

## 8. Native Californians

Geography 106 - California Geography | M. Pesses | Antelope Valley College

## Today

### Introduction to California Indian Tribes

- Past & Present



*In the beginning there was no sun, no moon, no stars. All was dark, and everywhere there was only water.*

Maidu creation story

*Long ago, the world was covered with water. The Coyote Man wanted to make people, so he told Frog to go to the bottom of the water and bring up some soil to make land.*

*Frog was gone four years. When he finally came up, Coyote Man said excitedly, "Did you get it? Did you get the soil?" Frog dejectedly explained that he could not find the soil. Coyote Man sat down to think. As he was thinking, some sunlight hit Frog's leg, and made it sparkle like the sun. There were a few small grains of sand stuck on Frog's leg.*

*Coyote Man picked up the pieces of sand and threw them back and forth across the water. Each piece grew into a large piece of land. He put sticks on the ground where he wanted people to live and he gave each place a name. When all the sticks were placed and all the places named, he turned each stick into a person.*

Miwok creation story

*After the flood, the Sun God, Morning Star, the Moon, and Slo'w the Great Eagle were discussing the creation of new people to populate the earth with the Sky Coyote, trying to decide on their appearance. The Great Eagle and the Sky Coyote argued whether the humans should have hands like the Sky Coyote's, who believed that the new people should be made in his image. He won the argument, and the next day, all gathered around a white rock so that Sky Coyote could press his hand into it to make his hand print, but the Lizard, who had been a silent observer at the proceedings leapt forward and pressed his own hand onto the rock. Lizard escaped the furious Sky Coyote, and the Sun and the Eagle approved of the hand print and this is why human hands are somewhat shaped like the Lizard's.*

*The first people were created from the seeds planted on Limuw (Santa Cruz Island) by Hutash, the Earth Goddess.*

Portion of Chumash creation story

## Scientific Creation Story



- Out of Africa
- In Calif. for at least 10,000 years
  - Probably closer to 15,000



## Population

- At least 300,000 around time of European contact
- 15,000 by 1900
  - ♦ 1.0%
- 443,540 in 2009
  - ♦ 1.2% of Cal



## Linguistic Groups



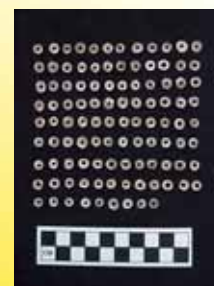
## “Stone Age” Societies

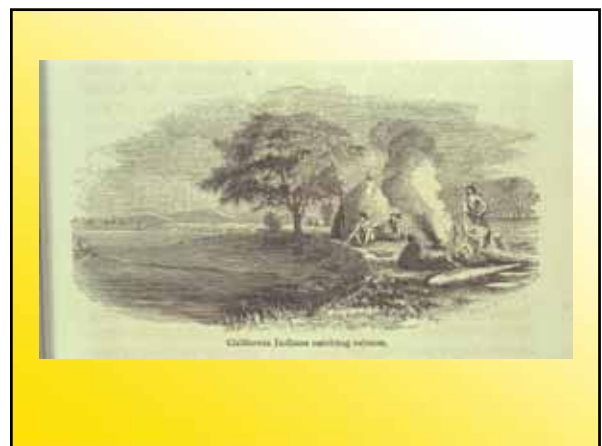
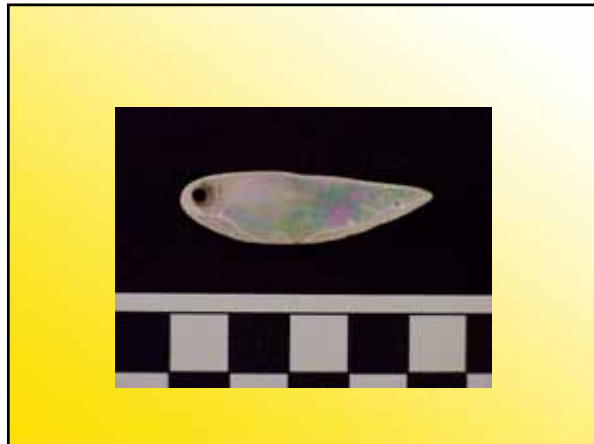


## Chert Point



Obsidian Biface







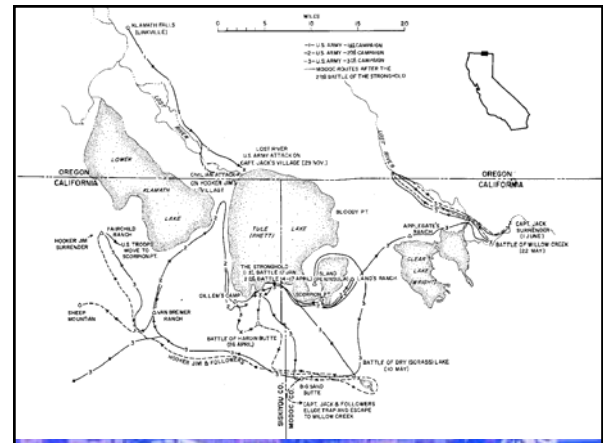
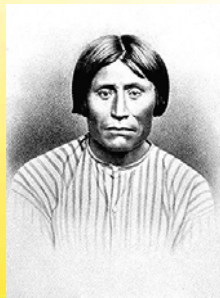


