

Name _____

Date _____

Native American Unit: Study Guide

To help study for your test on Native Americans from California, we have attached a copy of the chapter in our Social Studies textbook. This chapter is one of the resources we used in class to learn about the Native Americans and to create our brochures.

For the test, you will need to be able to:

- Match all of the highlighted vocabulary words, that have not been vocabulary words in the past, with their definition.
- Explain how archeologists learned about people in the distance past. (Lesson 1)
- Explain how the early people of California changed their ways of life when their environment changed. (Lesson 1)
- Explain how the Native Americans who lived in California's Coastal region used the natural resources around them. (Lesson 2)
- Give examples of items used for trading. (Lesson 2)
- Describe some of the important foods for the tribes in the Central Valley. (Lesson 3)
- Explain how the Mojave adopted their ways of life to their desert environment (Lesson 4)
- Name at least one tribe who lived in each of those regions: Coast, Desert, and Central Valley/Mountains

Early People of California

LESSON

1

10,000 years ago

5,000 years ago

Present

Many thousands of years ago, a large part of the Earth experienced an Ice Age. During this time the Earth's climate turned very cold. It was so cold that glaciers (GLAY•sherz) covered much of the land. A **glacier** is a huge, slow-moving mass of ice.

So much of the Earth's water was trapped in glaciers that the water level in the oceans dropped. This caused a "bridge" of dry land to appear at several different times between the continents of Asia and North America. It connected present-day Russia and Alaska. People from Asia may have traveled across this land bridge into North America.

Land and People Long Ago

The earliest people who came to North America were most likely nomads (NOH•madz). A **nomad** is a person who keeps moving from place to place. These nomads followed roaming herds of animals, which they hunted for food. They likely gathered plants for food, too.

FOCUS

How do people today change as the world around them changes?

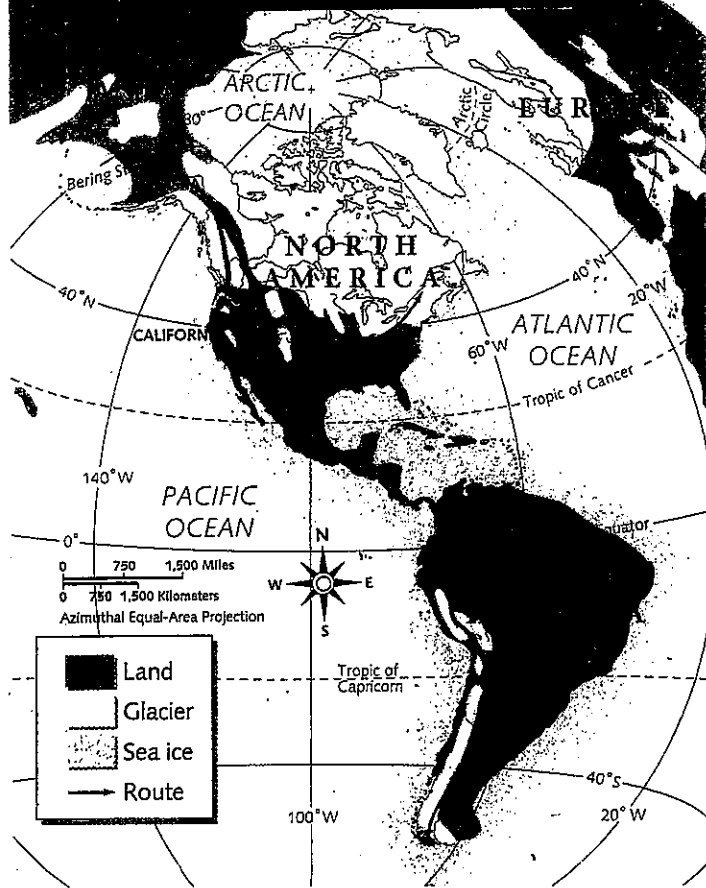
Main Idea Read to find out how the earliest people of California changed their ways of life as their environment changed.

Vocabulary

glacier	civilization
nomad	religion
vegetation	
tribe	
nation	
culture	
legend	
artifact	
archaeologist	

Glaciers, such as this one in Alaska, are now found only in very cold places. But during the Ice Age, glaciers covered even the southern part of North America.

Routes of Early People



Movement Early people may have followed these routes from Asia to the Americas.

- In what general direction did people travel to reach California from what is now Alaska?

Mastodons were important resources for early people.



These first Americans, or Native Americans, probably traveled in small groups of families that lived and worked together. For thousands of years their children and their children's children slowly spread out all over North America and South America. They became the first Californians, or Native Californians, when they reached what is now California. They likely reached California at least 10,000 years ago.

When the earliest people arrived in California, the climate was much cooler and more humid than it is today. Rich **vegetation**, or plant life, provided food for very large animals. Some of these animals weighed thousands of pounds. Giant mastodons and mammoths roamed the valley grasslands and the mountain forests.

Mastodons and mammoths were huge animals like hairy elephants. Many were as tall as 14 feet (4 m) and had tusks up to 14 feet long. From one mammoth, early hunters could get enough meat to last for months. The people used the skin to make clothing and shelters. They used the bones to make tools and weapons.

REVIEW What giant animals did early people hunt in what is now California?

A Time of Great Change

Over thousands of years the environment of California slowly changed. The climate became warmer and drier. Much of the vegetation the giant animals ate could no longer grow. Because of this the mammoths and other giant animals became extinct.

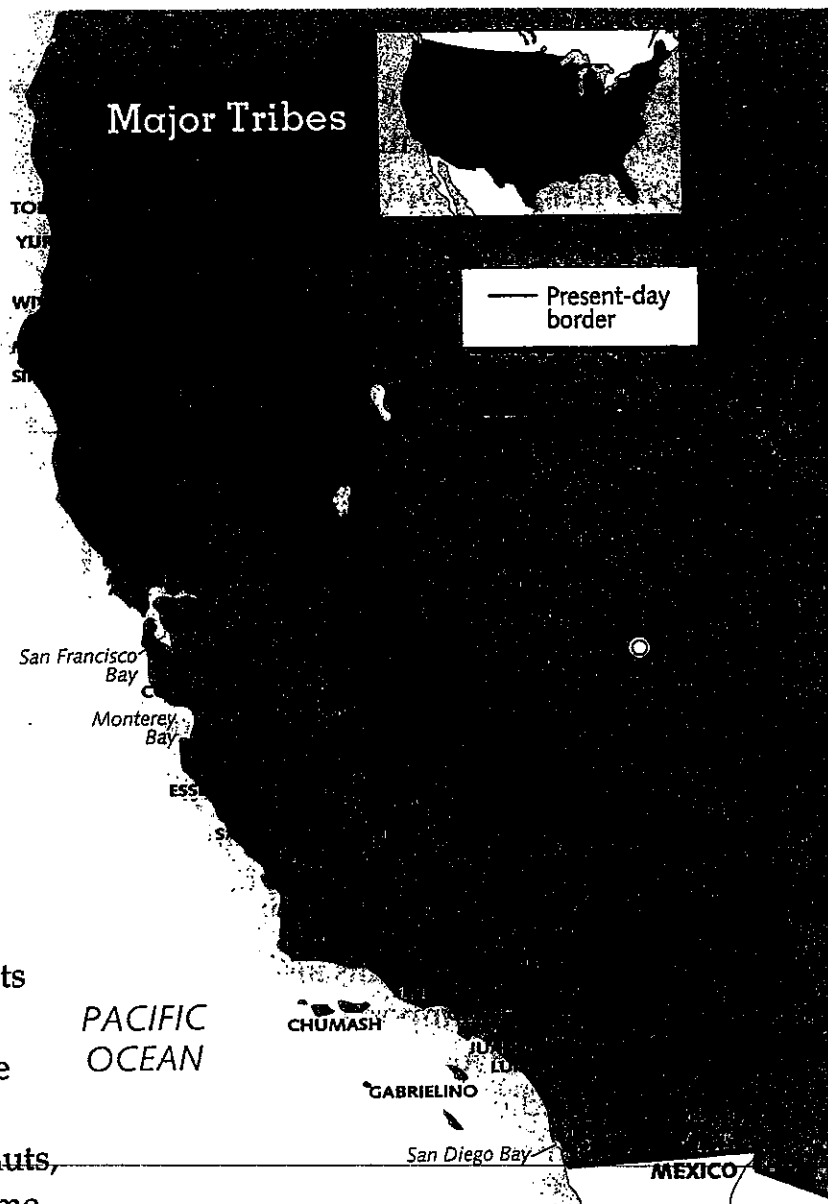
Some people moved on to new lands as the environment changed. Others stayed but changed their ways of life. Since there were no giant animals to provide food, the people hunted smaller animals and began to fish. They also began to gather more nuts and berries and eat more plants.

