

Native American Lands



Page 18 of the atlas shows the Native American groups in California at the time of Spanish colonization.

Use the county boundary overlay.
Which group or groups have territory that is now part of your county?

Your answer

The information shown on the map comes from a few researchers who used interviews with elders, documents, and language to identify Native American cultures. Despite their efforts, the researchers could not capture all the diversity in the state. And the names they used for different groups were not always the names used by those groups. Names given to Native American groups by the Spanish or later settlers include Costanoan, Gabrieliño, Luiseño, Salinan, and Serrano.

Native Californians may use other names to describe their tribal group or band. We should learn to use the names that Native Californians prefer.

Are there other names that Native Americans in your county use to describe themselves?

Your answer

The map shows all of the state's territory neatly divided between groups. Researchers determined where these lines were, but the reality of Native peoples before colonization was that boundaries were usually not specified, and territories often overlapped. The establishment of official borders was part of colonization.

The border between the United States and Mexico is a straight line. What two groups might have had their territory divided between the two different countries when this border was created?

Your answer



Native American Lands (cont'd)

California's borders with Oregon and Nevada are also straight lines. Name two groups that might have had a state line drawn through their territories.

Your answer

Page 19 of the atlas is about Native American lands in California today.

Describe the size and distribution of Native American lands in California today.

Your answer

Use the county boundary overlay.

Are there designated Native American lands in your county?

YES / NO
(circle one)

Is there Native American land within the territory of each group identified on Page 18?

YES / NO
(circle one)

Has the amount of territory controlled by Native Americans in California increased or decreased since 1770?

INCREASED / DECREASED
(circle one)

Has the population of Native Americans in California increased or decreased since 1770?

INCREASED / DECREASED
(circle one)