

The Kawaiisu

Much of southern and eastern California is a land of desert, mountains, and valleys. The Kawaiisu (kah WY ih soo) and other Indian groups of this region had to adapt to their environment. In the desert, the climate is hot and very dry. The mountain areas are dry, but cooler.

The Kawaiisu lived in an area that stretched from the Mojave Desert to the Tehachapi Mountains. In this environment, the Kawaiisu found the food they needed. Oak trees supplied acorns. The Kawaiisu used stone tools to grind the acorns to make cakes and bread.

Many California Indian groups depended on acorns for food. The Yokuts of the Central Valley and the Chumash along the southern coast gathered and cooked with acorns.

Find Out To learn more about the food resources that Indians in your region used, visit a local library.

1. Describe the ways in which the geography of your region, including climate, influenced how local Indians got food.

2. On what food did Indians in your region depend and what tools did they use to prepare it?