In time the people learned where certain plants grew best. They also learned at what times of the year nuts, berries, and other plant parts became ripe. Each season the people traveled to places where they could both gather food and hunt.

REVIEW Why did mammoths and other giant animals in California become extinct?

The California Tribes

About 5,000 years ago people began to gather in villages for at least part of each year. Some people formed what today are called tribes. **Tribe** is a term often used to describe Native American groups that share the same language or



Location Indian tribes lived in all parts of California.

■ Which tribes lived close to where you live now?

have the same leaders. Today we know them as the Chumash (CHOO•mash), the Miwoks (MEE•wahks), the Mojaves (moh•HAH•vayz), and many others.

Often these large groups are known as nations. A **nation** is a group of people that share land and a common way of life. A nation can include several tribes.

Over time the Native Californians came to have many different ways of

speaking, behaving, and dressing. Each tribe also came to have its own beliefs. Together, these ways of living made up a **culture**. A tribe's culture made it different from other tribes.

Native Californians spoke more than 130 different languages. Sometimes the language spoken by one group was not at all like the language spoken by a neighboring group. However, most Native Californians could speak two, three, or more languages.

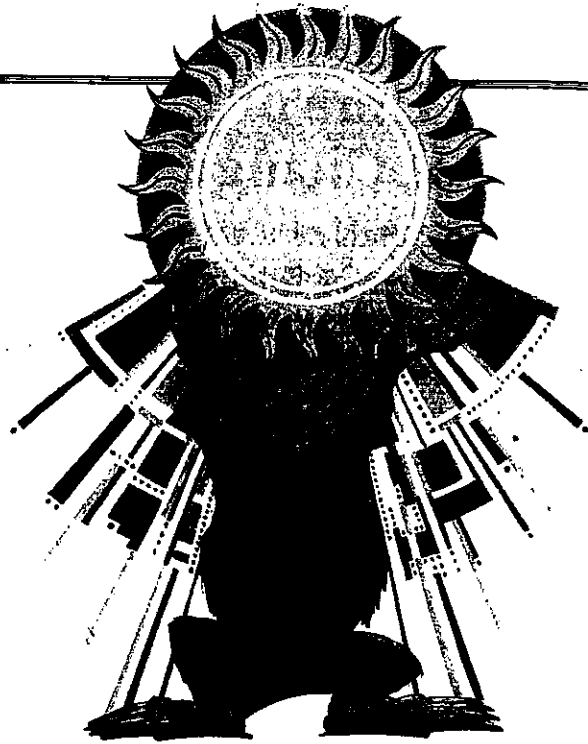
Each California tribe had its own culture, yet the Native Californians were alike in many ways. They all believed that people needed to respect all living things. They believed that if the animal spirits were happy, people would have a good hunt.

All the Native Californians also used legends to tell about important events and people in their history. A **legend** is a story handed down over time. The Native Californians also used legends to explain the animals, plants, and other physical features around them.

One legend told by the early people of California explains why moles cannot see well. Moles are small animals that live underground. They use their front paws, which turn outward, to dig tunnels.

Children listened carefully as their parents and grandparents told them legends. Then the children repeated each line of the legend until they had learned it for themselves. In that way the legend was handed down from adults to children over many years.

REVIEW In what ways were Native Californians alike?



Mole and the Sun

One day back in the Beforetime, Sun decided that it would be easier to roll along the ground than across the sky. So, soon after he rose, when he thought no one was watching, he dropped down from the sky.

But Mole, who had gone out hunting early, saw, and ran to catch Sun as he fell.

"Hai, help!" squeaked Mole, shutting his eyes against Sun's great brightness. "The Sun has fallen!"

"What?" said some.

"Who called?" asked others.

"Hai, hai! Help me!" cried Mole again. "Sun has fallen, and he is heavy!"

All of the animals ran to help, and soon they had shoved Sun back into the sky, where he has stayed ever since.

But Mole's eyes still squint against the light, and his front paws to this day are bent back from holding up the Sun.

from *Back in the Beforetime: Tales of the California Indians* by Jane Louise Curry

Using Resources

California was rich in natural resources. Yet Native Californians wasted very little. They could make food from a few months of hunting last a full year. They gathered seeds, especially acorns, and pounded them into flour.

The early people of California made everything they used from the natural resources they found around them. Because they lived in different regions, however, there were different kinds of resources for them to use. People in some tribes carried water in tightly woven reed baskets, while those in other tribes used clay pots. Some tribes made rope and clothing from animal hair. Other tribes used plant fibers. Some used wood from trees to build

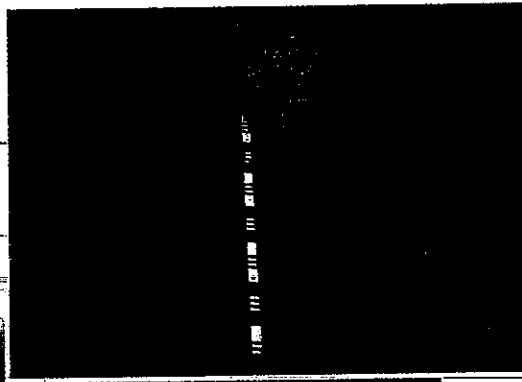
shelters and make tools. Others used branches and animal bones and skins.

REVIEW Why were natural resources important to California's early people?

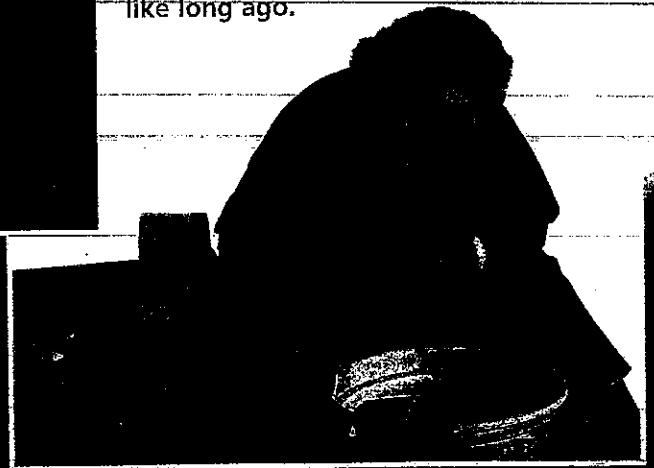
Clues from the Past

Native Californians did not have written languages. They left no written story for people today to read. What we know today about California's early people comes from the artifacts (AR•tih•fakts) they left behind. An **artifact** is any object made by people in the past. Pots, baskets, weapons, and tools all help tell a tribe's story.

Scientists called **archaeologists** (ar•kee•AH•luh•jists) study artifacts to learn about what life was like long ago. To an archaeologist, spear points tell

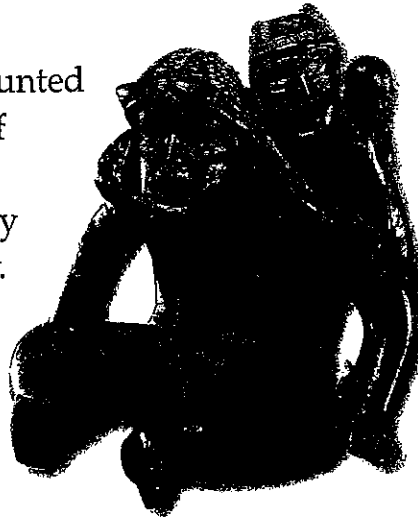


Archaeologists carefully clean and label the artifacts they find. The artifacts help them learn more about what life was like long ago.



something about how people hunted and where they hunted. Piles of shells are clues that people ate clams and mussels and that they may have built a village nearby.

Some early cultures left behind more and different kinds of artifacts than others. Between 2,500 and 500 years ago, people who lived far to the south of California built great civilizations (sih•vuh•luh•ZAY•shuhnz). A **civilization** is a culture that usually has cities and highly developed arts and sciences.



This carved Mayan artifact shows a woman with children.

In Mexico and Central America, the Mayas (MY•uhz) and the Aztecs both formed great civilizations. They built large cities with beautiful palaces, gardens, and bridges. Roads paved with stones connected all these places.

Because of the many artifacts left by these cultures, archaeologists know that they each made art and music. They

GEOGRAPHY

Rancho La Brea Tar Pits

The Rancho La Brea (BRAY•uh) Tar Pits lie in Hancock Park in Los Angeles. These tar pits are one of the world's best sources of Ice Age fossils. The gooey tar pits hold the remains of many animals and plants that got stuck in them and died there long ago. The remains of all these



one person have also been found. Many of the animals and plants are thousands of years old and belong to groups that are now extinct. Today people go to the tar pits to visit the museum there. It is filled with clues about California long, long ago.

