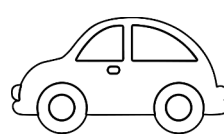
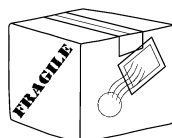
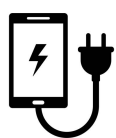


TREES & CLIMATE CHANGE

POST-LESSON MATERIAL

During the lesson, you learned about certain human behaviors that contribute to climate change. We all play a part. In our modern lives it's hard not to. If you've ever charged a cell phone, turned on a light, bought a new shirt, had a package shipped, or ridden in a car or plane, you've relied on fossil fuels.



But humans lived for millennia without fossil fuels, and without deforesting huge swaths of land to make way for agriculture and urban development. How did they do it?

There are many names for the humans who are the original or earliest known inhabitants of a place, and individual groups will prefer one over the other. The term **Indigenous Peoples** is often used. In the case of the United States, the term American Indians is also used. Around the world, Indigenous Peoples have a long-established and intimate connection with the land around them, having lived on it and stewarded it for many years, often millennia.

By turning to Indigenous Peoples with humility, those who are not of native heritage can learn from them about the sustainable ways that they managed - and continue to manage - their land and materials. Knowing this can help all of us understand how we can be better stewards of our earth and its resources.

HONORING THE HISTORY

Honoring the history of a place means first *acknowledging* the history. And this means taking an honest look at the past.



This map shows some of the many native tribes that were here prior to Spanish contact, and whose descendants are commonly referred to as Ohlone today. The **Puichon** lived on the land that is now East Palo Alto, Palo Alto, Mountain View, and Los Altos.

California was, at one time, the location of the largest population of Indigenous Peoples in all of North America. Although it is common to collectively refer to all of the 40+ tribes that lived in the region from the San Francisco Bay to Monterey Bay by the name "Ohlone," or "Costanoan," this does a disservice to the rich diversity of tribes and complexity in cultures and languages that existed here, created by people who have lived on this land for thousands of years.

Groups of **American Indians still reside in the Bay Area** and continue to maintain their cultures. These groups have been subjected to a long and terrible history of oppression, slavery, and genocide, which have effects that extend into the present-day. When learning about events from the past, it should be remembered that history is never a closed book. The past affects the present in many ways, whether we realize it or not.

INDIGENOUS HISTORY OF THE BAY AREA

Entire textbooks have been written about single events that are discussed below. The following is meant to serve only as a brief overview of the history of Ohlone people in the Bay Area - and their land - from the 1700s to present. This land has a long history before becoming part of the "United States."

MISSION TIMES: SPAIN



San José Mission

In the mid-1700s, colonizing Spaniards arrived in California to claim territory for Spain, known then as the Spanish Empire. They took the American Indians' land, used them for forced labor, and tried to assimilate them into their culture.

One of their methods of cultural assimilation was placing American Indians in **missions** throughout the state. Under Spanish rule, about 75% of American Indians died from severe living and working conditions, as well as disease.

MEXICAN OCCUPATION: MEXICO



Mexican ranch near Monterey, CA

Mexico - conquered by Spain in the 1500s - waged a war on Spain for its independence in the 1800s, which it won in 1821. As part of winning the war, Mexico gained **control over California**.

The Spanish missions were eventually dissolved, but rather than returning the land to the American Indians, it was divided in **land grants** among Mexican citizens. The land was used for ranching, and American Indians were used for labor. Few American Indians were awarded land grants.

ONGOING OCCUPATION: UNITED STATES



Land ceded to the US in the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo (red and tan areas)



Osage Indians and Calvin Coolidge

Not thirty years after the end of the Mexican War of Independence, a new war began: the Mexican-American War. Now the United States was fighting Mexico for territory. The Mexican-American War ended in 1848, and California was ceded to the United States as part of the **Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo**. This same year, gold was found in California's hills, and several hundred thousand people moved to California during the Gold Rush.

