

The Pomo Indians

A Native American tribe of the United States, in the South West region is the Pomo Indians. Pomo Indians live in an area with a very warm climate. It is warm in their area because they lived around Northern California. There was a lot of vegetation in their area too. Some plants are nuts, berries, reeds, grasses, acorns, herbs, oak trees, fruit, cacti, willows, and red wood. They used trees and grasses to build their homes. Also, Pomo Indians gathered some of these plants to eat. Many animals lived in their region like, coyotes, elk, rabbits, turtles, otters, woodpeckers, deer, quail, carp, blackfish, clam, and antelope. The Pomo Indians hunted some of the animals and fished them too. That is how the Pomo used their surroundings to survive.

Pomo Indians have different beliefs, cultures, and settlement patterns, than we do, here are some examples. Pomo Indians believed in spirits. They used prayer rocks to prey on. Also, they have a specialty of making baskets. The baskets they made were decorated with feathers and beads. For ceremonies, they danced, and sang. At these ceremonies, they played drums, whistles, and had large feasts. A Pomo Indian would believe things like spirits and make baskets every day.

Some people think Indians were savages but they invented many useful tools to make their everyday lives easier. Canoes were used a lot. Since Pomo Indians lived by the ocean, they used canoes to travel on water. For protection, they used bows and arrows. Also, Pomo Indians used bows and arrows to hunt for food. Pomo people also, made baby carriers. Baby carriers were like wooden strollers, except the mothers carried them on their backs. A strap tied around the mother's forehead held on the baby carriers. Pomo Indians used their environment wisely to make useful things. The Pomo Indian had a diverse economy. They hunted, fished, gathered food, and mined magnesite. Clamshells

were traded. The clamshells were used as money. Special stones, such as magnesite were also traded. Pomo Indians mined magnesite and treated it with fire. It turned different shades of pink, orange, and tan. Pomo Indians also traded seafood and fish.