Exhibits at the Rancho La Brea Tar Pits show visitors how animals got stuck in the tar.



also followed a **religion**, or set of beliefs about God or gods.

Artifacts and other clues from the past tell archaeologists that many people lived in California long ago. In fact, more people lived in California than in any other place in what is now the United States. Five hundred years ago, more than 1 of every 10 Native Americans, or American Indians, in the United States lived in California.



This scene of the Aztec city of Tenochtitlán (tay•nawch•teet•LAHN) is a detail of a mural painted by Mexican artist Diego Rivera. The Aztec artifact (above left) is a frog made of gold.

LESSON 1 REVIEW

10,000 years ago

10,000 years ago
• Early people may have reached what is now California

5,000 years ago

5,000 years ago
• People began to gather in villages

Present

500 years ago
• More than 1 of every 10 American Indians in what is now the United States lived in California

Check Understanding

- 1 **Remember the Facts** How did Native Californians tell about important events and people in their history?
- 2 **Recall the Main Idea** How did the early people of California change their ways of life when their environment changed?

Think Critically

- 3 **Think More About It** Why do you think early people formed tribes?

- 4 **Cause and Effect** How did living in different regions affect the California tribes?



Show What You Know

Art Activity Suppose you have written a book called *The Early People of California*. Draw a cover for your book. Show the lives of people who hunted animals and gathered nuts, berries, and plants. Add your book cover to a bulletin board display in your classroom.

**FOCUS**

How can the natural resources of a region affect how people live?

Main Idea Read to find out how the Native Californians who lived in the Coastal region used the natural resources around them.

Vocabulary

shaman
weir
trade
wealth
tradition
ceremony
government
ancestor

The Yuroks built their houses (below) and canoes (above) from redwood and cedar trees.

The Coast

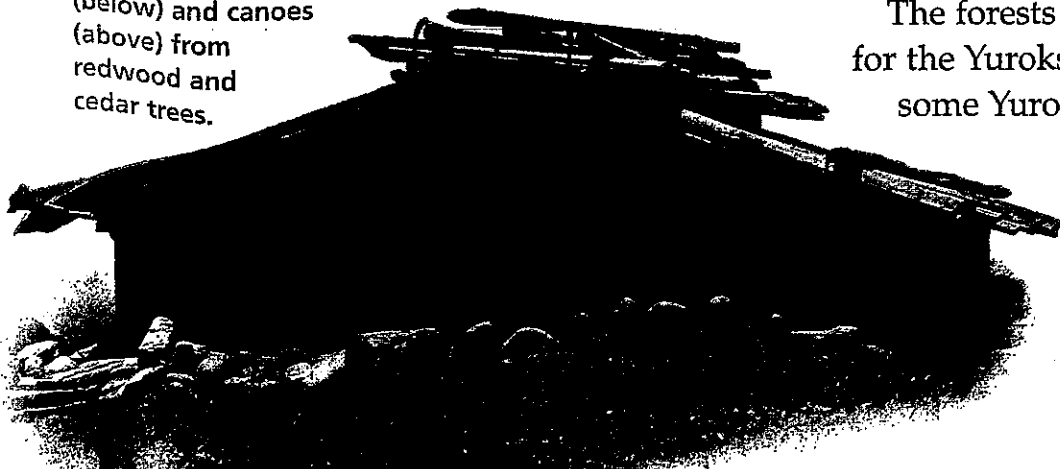
The very first Californians may have lived in California's Coastal region. They built their villages along the coast and the region's rivers. Like people today, they used the region's rich natural resources to meet their needs. They cut down trees and fished in ocean inlets and rivers. They dug for clams and other kinds of shellfish. They gathered seaweed and hunted sea lions, deer, and other animals.

The Yuroks

The Yuroks (YOOR•ahks) lived in the northwestern part of what is now California, along the Pacific coast and the Klamath River. Ocean winds bring heavy rains to this part of California, so the forests grow tall and thick. Huge redwoods and giant cedars towered above the Yuroks' villages. The Yuroks used wooden planks split from those trees to build rectangular homes. Their houses had slanted roofs that allowed the water to run off in rainy weather. To protect their wooden houses from fires, they removed all the brush, or low bushes, in and around their villages.

(The Yuroks also used the trees to make their canoes. Using stone tools, they hollowed out the insides of giant logs. Sometimes they burned out the insides of the logs. They used their canoes to travel up and down the coast and to hunt sea animals.)

The forests also provided food for the Yuroks. In summer and fall some Yuroks left their villages to gather berries and nuts. For the Yuroks, as for most California Indians, acorns were an





The Yuroks and other groups in the northern Coastal region probably used fishing weirs like the one shown above in this 1923 photograph. They used weirs to catch salmon (left).

important food. Their most important food, however, was the salmon from the rivers.

REVIEW What are two ways the Yuroks used the large trees that grew around them?

Catching Salmon

"*Ne-peg-wuh! Ne-peg-wuh!*" The Yuroks waited every year to hear this call. It meant that a **shaman** (SHAH•muhn), or religious leader, had caught the year's first salmon. The salmon season had begun.

Each spring, salmon left the Pacific Ocean and swam up the rivers in northern California to spawn, or lay their eggs. It was said that there were so many salmon, a person could walk across the rivers on their backs.

To catch the salmon, the Yuroks made weirs (WIRZ). A **weir** is a fence built across a river in order to trap fish. To make their weirs, the Yuroks built fences from sticks and attached them to long poles. They stretched the weirs across rivers. Then the men of the village could spear the trapped fish as the fish swam up the rivers.

Women prepared the salmon so that it could be kept for many months. First, they cleaned the salmon and dried it in the sun. Then, they cooked it slowly over fires, turning it often and moving it from the flames into the smoke. Day after day they repeated this work until there was enough salmon to last until the next time they heard "*Ne-peg-wuh!*"

REVIEW How did the Yuroks catch salmon?

Symbols of Wealth

The Yuroks fished for salmon into the early summer. In any season, however, there were always animals for the Yuroks to hunt and plants for them to gather. In fact, food was so easy to get that the Yuroks had spare time. They used it to collect objects they thought were beautiful and valuable.

Like many Native Californians, the Yuroks collected shells and strung them like beads. These strings of shells were used as money in trade. **Trade** is the exchanging, or buying and selling, of goods. The Yuroks traded the strings of shells for things they could not make from the natural resources around them.

The Yuroks and other groups in the northern Coastal region allowed

families and individuals to use some lands only for themselves. In other groups, land was something to be shared by the whole tribe. However, some things, such as oak and pine nut trees, could belong to a certain family and were cared for by them.