In 1850, California became the 31st state admitted to the United States, and the new American governor of CA declared a "war of extermination" on American Indians. This was the start of a genocide funded by the federal government during which many American Indians died.

Although the US passed the **Indian Citizenship Act** in 1924 to grant American Indians citizenship, many protections and freedoms were still withheld from them.

LEARNING FROM THE PAST



Ohlone dancers at Mission San José in Fremont, CA, c. 1806



Then vs. now: a man in a tule reed boat in the San Francisco Bay

RAMAYTUSH & MUWEKMA OHLONE TRIBES

As part of acknowledging the history of the Bay Area, it must also be acknowledged that the Ohlone are the rightful owners of this land, which was stolen from them several times. **Ohlone people are still here.** Now, many identify as part of a larger group, since the tribes that were once the sole inhabitants of this land were greatly reduced or erased.

Image to right: map of the missions surrounding the Bay Area. Ancestors of members of both the Ramaytush and Muwekma Ohlone were sent to missions.



The **Ramaytush Ohlone**, according to their website, are the original inhabitants of San Francisco and the San Francisco Peninsula. The present-day **Muwekma Ohlone Tribe**, according to their website, is comprised of all members of the historic Federally Recognized Verona Band of Alameda County (in the East Bay).

This means that present-day cities in San Mateo County like East Palo Alto and Menlo Park, as well as cities in Santa Clara County like Mountain View, Palo Alto, and Los Altos are all part of an ancestral homeland that belongs to the Ohlone.

JUSTICE



Reflect on the history of Indigenous Peoples in the Bay Area that you have read above, and take some time to consider the idea of justice. MLK Jr. once said, "**Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice, and justice at its best is power correcting everything that stands against love.**" On a separate sheet of paper, respond to the following:

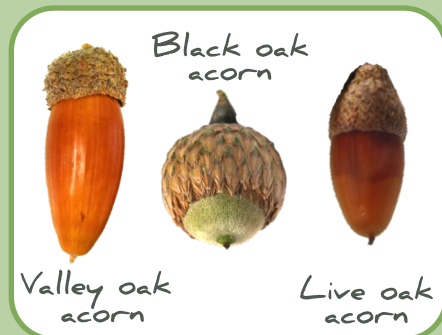
- How do you feel after reading this history?
- How would you define justice?
- Was what happened here just?
- If you had the power to re-write the history of this place, how would you write it? What would look different in our society now?

USES OF NATIVE TREES

To gain an appreciation of the skillful and creative ways that the Ohlone people of the San Francisco Bay area used - and continue to use - resources from the land, consider the three native trees below.

OAK

Acorns of various native California oaks are eaten as a main dietary staple by over three quarters of all California Indian tribes. The larger valley oak acorns have more protein, but don't store as well as the black oak acorns, and aren't as common as live oak acorns.



It isn't as easy as just picking and eating acorns though. The acorns have to be collected, shelled, hand ground into meal, sifted, placed into woven baskets, and covered in cold water to remove the bitterness.

CALIFORNIA BAY LAUREL

Many California tribes use the aromatic leaves of bay laurel. Leaves are hung in acorn granaries (where acorns are stored for the year), and added to baskets and feather-work to protect them from insects.



The seeds, often called bay "nuts," are also used. They are ground and roasted to make a coffee-like drink.

WILLOW

Willow trees have very flexible branches that the Ohlone use to construct frames for their houses, which they then cover in dried and woven tule reeds.



Ohlone house replica



Inside view of willow pole framework



mak-'amham
Contemporary Ohlone Cuisine



The tradition of using native foods, such as acorns and bay leaves, lives on in Berkeley-based cultural institution and restaurant **Café Ohlone**, which offers "mak-'amham" - meaning "our food" in the native Chochenyo language of the East Bay. Menu items include acorn bisque with local wildflower honey, acorn brownies with walnuts and bay salt, and roasted venison with local laurel-infused mushrooms and blackberries (pictured).

