
Pre-Contact—Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians

Key vocabulary words

Abundant (adjective) Existing or available in large quantities; plentiful.

Example sentence: Deer, elk, and bears were abundant in the area.

Trapping (noun) The action of capturing or catching animals, typically using traps.

Example sentence: They caught salmon using different methods like spearing, netting, and trapping.

Permanent (adjective) Lasting or intended to last or remain unchanged indefinitely.

Example sentence: When the weather started getting colder and rain was expected, they would leave the mountains and move to their permanent winter villages.

Encounter (verb) Unexpectedly experience or be faced with (something difficult or hostile).

Example sentence: They lived like this until the early 1800s when they encountered people from Europe and America.

Lamprey (noun) A type of eel-like fish that attaches itself to other fish and sucks their blood.

Example sentence: These houses also stored the food they gathered, such as acorns, hazelnuts, camas cakes, tarweed seeds, smoked salmon, lamprey, and dried meat.

Adapted reading passage

Since time immemorial, the people of the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians lived in southwestern Oregon. It was a land filled with rivers, forests, and two mountain ranges. This land provided everything they needed to survive. They caught salmon using different methods like spearing, netting, and trapping. They even made dams and baskets to catch them. They also ate trout, crawfish, and mussels from the creeks and rivers. Deer, elk, and bears, which they hunted using various techniques, were abundant in the area. The Cow Creek Band used every part of the animal for food, clothing, and decorations. Gathering seeds, nuts, and berries was also an important part of their diet. They collected acorns, tarweed seeds, camas bulbs, hazelnuts, and many types of berries.



During late summer and early fall, the Tribe would go up to the mountains to pick huckleberries. They would dry them on big flat rocks under the sun. At night, they would gather together to sing songs and tell stories that had been passed down for generations. When the weather started getting colder and rain was expected, they would leave the mountains and move to their permanent winter villages in the lowlands. These villages had houses made of split wood planks set on four posts. Inside, there was a main

Pre-Contact–Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians *(Continued)*

area for activities with a fire pit. These houses also stored the food the people gathered, such as acorns, hazelnuts, camas cakes, tarweed seeds, smoked salmon, lamprey, and dried meat. The Cow Creek Band lived like this until the early 1800s when they encountered people from Europe and America.

Summary

- The Cow Creek Band of Umpqua people lived in a special place in Oregon with rivers, forests, and mountains.
- They caught salmon, trout, crawfish, and mussels from the creeks and rivers.
- They hunted deer, elk, and bears and gathered seeds, nuts, and berries for food.

Multiple choice questions

What evidence does the text provide to support the claim that the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua people lived in a land filled with rivers, forests, and two mountain ranges?

- a. They caught salmon using different methods like spearing, netting, and trapping.
- b. They even made dams and baskets to catch them.
- c. Deer, elk, and bears, which they hunted using various techniques, were abundant in the area.
- d. Gathering seeds, nuts, and berries was also an important part of their diet.

According to the text, what did the Tribe do when the weather started getting colder and rain was expected?

- a. They would dry huckleberries on big flat rocks under the sun.
- b. They would gather together to sing songs and tell stories.
- c. They would move to their permanent winter villages in the lowlands.
- d. They would hunt deer, elk, and bears using various techniques.

Pre-Contact–Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians *(Continued)*

What is the main idea of this passage?

- a.** The Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians lived in a special place in Oregon.
- b.** The Tribe gathered and hunted food from the land to survive.
- c.** The Tribe encountered people from Europe and America in the early 1800s.
- d.** The Tribe had houses made of split wood planks set on four posts.

Short answer questions

1. What methods did the people of the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians use to catch salmon?

2. What types of animals did the Tribe hunt for food?

Pre-Contact–Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians *(Continued)*

3. What did the Tribe do with huckleberries during late summer and early fall?