



# San Diego Museum of Man

## Kumeyaay: Native Californians

### *Pre- and Post-Visit Activities*



This program is based on the exhibit and artifacts of the Kumeyaay Indians. Students will handle Indian artifacts and learn how they were made and used. Linguistically, the Kumeyaay Indians belong to the Yuman language family. There are differences in dialect between Northern Kumeyaay (Ipai) and Southern Kumeyaay (Tipai). Although differing in language and culture in some respects, the Kumeyaay and their neighbors share many cultural traits due to contact and adaptation to similar environments. Students will learn how the Kumeyaay used the seasonal resources of the coastal, foothill, mountain, and desert environments. Students will also learn about the contemporary Kumeyaay people and their society.

**SUGGESTED PRE-TOUR BACKGROUND:** Students should be able to locate on a map the areas of San Diego and Imperial counties and northern Baja California occupied by the Kumeyaay people, prior to the Spanish period.

#### **SUGGESTED BACKGROUND READING FOR TEACHERS:**

Alter, Ruth. *The Painted Rocks*. San Diego River Park, Calif., 1995.

Lee, Millicent. *Indians of the Oaks*. San Diego Museum of Man, 1989.

#### ***Pre-visit Activity***

##### **Vocabulary**

Leaching – pouring water over acorn flour to wash out the bitter tannic acid.

Winnowing – separating coarse fragments of acorn from the more finely ground meal in a flat basket using a circular motion. Also used for ground clay in pottery making.

Mortar – hollowed out stone (or cottonwood log) for grinding seeds, nuts, or clay.

Pestle – hand-held stoned used to pound acorns, seeds, or clay in mortar.

Tumpline – strap across forehead, used with burden net.

Paddle – wooden tool used to shape and smooth outside of pot.

Obsidian – volcanic glass used to make scraper tools, knives, and projectile points.

Shaman – religious and medical practitioner.

Pictograph – designs painted on rock.

Petroglyph – designs carved or pecked on rock.

#### ***Post-visit Activity***

##### **Questions for Review**

1. Which foods did the Kumeyaay collect from the coast, the mountains, the desert?
2. How are acorns processed so they can be eaten?
3. Describe two ways in which rabbits were hunted.
4. What did the Kumeyaay use to make fish hooks?
5. What animal is the arrow quiver made from?

\*Name two interesting things you learned while visiting the Museum.



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Food from Animals	Food from Plants	Plant Materials	Mineral Resources	Other Resources

Place each word below in the appropriate category. If you think of others, add them too!

- |            |              |         |               |           |
|------------|--------------|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Tule reeds | Clay         | Quartz  | Agave fiber   | Deer      |
| Pine pitch | Water        | Seaweed | Abalone shell | Raccoon   |
| Soapstone  | Yucca roots  | Berries | Piñon nuts    | Deerskins |
| Rabbit     | Cactus fruit | Antlers | Flint         | Trout     |
| Obsidian   | Clamshells   | Acorns  | Willow bark   |           |