

Maidu Museum & Historic Site

1970 Johnson Ranch Drive

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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 the Maidu used for food or medicine.

Write a Story: Have your students write a story of a day in the life of a Maidu 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.

Suggested Reading

The Northern Maidu by Marie Potts. 1977, Naturegraph Publishers Inc.

Maidu, An Illustrative Sketch by Roland B. Dixon. 1910, U.S. Government Printing Office.

The California Indians by R.F. Heizer and M.A. Whipple. 1971, The University of California Press.

Indians of Feather River by Donald P. Jewell. 1987, Ballena Press.

The Natural World of the California Indians by Robert F. Heizer and Albert B. Elsasser. 1980, The University of California Press

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

M A I D U

L I V E I N

I N D I A N S

T H I S

S T I L L

A R E A

T O D A Y