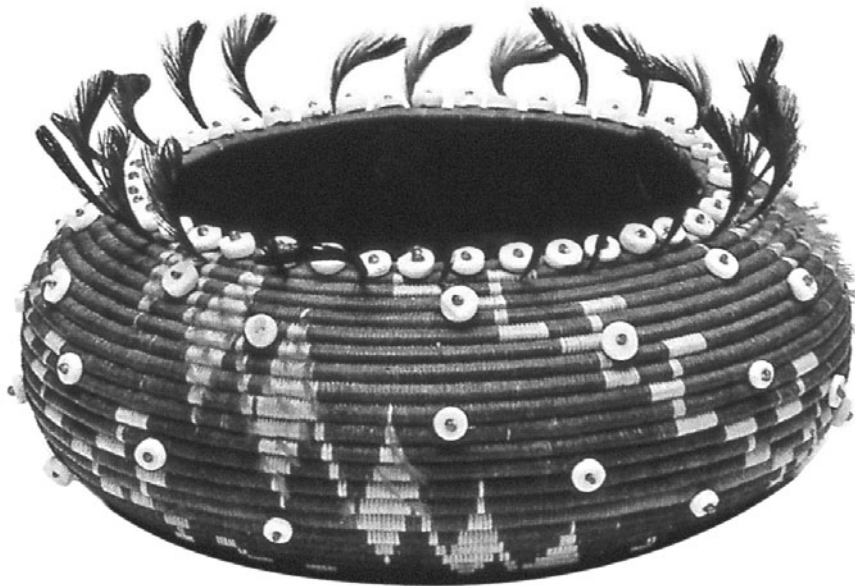


The Pomo

The Pomo have lived in coastal California for more than 10,000 years. They built villages in the hills and valleys north of San Francisco.

The Pomo's economy depended on trade with other California Indians. Baskets were one item the Pomo traded. Pomo weavers made baskets of reeds and branches. They wove them tightly enough to hold water or soup. People heated soup by putting hot rocks into the baskets.

The Pomo also used baskets for serving and storing food and to give as gifts. Other groups traded for these well-made baskets. In return, the Pomo received money in the form of beads or shells and goods they could not make or find in their region.



This special Pomo basket has beads and feathers. It is tightly woven. Do you think it was used for storage or as a gift to honor someone? Explain.

Many California Indians made baskets that they used in their daily lives. The following groups wove baskets from natural resources found in their environment.

Kumeyaay Hupa Chumash Miwok

Find Out To learn more about the Pomo or the Indian groups who lived in your area, visit your local historical society or Indian museum.

1. Find out more about items traded by the Pomo or other California Indians from your region. What did they trade besides baskets? What did they receive in return?

2. Choose one of the Indian groups listed above or a group from your region that wove baskets. Draw a picture that shows what their baskets looked like. Then compare it to the photograph on page SS2.

