

First Peoples Education Kit Outline

Why do we provide the First Peoples Kit?

This education kit is designed to familiarize your students with topics presented in the [First Peoples of Santa Cruz field trip](#) and to provide a depth of experience and opportunity to apply knowledge after the trip. It can also be used within your own unit on the Native people of Central California. The activities within this kit will give your students a better understanding of such topics as **food preparation, the use of native plants and animals, oral tradition, and culture** using unique artifacts, hands-on exploration, engaging activities and writing prompts.

How does it work?

We recommend that these activities are done in the order that they are presented, for a more comprehensive understanding of relevant concepts. These activities can be adjusted to different age or learning groups by adjusting the level and amount of reading and writing, and choosing appropriate vocabulary. For example, if you feel that there are too many words for a younger age group, focus more on observational learning; included worksheets can be omitted. Conversely, if you feel as though your students could benefit from more written analyses, feel free to assign the extensional writing prompts provided with particular activities, which help to further understanding and scientific observational skills.

First Peoples Kit Contents

1. Supplemental Activity Curriculum Descriptions
2. Visual Aids to support curriculum, including Native plant guide, Mix and Match game cards, and worksheets
3. Artifacts to support exploration including shells, pelts, Stave game, Clapper stick, Tule item, Fire drill, Mortar and Pestle, and Acorns
4. Books including: *Life of the California Coast Nations*, by Bobby Kalman; *Rumsen Ohlone Stories*; told by Linda Yamane; *Little Deer and the First Native American Flute*, by Al Striplen; *When the Mission Bells Rang*, by Judith A. Scott

List of Activities and Key concepts Covered

1. **Tending Nature** - Students identify the needs of living things and explore the relationship between Ohlone people and nature.
2. **Tule Tools** - Students explore how plants are used beyond food
3. **Painting with Nature** - Students experiment with natural materials to create pigments
4. **Story Reconstruction** - Students practice using oral tradition to preserve information
5. **Tree of Music** - Students learn about traditional Ohlone songs and instruments
6. **Mission Bells** - Students learn about how the Missions affected the Native people and animals
7. **Staves Game** - Students learn how to play a traditional Ohlone game and can make their own

The Educational Kit includes the visual aids and materials for all activities and suggestions for extension activities and writing prompts which encourage deeper understanding.