

Maidu Museum & Historic Site

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www.roseville.ca.us/indianmuseum
www.facebook.com/indianmuseum

Suggested Classroom Activities

Start a KWL Chart: Make a chart with three sections, labeled *Know*, *Want to Know*, *Learned*. Have the students brainstorm and discuss items for the first two sections.

Research Plants/Animals: Have students research plants and/or animals that California Indians used for food or medicine.

Write a Story: Have your students write a story of a day in the life of a California Indian boy or girl.

Use Enclosed Vocabulary Words and Word Search: They can be used for spelling or in any language arts lessons.

Post Tour Test: Deliver and discuss the Post Tour Test after your tour at the museum.

Vocabulary Words

acorn – the seed of the oak tree which was a staple food of the Valley Nisenan

atlatl – spear thrower; tool used to increase the throwing distance of a spear

basket – container woven from sticks, reeds and grass used for cooking, gathering and storage

bedrock mortar – a hole in rock embedded in the ground used for grinding acorns with a pestle

clapper stick – an instrument used to provide rhythm

digging stick – pointed stick, sharpened in the fire, used for gathering roots and bulbs

Maidu – a group of California Natives from the Central Valley, meaning “the people”

Nisenan – another name for the Southern Maidu, meaning “on our side”

obsidian – shiny, hard, black volcanic rock which was shaped into tools and arrow points

pestle – hand held stone used to grind acorns or other material in a mortar

petroglyph – carving on rock, especially one made by prehistoric people

regalia – ceremonial dress

shaman – the name of an Indian doctor or spiritual leader

soaproot – plant used for many purposes, including making brushes, glue and suds for washing

tule – plant found in or near water, used for making boats, houses and other items



Post Tour Test

Now that you have toured the Maidu Museum and Historic Site,
can you answer these questions?

1. The _____ are a group of California Indians from the Central Valley.
2. The Southern Maidu are also called the _____.
3. The main food item for the Maidu was _____.
4. Maidu women wove _____ from willow and redbud plants to use for cooking, gathering and storage.
5. Boats, houses, mats, rope and toys were often made from the _____ plant.
6. If a Maidu child became ill, his parents would bring him to the _____.
7. _____ was one favorite material for making arrow points, but since this rock did not occur locally, the Maidu had to _____ for it.
8. During ceremonies the people would wear _____ and play _____ as they sang and danced.
9. Roots and bulbs were gathered using a _____.
10. Spears flew harder and farther when thrown with an _____.
11. To prepare acorns for eating, they were mashed in a _____ using a _____.
12. _____ are prehistoric carvings that may tell a story or provide a map.
13. _____ is good for taking a bath, making a brush or making glue.

Word Bank:

acorns	obsidian
atlatl	pestle
baskets	petroglyphs
mortar	regalia
clapper sticks	shaman
digging stick	soaproot
Maidu	tule
Nisenan	trade



Maidu Indians Word Search

Find the listed words in the puzzle.

When you are done, find a secret message by filling in the blanks at the bottom using some of the letters left in the puzzle.

HINT FOR SECRET MESSAGE: Start in the upper left corner.

M A I D U I N D I A N S S T I L L L I T
V E I N T H I S A R E A R T O D A Y N E
K A Y M V C S I A R Z A T E Z U H E P K
J P C H B M D K C I T S R E P P A L C S
P D M S H E P E T R O G L Y P H J Y C A
R D M E Z O K Y O J L X E R T H J H I B
Q N I M B R U M V C R R T Y Q M I B T A
N Q C G F G K P L R Q F L K M N Y W Q Y
O T D C G C O D E Y S D E S W L E E R X
K W Q B O I N B A S B X V T J B H Y H E
R V A R B A N C S A T C H E T D P L A U
B Z D Q N K O G H I L L B Y O K G O B L
B E P E O R E J S N D X E G O A A F L O
B F S G N H F Z C T W I P B R M V H D A
Y I C N Q L C N C X I F A T P R L C A I
N W Z B I K C Y O L Z C G N A R M L J L
Q S T X Y D R U X V G M K T O E M N Y A
S H A M A N O P B O I X N E S L L Y Z G
L B H W A T L A T L A L A U A U D Y A E
K Q W P O H J M R L K D P Z S T G E V R

ACORN
ATLATL
BASKET
BEDROCK MORTAR
CLAPPER STICK
DIGGING STICK
NISENAN

OBSIDIAN
PESTLE
PETROGLYPH
REGALIA
SHAMAN
SOAPROOT
TULE

Maidu Indians Word Search Answer Sheet

The listed words are written in many different ways in the word search, including diagonally and from right to left. Help your students by giving them these hints and clues. The secret message begins at the upper left and follows along the first two rows of the puzzle.