## Contact



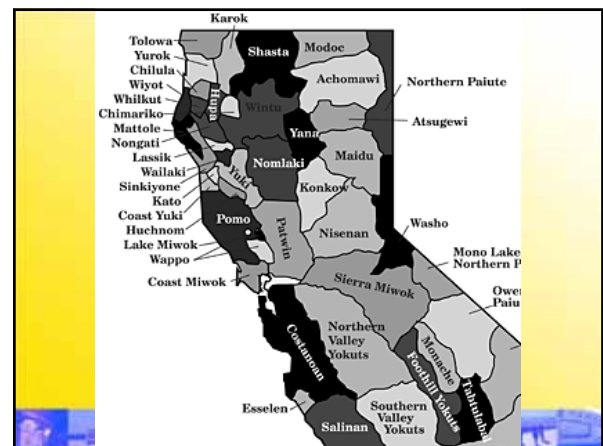
## "Captain Jack"

- 1872-73 Modoc War
- Used caves from lava flows to hold off US Army
- Modoc leader who refused reservation proposal



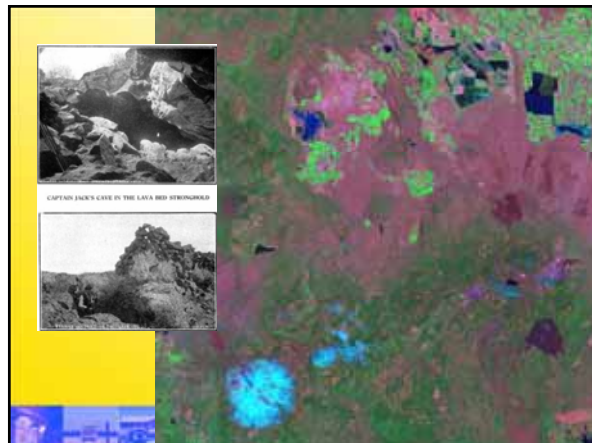
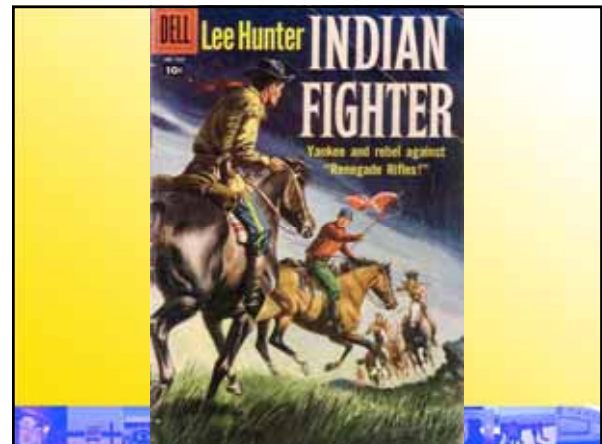
*"It was such men as Crosby in the early days that caused the deaths of many good, innocent-hearted white people in the West."*

*Jeff C. Riddle, 1914*



*"The male children brought a price of about one pony each. Small girls commanded a somewhat higher price, while adolescent girls or mature young women could be traded for as much as five ponies, depending on their personal attractiveness."*

Murray, p. 12



## Conflicting Views



## "Digger" Indians

*The Digger Indian holds a low place in the scale of humanity. He is not intelligent; he is not handsome; he is not very brave. He stands near the foot of his class, and I fear he is not likely to go up any higher. It is more likely that the places that know him now will soon know him no more, for the reason that he seems readier to adopt the bad white man's whisky and diseases than the good white man's morals and religion...*

*It is not because he is an agriculturist that he is called a Digger, but because he grubbles for wild roots, and has a general fondness for dirt. I said he was not handsome, and when we consider his rusty, dark-brown color, his heavy features, fishy black eyes, coarse black hair, and clumsy gait, nobody will dispute the statement. But one Digger is uglier than another, and an old squaw caps the climax.*

O. P. Fitzgerald, California Minister, (Aug. 24 1829-Aug. 5 1911),  
quoted at <http://www.nanations.com/digger/>

## Policy

### CEQA (1970)

- ♦ California Environmental Quality Act
  - Identify and mitigate impacts of development
  - Must prepare an EIR
  - Provisions for cultural/historical resources

## Policy

### NAGPRA (1990)

- ♦ Native American Graves Protection & Repatriation Act
  - Returning sacred items to proper tribes
  - Cutting down on illegal trade



## Gaming

- <http://www.cniga.com/index.php>
- [http://www.snagfilms.com/films/title/the\\_rules\\_of\\_the\\_game/](http://www.snagfilms.com/films/title/the_rules_of_the_game/)



## Next Time

- Ishi, The Last Yahi