The willow branches have to be peeled, and the detached bark is used to lash the willow frame together. Despite the amount of work that these structures take to make, they are burned every 1-2 years for hygiene purposes. Branches too small for use in construction are used as fire kindling.

SELF REFLECTION

Before the colonists, the land grants, and their forced enslavement, native tribes in the San Francisco Bay region were living sustainably off of the land. You've just learned how products from oak, California bay laurel, and willow trees were used - and are still used - for everything from food and drinks to insect repellent, construction material, and fire kindling.

Think about what you eat and drink, the tools and furniture that you have in your home, the personal care products that you use, or the instruments that you play.

List all of the products derived from trees that you can think of that you use in your life. You can do some research if you'd like, but try to think of as many as you can on your own first.



Chances are that many of the items you listed above are not from locally native trees, and that they weren't made by you. Our world today is very different from our world a few hundred years ago. We now have electricity to power lights and heating in our homes, planes and boats that facilitate global trade, and machines that do work for us. These conveniences can make us forget our connection with the land, and the importance of living sustainably. While it's true that big factories and companies bear the lion's share of the responsibility for climate change, even actions on an individual level can add up. It is important for all of us to **accept our responsibility in making the world a better place**. But how?



FIRST STEP: ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR ROLE

Consider the short list below of activities that individuals engage in regularly that rely on fossil fuels or contribute to climate change in other ways. Check off all the ones that you have done in the past month.

<input type="checkbox"/> Ridden in a car, bus, or train	<input type="checkbox"/> Used heating or air conditioning	<input type="checkbox"/> Charged a cell phone	<input type="checkbox"/> Ordered something online
<input type="checkbox"/> Turned on a light	<input type="checkbox"/> Used a plastic bag	<input type="checkbox"/> Ran a dishwasher	<input type="checkbox"/> Ate meat products

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

2

SECOND STEP: PICK A CHALLENGE

The good news is that no matter how many actions you checked off the list in step one, you have the power to change your habits and behaviors! Choose at least two behaviors from the selection below that you are willing to commit to trying for the next two weeks (or suggest your own). Make sure to pick ones that challenge you.

I will...



☐ Bicycle, walk, or use public transit instead of a car (as much as possible)



☐ Use only the lights that I need, and turn off ones that I am not using



☐ Eat less meat, and eat more vegetables (bonus points if they're local!)



☐ Recycle things like cardboard, paper, bottles, and certain plastics



☐ Plant a tree, or help a family member/neighbor/guardian care for a tree



☐ Use the search engine Ecosia, which plants trees all over the world!



☐ Find a local store to shop from instead of ordering items online



☐ Other:

How does the behavior (or behaviors) that you chose help protect trees and reduce climate change? You might need to do some research to answer this. Be as specific as you can.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

3

THIRD STEP: FIND YOUR INSPIRATION

It is easy to feel like our positive actions for the planet are insignificant when we forget that there are lots of people all over the world trying to make a positive difference as well. To help you feel part of this global community, spend some time getting inspired by their stories.

You can either click the green button below and search the map for a person whose environmental actions who inspire you, or find an inspiring story of a person, company, or organization online. Share below what it is that you admire about the person, or group, that you chose.

WHO IS YOUR
INSPIRATION?

Who did you choose? Why does this person, company, or organization inspire you to take action for the planet?

4

FOURTH STEP: TRACK YOUR PROGRESS

For the next two weeks, track below how often you practice the two environmentally positive actions that you chose in Step 2. Some actions, like buying items locally, you may not be able to practice daily, and that's okay. You can get creative though, and plan a future local purchase, or encourage your friends and family to shop locally.

Key:

☐ Action 1

☐ Action 2

	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.
Week 1	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Week 2	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

Check in: How did you do? Was this easier or harder than you expected? What was your main challenge? Remember that change takes time and practice, so it's okay if you missed a few. If you're up for an extra challenge, keep up these two actions for two weeks more to finish out a full month!