

Native Land, Native People

Glossary

Acorn: Nut produced by oak trees. Acorns are nuts containing a single seed that are covered in hard, leathery shells. Acorns were a food staple for the Kumeyaay people.

Archaeology: The study of things that people made, used, and left behind. The goal of archaeology is to understand what people of the past were like and how they lived.

Artifact: Something made or given shape by humans, such as a tool or a work of art, especially an object of archaeological interest.

Biodiversity: The variety of living things in an area.

Climate: The typical weather conditions in an entire region over a long period of time.

Environment: Everything living and nonliving in an area.

Ethnobotany: The study of how people of a particular culture and region make use of indigenous (native) plants.

‘Ewaa: Kumeyaay term for homesite shelter.

Extricate: To get something out of a place.

Native Land, Native People

Glossary

Fiber: Long, thin strands of material made by plants, animals, or humans. People use fibers to make many useful products.

Food Staple: The food or foods that a person or animal eats most often.

Granary: Something used for grain storage. The Kumeyaay made granary baskets to store acorns, acorn meal, and other grains.

Grinding Stone Site: A large stone upon which the Kumeyaay people would grind acorns over generations.

Habitat: The home of an animal or a plant. Almost every place on Earth is a habitat for some kinds of animals and plants. Most habitats include a community of animals and plants along with water, oxygen, soil or sand, and rocks.

Harvest – The gathering of a crop or resource.

Ladle: A large spoon with cup-shaped bowl used for serving soup, stew, or sauce.

Leach - To remove by the action of a liquid passing through a substance (e.g. water leaches minerals from soil.)

Mortar: A sturdy vessel in which material is pounded or rubbed with a pestle

Native Land, Native People

Glossary

Native Plants – A plant that grows naturally in a given place.

Natural Resource: Something that is found in nature and can be used by people. Earth's natural resources include light, air, water, plants, animals, soil, stone, minerals, and fossil fuels. People need some natural resources to stay alive. They use others to make their lives better.

Olla: Spanish term for ceramic storage jars made by the Kumeyaay People

Organism: A living thing.

Pestle: A usually club-shaped implement for pounding or grinding substances in a mortar.

Quiver: Container for holding arrows.

Resourceful: Having the ability to find quick and clever ways to overcome difficulties.

Salicin: Chemical found in willow bark that is a natural pain reliever and insect repellent.

Shawii: Kumeyaay term for acorn pudding.

Sustain: To provide with what is needed to live.

Native Land, Native People

Glossary

Tannins: Bitter tasting chemical compound found naturally in acorns. Tannins had to be removed from acorns before the Kumeyaay could eat them.

Thrive: To do well or prosper.

Time Immemorial: Before memory or record.

Winnow: To remove (as waste from grain) by a current of air