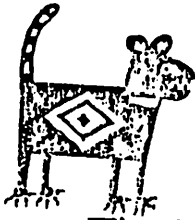


WHAT DID THEY EAT?



This is a source of curiosity for many of today's visitors. We have the convenience of grocery stores and restaurants, while the Sinaguans relied on their wits and bodies to obtain the sustenance necessary for survival. They utilized both agriculture and hunting and gathering techniques as sources of their food supply.

AGRICULTURE



Remains of stone hoes and digging tools, some vegetal material, and depleted soil in Bonito Park are among the remnants of early Sinaguan farming. The ruins of fieldhouses show the tireless vigil that Sinaguans kept over their crops in what were difficult growing conditions. It was generally dry, with a short (115 days) season. Thus, farming was limited to open parks, where the light cinder cover promoted germination and preserved what available moisture there was. The primary crops were corn, squash, and beans.

HUNTING AND GATHERING

Most likely using handcrafted nets and snares, atlatles, and bows and arrows, the Sinaguans hunted a variety of wildlife in the area. Animals they ate probably included deer, rabbit, bobcat, chipmunk, squirrel, gopher, coyote, wolf, fox, woodrat, porcupine, fish, and all types of birds - nuthatch, sparrow, raven, jay, junco. Wild plants were also gathered as food, such as the piñon nut, gourd, grape, blueberry, currant, sunflower and yucca seeds, and beeweed, lambsquarter, and mustard greens.