

The Ohlone

The Ohlone (oh LOW nee) lived along California's coast between what is now Big Sur and the Golden Gate of San Francisco Bay. They built villages near the ocean and rivers as well as in the forests.

The natural environment of this coastal and forest region influenced which resources the Ohlone used to make their tools. For example, they used stone to make knives and arrowheads. They made fishing nets by weaving thin strips of animal hide.

The Ohlone also made tools out of shells from the nearby sea. They carved mussel shells to use as cutting tools and scrapers for working with animal skins. The Ohlone also made large spoons out of seashells. Their shiny fishhooks, made from abalone shells, helped attract and catch fish.



MAP SKILL Which Indian group on the map lives closest to your community?

Find Out The California state website has resources to help you learn more about the Ohlone or other California Indians.

1. Describe the ways in which the natural environment of your region influenced how local Indians made and used tools.

2. Find out more about the Ohlone or the California Indians in your area. Draw a picture of the tools they might have used to prepare a meal, to fish, or to hunt.

