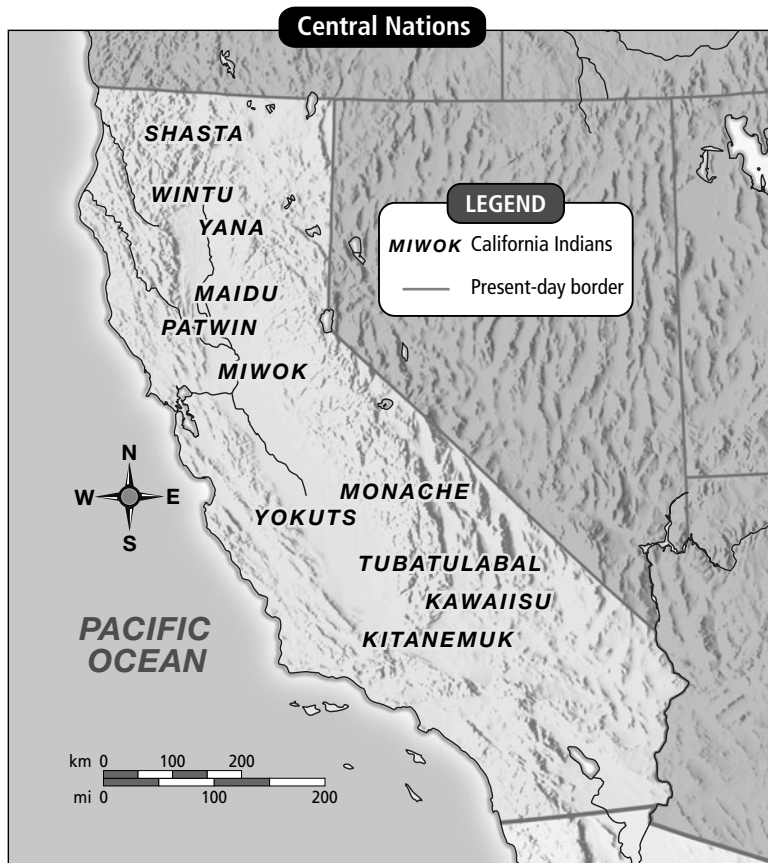


# The Yokuts

The Yokuts (YOH koots) lived in California's Central Valley and in the Sierra Nevada foothills. Many different nations were part of the Yokuts culture. Each Yokuts nation had similar languages and beliefs. However, each nation had its own government.

The most important job in a Yokuts government belonged to the chief. The chief was in charge of ceremonies and celebrations. He also helped take care of people who were sick or old.

Yokuts governments worked to keep their people safe and healthy. They planned hunting and gathering trips and handed out food. Sometimes Yokuts governments helped solve conflicts between people or villages.



**MAP SKILL** Which two Indian groups were the closest neighbors to the Yokuts?

**Find Out** Find out about local Indian governments in the past and today by visiting California Indian websites.

1. In the past, how did members of your area's Indian government help provide their people with food and protection? List some examples.

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2. What kinds of government work do local Indian leaders do today? In what ways do they help their nation?

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3. Draw a picture showing one way local Indian leaders help their nation today.