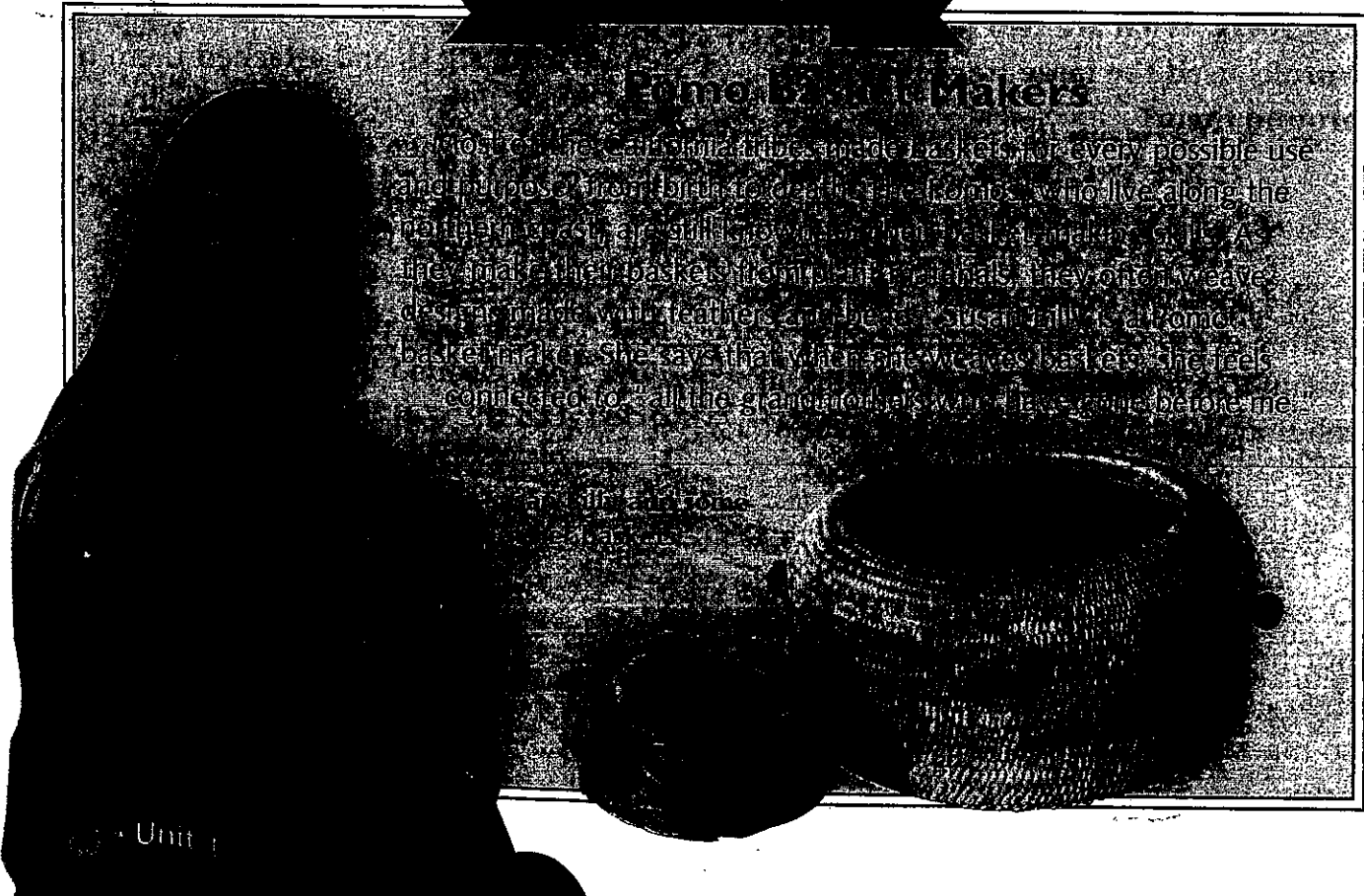
Gaining the use of land and other forms of **wealth**, or riches, was important to the Yuroks. A person who owned several strings of shells was thought to be very wealthy. Some men even wore special marks on their arms for measuring the length of their shell strings. Wealthy women wore beautiful fur skins and jewelry and owned finely woven baskets.

REVIEW How were the Yuroks different from some other groups in the way they thought about land?

CULTURE

Basket Makers

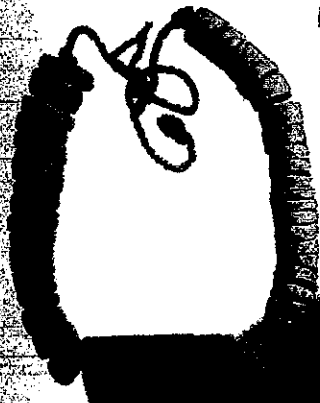
Most of the California Indians made baskets for every possible use and purpose. From baskets for the Indians who live along the northern coast, are still known for their basket-making skills. As they make their baskets from plant materials, they often weave designs made with feathers and beads. Susan Hall is a former basket maker. She says that when she weaves baskets, she feels connected to all the generations of Indians who have come before her.



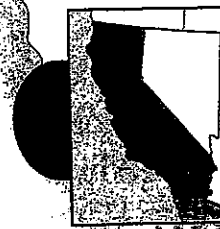
The Hoopas

Not far from the Yuroks, along the Trinity River, lived the Hoopas (HOOP•uhz). The Hoopas lived in small villages upstream from the Yuroks, in the valleys of the Coast Ranges. The Hoopas and Yuroks spoke different languages, but their cultures were alike. They both felt that gaining wealth was important. Their environments were also alike, and they used natural resources in much the same way. Salmon and acorns provided most of their food.

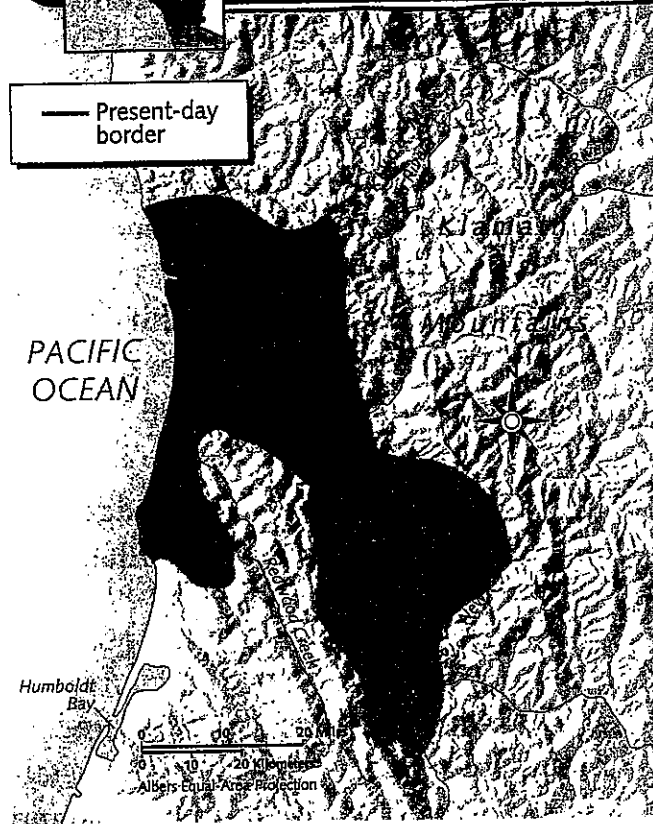
The Yuroks, the Hoopas, and many other tribes in the Coastal region, such as the Tolowas, used beads made from shells (below) for trading and as jewelry. The Tolowa woman in this photograph from the early 1920s (right) is showing her wealth by wearing necklaces made from shells.



Yurok and Hoopa Lands



— Present-day border



Region The Yuroks and Hoopas lived in what is now northwestern California.
■ Which tribe's lands bordered the Pacific Ocean?

The Hoopas, too, built rectangular wooden houses with slanted roofs. In their villages were sweat lodges. Fires burning inside these buildings kept them very hot. The men gathered there to think and pray. When they finished, they would jump into the river next to the village to cool and clean themselves.

Hoopa women did most of the gathering of plants for food and basket making. They also took care of the sick, often using medicines made from plants. The men were hunters, fishers, and woodcarvers.

The fall was a time for giving thanks. Each year the Hoopas took part in two celebrations—the White Deerskin Dance and the Jump Dance. During these celebrations children learned the traditions of their tribe. A **tradition** is an idea or a way of doing something that has been handed down from the past.

These celebrations are still held every September. Today there are about 2,500 Hoopas and 4,200 Yuroks living in northern California.

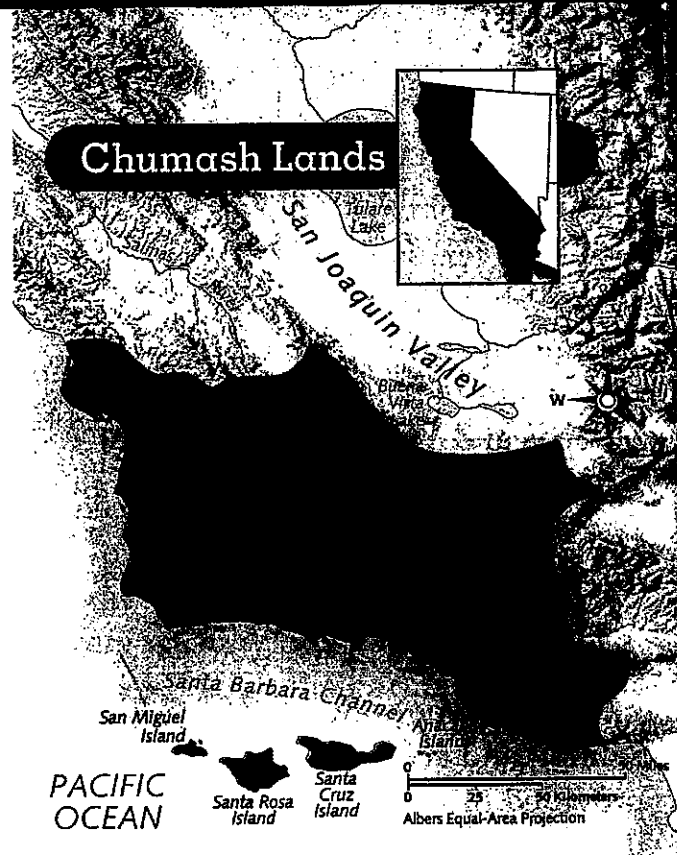
REVIEW Why were sweat lodges important places in Hoopa villages?