M	A	I	D	U	I	N	D	I	A	N	S	S	T	I	L	L	L	I	T
V	E	I	N	T	H	I	S	A	R	E	A	R	T	O	D	A	Y	N	E
K	A	Y	M	V	C	S	I	A	R	Z	A	T	E	Z	U	H	E	P	K
J	P	C	H	B	M	D	K	C	I	T	S	R	E	P	P	A	L	C	S
P	D	M	S	H	E	P	E	T	R	O	G	L	Y	P	H	J	Y	C	A
R	D	M	E	Z	O	K	Y	O	J	L	X	E	R	T	H	J	H	I	B
Q	N	I	M	B	R	U	M	V	C	R	R	T	Y	Q	M	I	B	T	A
N	Q	C	G	F	G	K	P	L	R	Q	F	L	K	M	N	Y	W	Q	Y
O	T	D	C	G	C	O	D	E	Y	S	D	E	S	W	L	E	E	R	X
K	W	Q	B	O	I	N	B	A	S	B	X	V	T	J	B	H	Y	H	E
R	V	A	R	B	A	N	C	S	A	T	C	H	E	T	D	P	L	A	U
B	Z	D	Q	N	K	O	G	H	I	L	L	B	Y	O	K	G	O	B	L
B	E	P	E	O	R	E	J	S	N	D	X	E	G	O	A	A	F	L	O
B	F	S	G	N	H	F	Z	C	T	W	I	P	B	R	M	V	H	D	A
Y	I	C	N	Q	L	C	N	C	X	I	F	A	T	P	R	L	C	A	I
N	W	Z	B	I	K	C	Y	O	L	Z	C	G	N	A	R	M	L	J	L
Q	S	T	X	Y	D	R	U	X	V	G	M	K	T	O	E	M	N	Y	A
S	H	A	M	A	N	O	P	B	O	I	X	N	E	S	L	L	Y	Z	G
L	B	H	W	A	T	L	A	T	L	A	L	A	U	A	U	D	Y	A	E
K	Q	W	P	O	H	J	M	R	L	K	D	P	Z	S	T	G	E	V	R

ACORN (diagonal)

ATLATL

BASKET

BEDROCK MORTAR (diagonal)

CLAPPER STICK

DIGGING STICK (diagonal)

NISENAN (diagonal)

OBSIDIAN (diagonal)

PESTLE (diagonal)

PETROGLYPH

REGALIA

SHAMAN

SOAPROOT

TULE

MAIDU INDIANS STILL

LIVE IN THIS AREA

TODAY

California Indian Life and Culture
Vocabulary Words

Burden Basket –

large woven container carried on the back; used for transporting acorns and a wide variety of other items

Chia Seeds -

nutritious, tiny black and white seeds used for food and beverage-making

Clapper Stick –

an instrument, often made of elderberry wood, used to provide rhythm

Dentalium –

long, tooth-like shells used for money by people on the northwest coast of California

Gourd Rattle –

a musical instrument made by filling a dried gourd with beans, stones, or other materials

Mortar –

bowl-shaped rock for grinding acorns, nuts & seeds; used with a pestle

Obsidian –

shiny, black volcanic glass used to make arrowheads and other tools

Pestle –

hand-held stone used to grind acorns or other foods in the mortar

Regalia –

special clothing used in ceremonies

Soaproot –

plant used for making brushes, glue, and suds for washing; also used for treating specific ailments

Tule –

reed-like plant found in or near water; used for making houses, boats, and many other items

Yucca –

a desert-dwelling plant with strong fibers used to make sandals and other items

California Indian Life and Culture

1. Native people had a use for every part of the _____.
2. In hunting, the _____ was used to make a spear go farther and faster.
3. The Cahuilla people of the desert call their dome-shaped, thatched house a _____.
4. Two musical instruments used by the Indians of California were the _____ and the _____.
5. The peoples of the Sacramento and Central Valleys used _____ to make houses, boats, rope, mats, clothing, and toys.
6. Most California Native people did not use pots to cook in; instead they used _____.
7. _____ was used to make plank- houses and dugout canoes by the Indians of the Northwest Coast.
8. The main plant food of the Maidu and other peoples in many parts of California was the _____.
9. People who lived on the coast in the North used _____ shells for money (a long-thin striated shell).
10. The shiny, hard, volcanic glass used to make arrowheads is called _____.
11. Symbols carved into rocks are called _____.
12. A bone tool, like that taken from the backbone of a deer, was used to pry _____ off rocks in the ocean.

California Indian Life and Culture
Answer Key

1. deer
2. atlatl
3. kish (pronounced keesh)
4. clapstick or clapperstick & gourd rattles, (drum – limited use/ North only)
5. tule
6. baskets
7. redwood
8. acorn
9. dentalium
10. obsidian
11. petroglyphs
12. abalone