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The Yuki People

Yuki people are Indigenous people that live in California also known as Valley People. The genocide of the Yuki people began when White colonizers decided to stay in the area where the Yuki people lived. In 1856, these colonizers made Indian reservations which were basically concentration camps. The colonizers would send people on expeditions to where the Yuki's lived and killed many of them. One such explorer wrote “we would kill on average fifty or sixty Indians on a trip” (Madley 3). One of the steps of genocide is organization. The government organized camps so that they could erase as many Yuki people as they could. There is no real statistic on how many Yuki people have been murdered. As Benjamin Madley talks about in his article called “California’s Yuki Indians,” there is little to no evidence of who died and when. The last stage of genocide is denial, the colonizers did not keep records of those that they killed to make it easier to deny that the genocide happened. Due to the lack of records, the Yuki people who were killed did not receive any justice and their families today do not know what happened to their ancestors. It was organized and they deliberately killed as many Yuki people as they could, and that is why it is considered a genocide.

The Yuki people were able to fight back because they had previous conflicts with other tribes to preserve their survival. According to the Round Valley Indian Tribes (RVIT), the Yuki people were a warring tribe. “They were aggressive and attacked other

nearby Native people on numerous occasions trying to protect their homelands and resources" (RVIT). The Yuki tribe tried to protect themselves by going to other tribes to get resources. They had done this before the colonizers arrived.The Round Valley Indian Tribe made a website and still share their stories with the world. They share some of the history before the colonizers came. After the colonizers came, their homeland was not completely conquered by colonizers, they say. Many Yuki people had to share homes with strangers that speak different languages. This website keeps The Round Valley's history alive which was what the colonizers were trying to erase. It is important to keep the stories alive and tell an accurate history so that the people that died are not forgotten.

Madley, Benjamin. "California's Yuki Indians: Defing Genocide in Native American History." 2008
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1QlpgzSjPn0oVrEJ6HxLyg1U8Xw-8leE8/view

Round Valley Indian Tribe (RVIT). "TRIBAL TERRITORY SINCE TIME BEGAN." 2022.
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