The Chumash

The Chumash (CHOO•mash) lived along the southern part of the Coastal region, from what is now Topanga and Malibu to San Luis Obispo (oh•BIS•poh). Some lived in the Cuyama and San Joaquin valleys. They also lived on such nearby Channel Islands as Santa Cruz, Santa Rosa, and San Miguel (mee•GAYL).

In this part of the Coastal region there were fewer salmon, so acorns were the main food. The Chumash also fished, caught crabs, dug for clams, and hunted seals and sea otters.

Where the Chumash lived, the climate was too warm and dry for many redwoods or giant cedars to grow. Instead of building their houses from wooden planks, the Chumash drove long poles into the ground. Then they bent the poles and tied them together. This frame of poles was covered with thick layers of grasses.



Regions Chumash lands stretched along the southern part of the Coastal region.

- Which three mountain ranges are part of what were Chumash lands?

Some Chumash houses were 50 feet (15 m) wide and could hold as many as 70 people. One Spanish explorer wrote,

“ They arrange their houses in groups. The houses are well constructed, round like an oven, spacious and fairly comfortable; light enters from a hole in the roof. . . . In the middle of the floor they make a fire for cooking seeds, fish, and other foods, for they eat everything boiled or roasted. ”

Some Chumash villages had as many as 1,000 people. Each village had several

houses, a sweat lodge, buildings for storing food, and an area for ceremonies. A **ceremony** is a series of actions performed during a special event. At different times of the year, the Chumash held ceremonies to give thanks for the plants and animals around them.

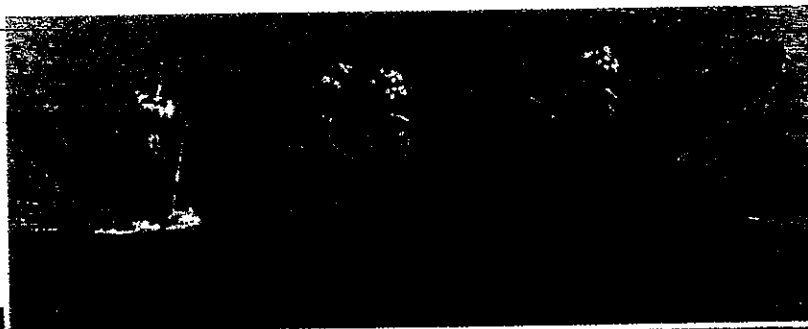
The Chumash had their own system of government, as did other California tribes. A **government** is a system for deciding what is best for a group of people. It protects the group members and settles disagreements among them. A government has its own rules and leaders.

In Chumash villages the main leader was called the *wot*. The *wot*'s son usually became the next leader. If the *wot* had no son, however, a daughter, a brother, or a sister might become the leader. The *wot* decided who could hunt and gather in each area. He or

she also talked about problems with the leaders of other Chumash villages so that they could all work together.

The Chumash were expert canoe builders. They called their canoes *tomols* (TOH•mohlz). They built them from wooden planks split from logs that washed up along the shore. Sometimes they traveled north to the mountains to get the wood. They split the wood with a whale bone or a deer antler and smoothed the edges with a clam shell or a stone knife. Then they sewed the pieces of wood together with ropes made from animal skins.

The Chumash had a natural resource that other tribes in the Coastal region did not have. On some of their lands, thick tar bubbled up from the ground. The Chumash used this tar to seal the seams on their canoes and make them waterproof. Then they decorated the



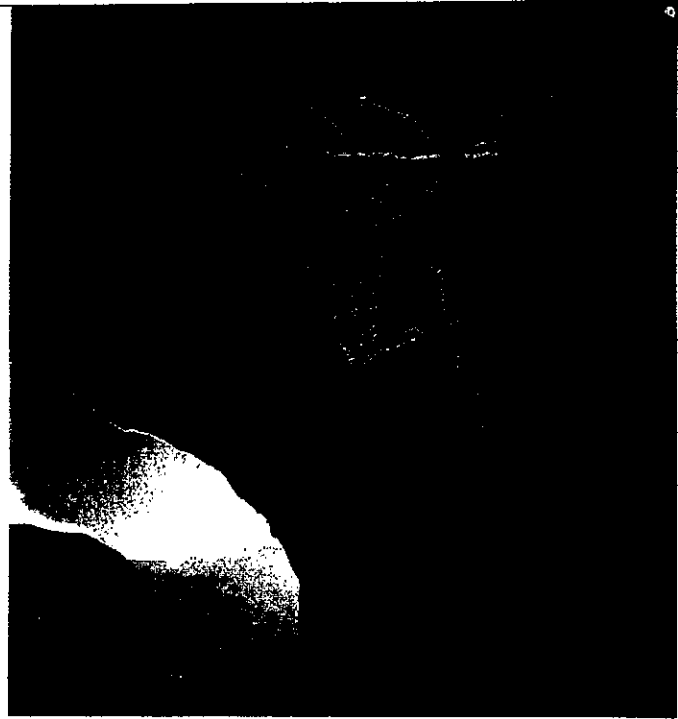
Chumash homes (below) were round in shape. When present-day Chumash people built this canoe (left), they used the same materials their people have used for hundreds of years—wooden planks sealed with thick tar.

sides with shells. "Like a flower on the water" was the way a Chumash man once described a Chumash canoe.

In these strong canoes the Chumash were able to travel long distances to trade. They paddled their canoes across the choppy waters of the Santa Barbara Channel to reach the Channel Islands. They even traveled as far as San Nicolas Island, 65 miles (105 km) from the coast!

About 3,000 Chumash live in California today. Many things that their ancestors (AN•ses•terz) created can still be seen. An **ANCESTROR** is an early family member. Archaeologists have found such artifacts as baskets, stone cooking pots, and wooden bowls. They have also found large mounds of shells along the shore. These shells were from the shellfish the Chumash ate.

The early Chumash also left behind their rock art, which can still be seen today in several places in California.



Chumash rock paintings, like these in Kern County, can still be seen in some places in California.

They often painted pictures of fish, birds, and other animals, as well as stars and plants. They used ground-up rocks to make their paints.

REVIEW What did the ancestors of the Chumash leave behind?

LESSON 2 REVIEW

Check Understanding

- 1 Remember the Facts** In which parts of the Coastal region did the Yuroks, the Hoopas, and the Chumash live?
- 2 Recall the Main Idea** How did the Indians who lived in California's Coastal region use the natural resources around them?

Think Critically

- 3 Link to You** What are some ways of doing things that have been handed down from your ancestors?

- 4 Think More About It** Why might the Yuroks have moved around more in summer than in winter?



Show What You Know Simulation Activity

Imagine that you and a partner are members of two different tribes in the Coastal region. Role-play a conversation in which you describe to each other the ways your tribes use natural resources to meet your needs. Practice your role-play and then share it with the class.

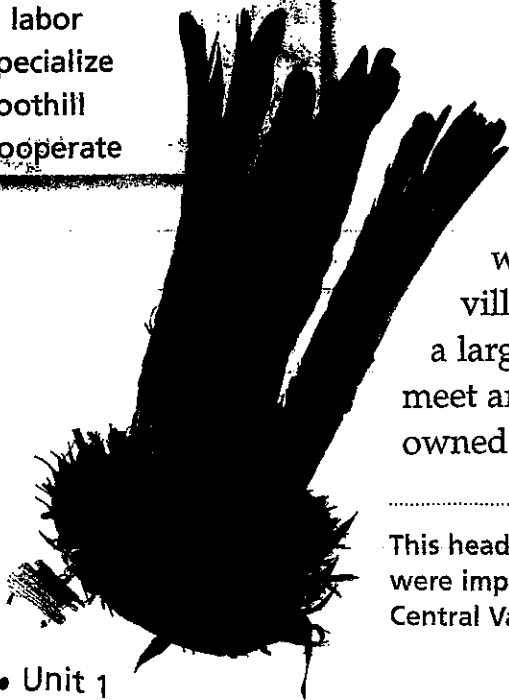
**FOCUS**

How might the way of life in one region be different from the way of life in another region? How might they be the same?

Main Idea Read to compare the ways of life of the Native Californians who lived in the Central Valley and the mountains of California.

Vocabulary

granary
division of
labor
specialize
foothill
cooperate



The Central Valley and the Mountains


Today most people in California live near the coast in large cities. That was not true hundreds of years ago. At that time most people lived in the Central Valley and on the western slopes of the Sierra Nevada.

The Native Californians who lived in these regions had cultures that were much the same. Most of them spoke languages of the same language group, and they used the same kinds of natural resources to meet their needs. As in the Coastal region, there were many animals to hunt and plenty of plants, berries, and nuts to gather. Like the Indians who lived in the other regions of California, the Indians of the Central Valley and the mountains traded with nearby tribes to get any goods that their own environment did not provide.

