

Cherny, Chapter 1: California's Origins: The Land and the People, Before Spanish Settlement

How do geographic and environmental factors help explain the early history of California?

According to recent evidence, how long have humans lived in California? How did they get here?

Comment: "The native peoples of California were scattered, and they spoke over 100 different languages." (6)

About how many people lived in California before the first European settlement? (6)

How could California support such a large number of people, most of whom were hunter-gatherers?

Describe some of the ways that California native peoples were different in different places.

What do you find most notable in the accounts of native peoples gathering food? (10-13)

Comment: "The California Indians actively shaped their natural environment so as to extract its maximum food value." (13)

Explain how spirituality and health are connected in California native cultures. (14-16)

What do you find notable about the ***toloache*** ceremony of the Cahuilla? (14-15)

What do you find notable about marriage, gender, and sexual life among various native cultures? Why is it difficult to make generalizations about native communities? (16-19)

Describe what you find most notable about each of these cultures: (19-26)

Gabrielino/Tongva

Chumash

Costanoans

Miwoks and Yokuts

Shastans

What do these cultures have in common? What key differences do you see? (19-26)

Why do the authors think the California native peoples are important to our state's history? (26-28)



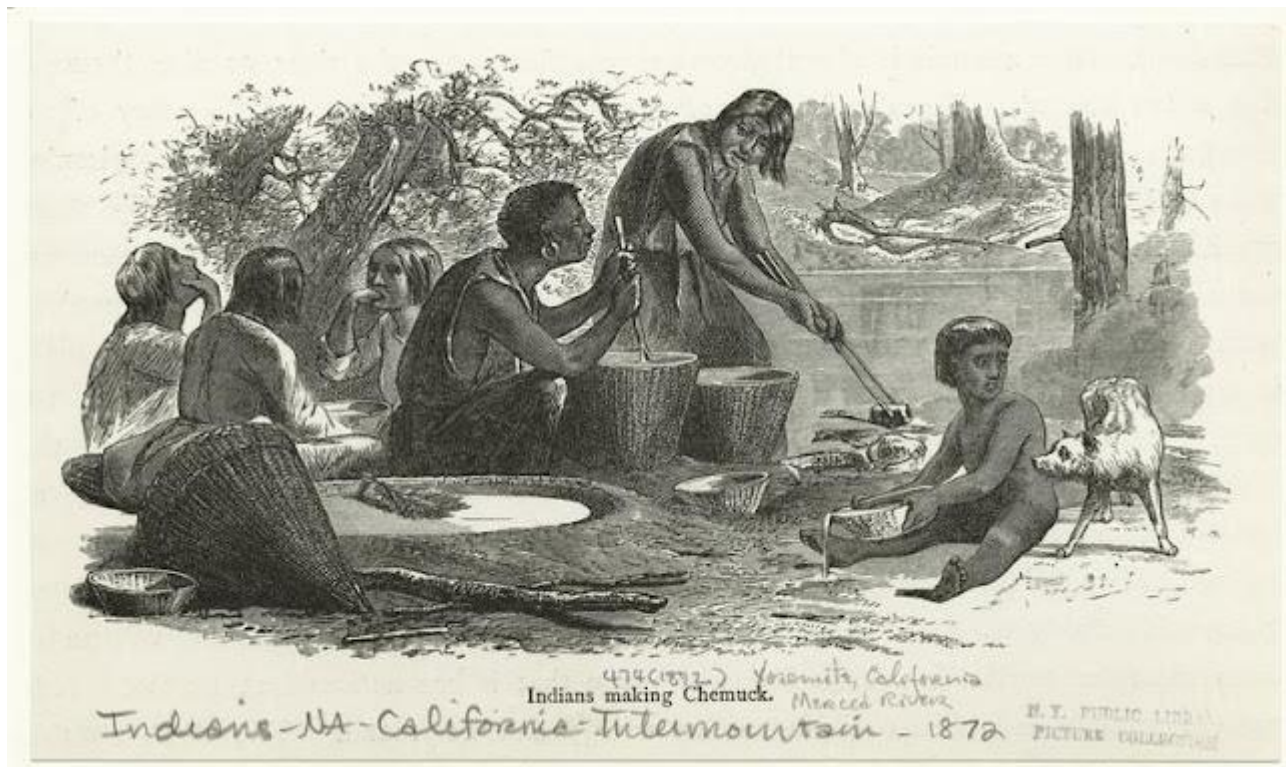
California Indians Root Languages



Washoe basket



Basket for carrying water. Cultural origin unknown.



Indians of the Sierra Nevada Mountain region, 1872