VA #1 California Indian Houses

VA #2 Plains Miwok Houses

VA #3 Making a Tule Boat

This presentation shows examples of ecosystem goods and ecosystem services that were used by specific California Indian nations.

VA #4 Cattails and Tule Reeds

How do cattails and tule reeds become a boat?

VA #5 Gathering Resources

Cattails and tule reeds are gathered from a slow–moving river or lake.

VA #6 Transporting Resources

They are carried to a dry place.

VA #7 Making Rope From Reeds

Cattail leaves are twisted together to make a strong rope.

VA #8 Bundling the Reeds

This rope is used to make bundles of tule reeds.

VA #9 Bundling the Bundles

Bundles of tule reeds are attached to each other with more rope.

VA #10 The Finished Boat

This tule boat is finished.

VA #11 Ready to Use

Now it is ready to use on a river or lake!

VA #12 Other California Indian Tools

Look at these California Indian objects.

Can you match each object with the resources used to make it?

Objects:

Resources:

VA #13 How Did You Do?

Objects: ***Feather headdress***

Willow basket

Rabbit-skin blanket

Resources: ***Rabbit***

Flicker

Willow

VA #14 More or Fewer

People have always used **resources** from the land and water around them to live. Sometimes they use up the resources; sometimes there are more resources for people to use. This presentation shows how California Indians affected the natural regions where they lived.

VA #15 People and Resources

Think about California before there were any people here. After the first people came and settled here, were there **more or fewer** of the following resources?

VA #16 Salmon as a Resource

Salmon is a large fish. It lives in the ocean for much of its life but swims up the rivers from the ocean to lay its eggs in fresh water.

VA #17 Catching Salmon

California Indians would catch salmon in nets, with spears, or by building weirs (dams) across rivers at certain times of the year.

VA #18 More or Fewer?

Were there more or fewer salmon in California's rivers after California Indians settled here?

VA #19 Fewer Salmon

VA #20 Hyacinth as a Resource

Wild hyacinth sprout in the spring from underground bulbs. This plant grows best in bright, sunny grasslands.

VA #21 Harvesting Hyacinth

California Indians liked to eat the crunchy roots of wild hyacinth. They dug up these plants but they only took the ones with biggest roots to eat. The smaller ones they planted back in the ground for the next year.

VA #22 More or Fewer?

Were there more or fewer hyacinth in California's grasslands after California Indians settled here?

VA #23 More Hyacinth

VA #24 Chaparral as a Resource

In the chaparral of California, bushes grow low and close together. Small animals like ground squirrels, rabbits, and quail make homes in this habitat.

VA #25 Burning the Chaparral

The tangled bushes made it difficult for people to hunt or travel from place to place in the chaparral. California Indians often burned the bushes on the mountains. Where chaparral was burned grass would grow there instead.

VA #26 More or Less?

Was there more or less chaparral in California after the Indians settled here?

VA #27 Less Chaparral

VA #28 Grasslands as a Resource

The middle of California is where grasslands naturally grow. Over time, trees can begin to grow there and will eventually cover the land with forests.

VA #29 Managing the Grasslands

Grass seeds were one of the main foods eaten by California Indians. Grasses are also eaten by many animals that people liked to eat, including elk, deer, pronghorn, rabbits, and antelope. People would burn grassy areas often, so trees would not start growing there.

VA #30 More or Less?

Was there more or less grassland in California after the Indians settled here?

VA #31 More Grassland

VA #32 Coast Redwood as a Resource

Coast redwood trees grow in large groves near the cool northern coast. Few plants can grow in the dark shade underneath them, so there is not much food for animals.

VA #33 Using Coast Redwoods

California Indians used redwood trees for many things. Redwood was used to make boats and houses. Where redwood trees were cut down, grassy meadows grew and attracted animals that people liked to eat. The Indians burned these areas to keep new redwood trees from growing in them.

VA #34 More or Fewer?

Were there more or fewer coast redwoods in California after Indians settled here?

VA #35 Fewer Coast Redwoods

VA #36 Mesquite as a Resource

Mesquite trees grow in parts of the desert where there is water flowing underground.

VA #37 Growing Mesquite

California Indians used the mesquite tree for many things. Its hard wood could be made into clubs to hunt animals or used as firewood. The fruits of this tree were an important food. People would plant mesquite trees near water sources in the desert.

VA #38 More or Fewer?

Were there more or fewer mesquite trees in California's deserts after the Indians settled here?

VA #39 More Mesquite

VA # 40 Before and After