The Maidus

The Maidus (MY•dooz) lived along the tributaries of the Sacramento River, including the Feather and American rivers. The Maidus lived in village groups. These village groups were made up of a circle of villages with another village in the center. The village in the center had a large building where members of the tribe could meet and hold ceremonies. Together, these villages owned and shared a hunting and fishing area.

This headdress was worn by a Maidu shaman. Acorns (above) were important foods for the Native Californians who lived in the Central Valley and the mountains of California.



With a seed beater, this Maidu woman knocks grass seeds into a large collecting basket.

Next to the earth lodges stood open grass-roofed porches. People spent much of their time on the porches in warm weather. Another kind of building was the barrel-shaped **granary** (GRAY•nuh•ree), which was used for storing acorns. Guards stood watch on nearby hillsides to protect the villages and the granaries from outsiders.

Acorns were the main food of the Maidus. The people sang a song they believed would help them have a bigger harvest:

“ The acorns come down from heaven.
I plant the short acorns in the valley.
I plant the long acorns in the valley.
I sprout, I, the black acorn, sprout, I sprout. ”

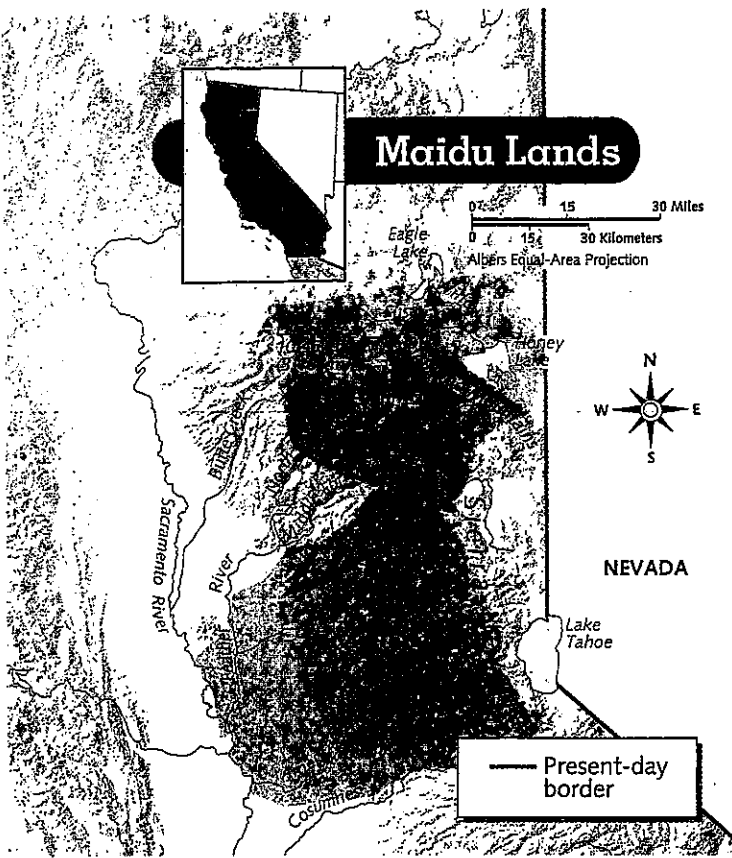
Besides acorns, the Maidus gathered pine nuts and seeds from other plants, such as wild rye grasses. Women and children gathered nuts by hand, but they used a tool called a seed beater to collect seeds. The seed beater was used to hit tall grasses, causing the seeds to fall off into a basket held below it.

The Maidus gathered food in spring, summer, and fall and stored the extra food for winter. They made good use of all the natural resources around them and wasted very little. They even roasted and ate grasshoppers and other kinds of insects!

The Maidus were skilled hunters, too. The men hunted deer and elk as well as smaller animals, such as squirrels and

Each Maidu village group probably had from three to five villages. A village may have had as many as 50 houses. Some Maidus lived in houses made of tree branches that were bent, gathered together, and covered with grasses. Others lived in large mound-shaped shelters built of wood and covered with dirt. These earth lodges were as much as 40 feet (12 m) across. The floors were dug into the ground to a depth of about 4 feet (1 m). In the center of the floor was a deep pit for the fire.

Maidu Lands



Regions Maidu lands stretched across what is now the northeastern part of California.

- What mountain range formed much of the eastern boundary of what were Maidu lands?

rabbits. They also fished along the rivers, using logs to make rafts and canoes.

People from different Maidu villages would gather for events such as the Bear Dance, which celebrated good feelings between the people of the villages. Dancers carried sweet-smelling tree branches, which stood for peace and friendship.

REVIEW How were Maidu village groups arranged?

The Miwoks

The Miwoks (MEE•wahks) lived in different regions of California. Some groups lived along the Pacific coast. Others lived at Clear Lake and near San Francisco Bay. The largest group, however, lived on the western slopes of the Sierra Nevada and in the San Joaquin Valley.

These Miwoks lived in more than 100 different villages. They made their homes with wooden poles that were bent and gathered together. Bark, leaves, grasses, or plants covered the houses.

A Miwok village could have hundreds of houses. A large, round building in the center of the village was used as a meeting place, and each village had a sweat lodge.

As in most California tribes, the labor, or work, of a Miwok village was divided among different workers. Dividing the work among different workers is called **division of labor**. Division of labor made it easier for the village to meet its needs.

This round house at Indian Grinding Rock State Historic Park in Amador County is built to look like the ones used by the Miwoks.

In a division of labor, people often specialize (SPEH•shuh•lyz). To **specialize** is to work at one kind of job a person can do well. While some men in Miwok villages made arrow points from stone, others made bows or fish traps. Women used the grasses and reeds they gathered near rivers to weave baskets.

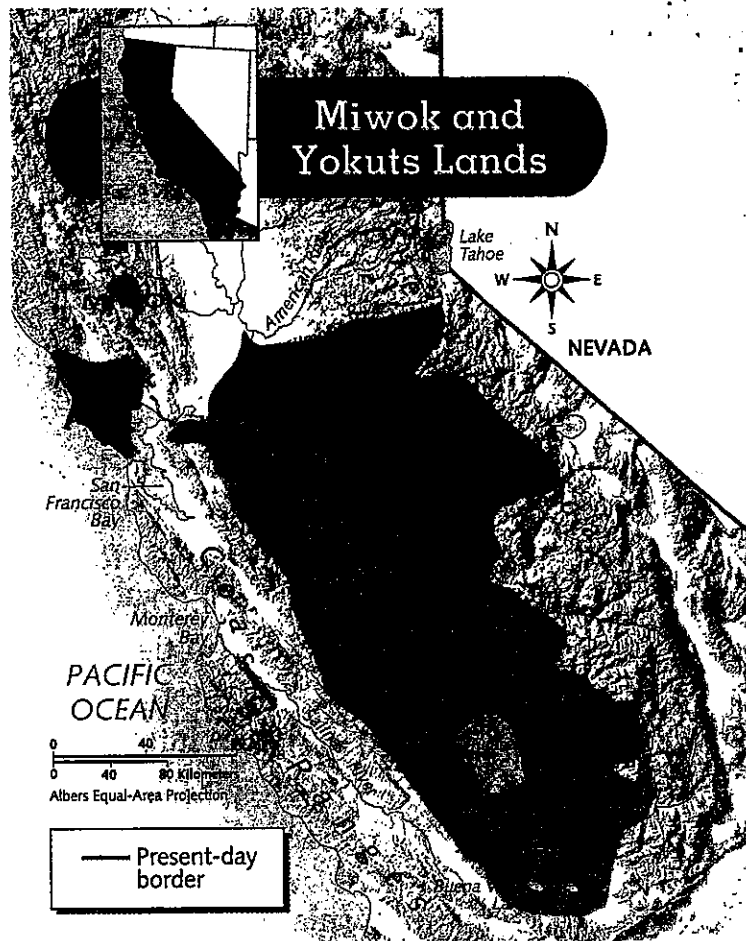
As in other California tribes, games were an important part of Miwok life. The games were fun, but they also taught children important skills they would need when they grew up. For example, there were relay races in which children passed a rock or stick to the next runner. This helped them learn to work together and to try hard. It made them fast and strong.

In one game two hoops made of willow branches were rolled from different sides of a field. At the very moment the hoops lined up with each other, a player would try to throw a long pole through both hoops at once. Being able to throw a stick at just the right time would make it easier to learn to spear a fish.

REVIEW How did games help Miwok children?

