artistic, when the beauty of the designs shown in their rugs and the original creative drawings of Indian school children are considered. It must be said in conclusion that the McAdory Art Test in its present form does not reveal this artistic capacity.