

Where Are The Tribes We Studied Now?

Chumash - The Chumash met Spanish explorers from Gaspar de Portola's land expedition in 1769. Soon after, 5 Spanish missions were established in Chumash territory. Because of diseases introduced by the Europeans, as well as mistreatment by the mission system, the Chumash population shrank from about 22,000 people (before the missions) to 2,788 by 1831. There is now a Chumash reservation near the site of the Santa Ynez mission, as well as Chumash people who live outside the reservation.

Cahuilla - The Cahuilla first met Spanish explorers in 1774. They had some contact with the San Diego mission, and some were forced to work for the mission, but they were able to stay more independent than other tribes in the area. The Cahuilla were affected by outbreaks of smallpox, brought by gold rush settlers in the 1860s. They also had much of their land and water sources taken over by people who came to settle in California during that time. In the present day, many Cahuilla live on land reservations in southern California. Over the years, there have been attempts by settlers and the government to take over their reservation land. The Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians plans to open a cultural museum in Palm Springs, California in 2020.

Yokuts - The Yokuts met Spanish missionaries in 1772, and many of them (particularly in the northern valley) were drawn into the mission system and forced to work for the Spanish. Many died from diseases brought with the Spanish. Settlers during the gold rush drove most of the remaining Yokuts off their land in the 1850s. There were more than 18,000 Yokuts before European contact, but by the 1970s there were only a few hundred left. Some of the Yokuts now live on reservations in the Central Valley.

Modoc - The Modoc first heard about Europeans from neighboring tribes that they traded with or fought. In the 1800s, the Oregon trail was established and brought more white settlers to Modoc land. They brought disease epidemics that killed many of the Modoc, and their encroachment caused conflicts over land and resources. In 1872 and 1873 the Modoc, led by a man named Kintpaush (called Captain Jack by the US army), fought the Modoc War to resist being forced onto a reservation where they were treated poorly. After 8 months of warfare, the Modoc fighters were captured and forced to surrender. A few were executed for killing peace commissioners, and others were sent

to Indian Territory in what would later become the state of Oklahoma. Some of the Modoc were later able to return to the Klamath reservation in Oregon.

Pomo - The Pomo are said to have had contact with Sir Francis Drake in 1579 when he was sailing up the coast of California. In 1812, Pomo lands were invaded by Russian fur traders looking for sea otter. In the 1800s, many Pomo people were enslaved, first by the Russians, and later by the Spanish missions. Epidemics of Cholera and Smallpox killed many of the Pomo. Pomo people were also massacred by Mexican troops and later the U.S. Army. In the 1850's, Pomo people were rounded up and forced onto the Mendocino Indian Reserve and the Round Valley Reservation. In the late 1800's and early 1900's, the Pomo people raised money by making and selling beautiful traditional baskets to buy back some of their land. Most of the Pomo now live modern lifestyles, but Pomo baskets are still in great demand today.