The Yokuts

“My words are tied in one with the great mountains . . . with the great trees.” These words are part of an old Yokuts (YOH•kuhts) prayer. Trees were an important part of life for the Yokuts. Many large

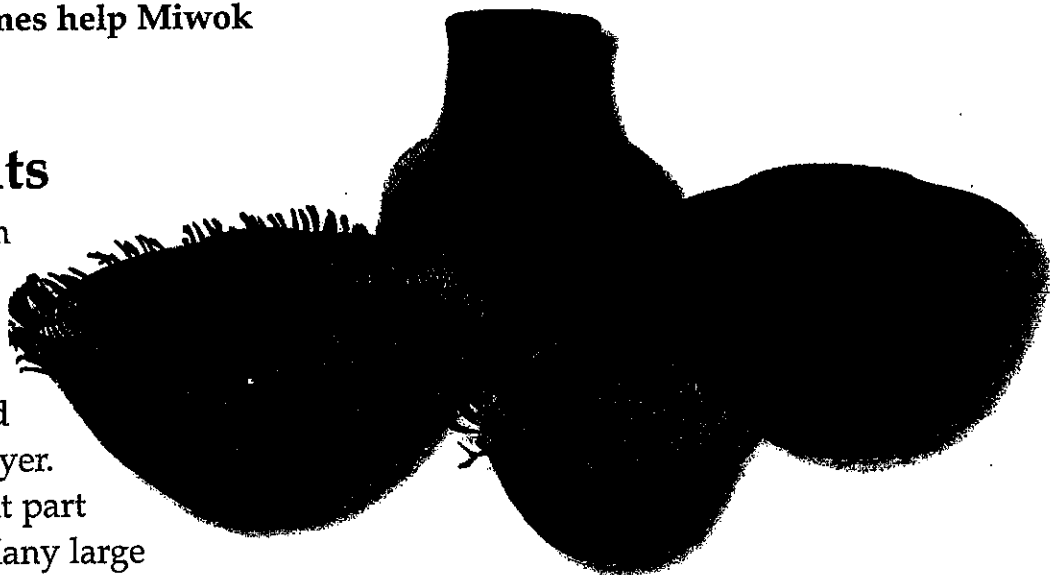


Region

The Miwoks and Yokuts lived on neighboring lands in central California.

■ In which tribe's lands was Tulare Lake?

Like most other California tribes, the Yokuts made baskets for many purposes. Many of the baskets had interesting designs.



oak trees grew in the areas where they lived—the San Joaquin Valley and the foothills of the Sierra Nevada. A **foothill** is a low hill at the base of a mountain or a range of mountains. The Yokuts used the oak trees to build their homes, and they depended on acorns from these trees for food.

The houses of the Yokuts were built by the women of the village. To make the houses the women had to **cooperate**, or work together. They bent young oak branches and tied the branches together at the top. Then they stuck the tied branches into the ground. Grass or brush mats covered one side of the house, blocking out the strong sun.

Like most California tribes, the Yokuts used acorns as their main food.

Acorns, however, are too bitter to be eaten just as they are. Most California tribes followed the same steps to take away the bitter taste.

Each fall the Yokuts gathered thousands and thousands of acorns. They took off the shells and used stone tools to grind the acorns into flour. Then they soaked the acorn flour with hot water. This step was done as many times as it took to wash away the bitter taste. After that, they set the flour out to dry in the sun. It could then be cooked into hot cereal, baked into bread, made into pudding, or added to soups. Nuts and berries were added for flavor.

The Yokuts divided themselves into smaller groups. Each group lived in its own village and had its own leader and shaman. The people believed that the

Making Acorn Flour



shaman had the power to heal them when they were sick.

The Yokuts had a way of getting news to the people in every village. A runner carried messages to nearby villages. Then, in each village, a village crier called out the news to the village's people.

Sometimes the news would be about a celebration, such as a good harvest of acorns, a birth, or a marriage. Then the people of the villages would gather to dance and sing.

REVIEW How did the Yokuts get news to the people in every village?

LEARNING FROM DIAGRAMS Like other Native Californians, the Yokuts used acorn flour to make cereal, bread, pudding, and soup. To improve the taste of these foods, they often added berries, nuts, and herbs.

■ Why did the Yokuts pour hot water over the acorn flour?

4 Sift the flour through a basket, to get rid of any large pieces.

5 Pour hot water

LESSON 3 REVIEW

Check Understanding

- 1 **Remember the Facts** What were some important foods that tribes in the Central Valley ate?
- 2 **Recall the Main Idea** How were the ways of life of the Native Californians who lived in the Central Valley and the mountains of California alike? How were they different?

Think Critically

- 3 **Personally Speaking** Think of some of the games you like to play. Name some skills you are learning when you play those games.
- 4 **Think More About It** It is very difficult to make acorns taste good. How do you think people figured out how to make a bitter food useful?



Show What You Know

Game Activity Think about an important skill that children need to

learn. Then invent a game that teaches that skill. Your game can use only the natural resources around you. Teach your game to a group of classmates.

6 Dry the acorn flour in the sun.

**FOCUS**

How do people today solve the problem of living in very dry, hot climates?

Main Idea Read to find out how the desert environment of the Mojave Indians affected how they lived.

Vocabulary

adapt
agriculture
spring
scarce

The Desert

Early people were able to **adapt**, or fit their ways, to living in every region of California. The land and its resources affected where they lived and the kinds of shelters they built. They ate what they could gather or catch. They made their clothing from what they could find.

The Mojaves (moh•HAH•vayz) lived in what is now called the Mojave Desert, on land that lies in the present-day states of California, Arizona, and Nevada. Much of this area has a very dry, hot climate. To adapt to their desert environment, the Mojaves developed a way of living that was different from that of most other California tribes.

Desert Farming

There was not as much food in the desert as in the other regions of California. The Mojaves did not have as many trees and grasses as the tribes of the Central Valley and the foothills of the Sierra Nevada did. They did not have seafood, as the tribes of the Coastal region did. To meet their need for food, the Mojaves learned to do something that most other

The Colorado River was the Mojaves' most important source of water. With water from the river, the Mojaves were able to grow such crops as corn (above).

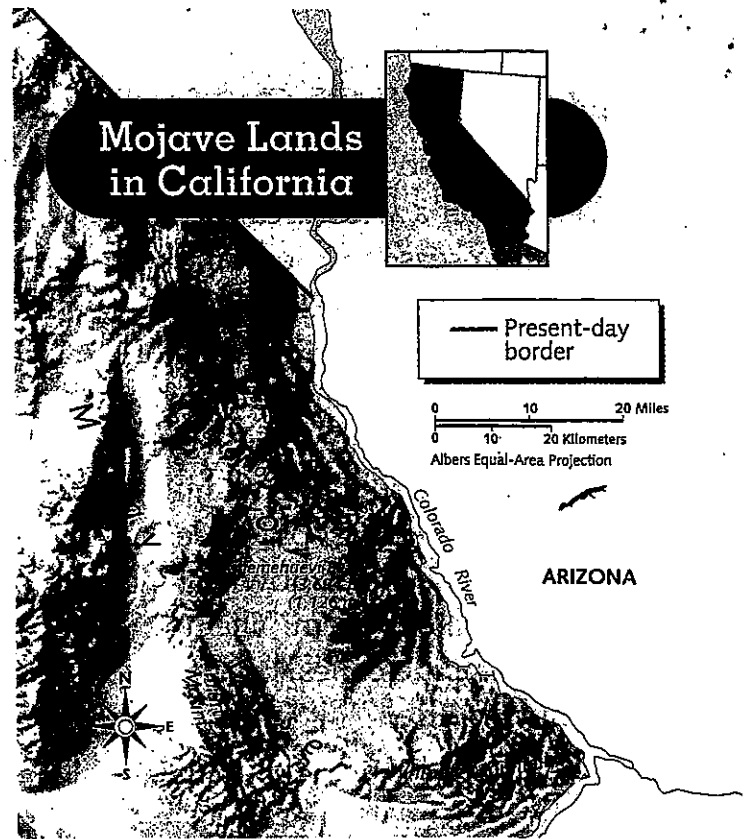
Native Californians did not need to do. They developed **agriculture** (A•grih•kuhl•cher), or farming.

Deserts are very dry places, but there are streams and even a few rivers. In fact, the name *Mojave* means “people who live on the river.” The Mojave Indians built their homes along the banks of the Colorado River. It was the river that allowed them to grow crops in the desert.

The Colorado River was the Mojaves’ most important source of water, but they did have other sources. They knew how to get water from cactuses and yucca plants. They also got water from desert springs. A **spring** is an opening in the Earth’s surface through which water flows from under the ground.

It was the Colorado River, however, that made agriculture possible in the desert. The river begins high in the Rocky Mountains. It flows southwest to the Mojave Desert and then south into the Gulf of California. In spring, as the mountain snows melted and the spring rains began to fall, the river usually flooded. The Mojaves depended on the fine layer of silt left behind by the floods. In the fertile soil of the floodplain, they planted squash, watermelons, pumpkins, beans, and corn.

REVIEW Why did the Mojaves develop agriculture?



- Place** The Mojaves lived in what is now called the Mojave Desert.
- Which mountain range lies just to the south of what were Mojave lands?

Mojave Culture

The Mojaves did not get all of their food from agriculture. They also fished and hunted for food. They caught fish in the Colorado River by using nets, scoops, and fishing lines. They hunted small animals, such as rabbits, raccoons, and skunks. They also ate the meat of rattlesnakes and lizards.

Food sources are **scarce**, or limited, in the desert, so the Mojaves often traveled over a wide area to gather food. From season to season, they went where they could find berries, figs, and roots. They gathered the fruits of the prickly pear cactus and the bean pods of the honey mesquite (muh•SKEET) bushes. They also gathered nuts from the piñon (PIN•yohn) pine tree. They shook the pine cones down from the trees and roasted them. The heat opened the pine cones, freeing the pine nuts inside.

Mojave houses were large rectangles with mud-covered grass roofs to keep out the hot desert sun. The sides of the houses were often left open. This allowed any breezes to blow through. Some houses were large enough for many families to live together.

Most of the California Indians made baskets for storing items and for cooking. The Mojaves, however, did not have much grass for making baskets. But they did have plenty of clay for making pottery. They used clay pots for cooking as well as for storing food.

CULTURE

California Native Americans Today

More than 240,000 Native Americans whose ancestors lived in what is now the United States live in California today. They belong to more than 100 different tribes.

In fact, all the state of Oklahoma has more Native Americans than California has.

Many of California's Native Americans live and work in cities and towns or on

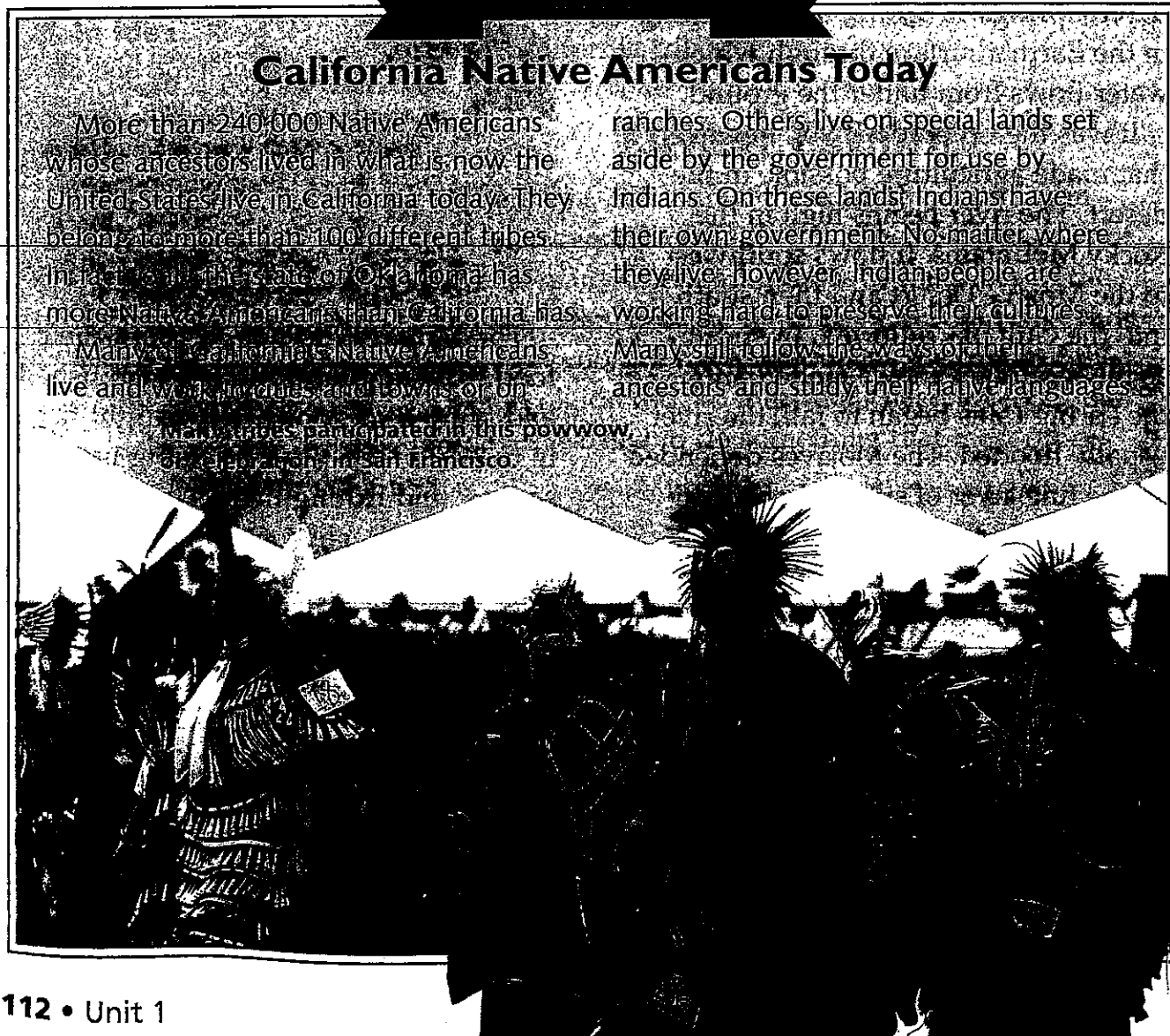
ranches. Others live on special lands set aside by the government for use by

Indians. On these lands, Indians have their own government. No matter where

they live, however, Indian people are working hard to preserve their cultures.

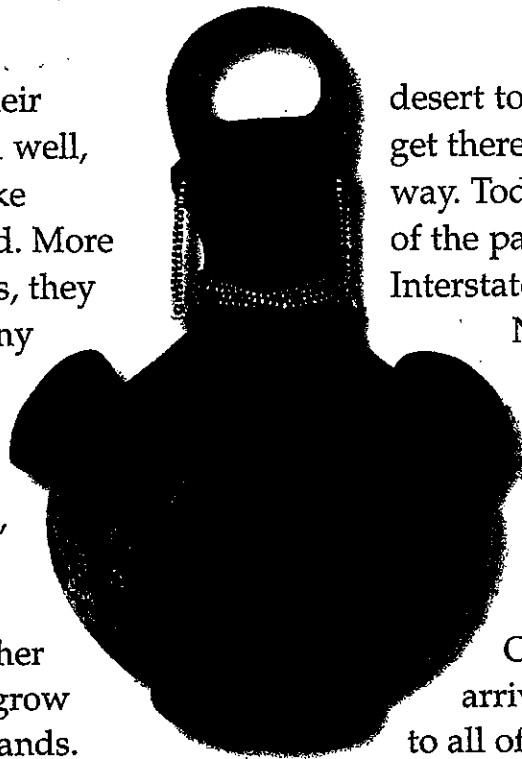
Many still follow the ways of their ancestors and study their native languages.

Native Americans participated in this powwow on the coast near San Francisco.



The Mojaves used their resources carefully and well, but they could not make everything they needed. More than most other groups, they used trade to meet many of their needs. They traded things they grew or made, such as yellow squash, corn, pumpkins, and clay pots, for shell beads, wooden bowls, and other things they could not grow or make in their own lands.

The Mojaves traveled about 150 miles (241 km) on foot through the



desert to trade with the Chumash. To get there faster, they ran most of the way. Today people still follow some of the paths the Mojaves traveled. Interstate 40 and the Burlington

Northern Santa Fe Railroad both run along old Mojave trails in California.

About 400 years ago the Mojaves saw Europeans for the first time. These people were from Spain. Over time more Europeans arrived, bringing great changes to all of California.

REVIEW Besides farming, how else did the Mojaves meet their needs?

Very few examples of Mojave buildings remain today. Archaeologists have found pottery artifacts like the one above in what were Mojave lands.

LESSON 4 REVIEW

Check Understanding

- 1 Remember the Facts** How did the Mojaves use the Colorado River for agriculture?
- 2 Recall the Main Idea** How did the Mojaves adapt their ways of life to their desert environment?

Think Critically

- 3 Think More About It** Why might builders of highways and railroads decide to follow old Native American trails?

- 4 Link to You** How have the people where you live adapted to their environment?



Show What You Know Storytelling Activity

Make up a legend about how the Mojaves learned to adapt their way of life to their desert environment. Use animals from the region as characters in your story. When you have finished your story, tell it to the class.