



CHUMASH INDIAN MUSEUM

Before you visit

Grade 3

The History of the Chumash Indian Museum

The Chumash Indian Museum is a historical site and living history center. This museum is dedicated to restoring and preserving an awareness of the Chumash people and their historical, cultural, material and present-day influence, as well as the natural environment and historical significance of this site. Through exhibits, events, and educational programs, the Chumash Indian Museum serves as a gathering place for a partnership with the native and non-native communities connecting the past with the present to continue our shared future.

The museum, established in 1994, is part of the Santa Monica Mountain Range and is located at a 432-acre Chumash archaeological preserve on Lang Ranch Parkway in Thousand Oaks. Chumash Paul Varela was able to determine that the site of Oakbrook Park was a sacred site, a village and a burial place and fought to make the museum materialize. Paul along with a few others created the Chumash Interpretive Center.

As a non-profit organization, it receives no government funding, the museum relies on income from its visitors.

OUR GOAL

is to provide useful pre and post-visit material to ensure that both teacher and student receive a meaningful and informative experience when they visit the Chumash Indian Museum. Through this material we hope to help you, the teacher, to interpret, present, and encourage the enjoyment of the unique prehistorical and cultural resources found at the Chumash Indian Museum in your classroom, while simultaneously meeting the 3rd Grade History-Social Science Content.



Chumash Tomol

- Chumash Indian Museum History
- Tour Summary
- Tour Information
- Suggested Reading
- About the Chumash
- Chumash Words
- Further Study
- Contact Information



The Chumash that lived on this site named their village S'apwi or House of the Deer. The deer supplemented the diet of the villagers; they also provided materials for clothing, tools, instruments and structures.

3rd Grade Chumash Indian Museum Tour Summary

Students will explore the natural habitats and resources available to the Chumash that lived here in our local area. They'll learn how Chumash managed and used these resources, and how they were influenced by their natural region and available resources. The students will examine artifacts and elements of their natural region using colorful and authentic visual aids. Students will learn about the history of the Chumash people and what makes them distinct from other Native Americans. They will hear about the Chumash village life and the way it differs from the way we live today.

Relevance to your class

CA History Social Science Standard 3.1.1

"Identify geographical features in their local region (e.g., deserts, mountains, valleys, hills, coastal areas, oceans, lakes)."

CA Standard 3.2

"Students describe the American Indian nations in their local region long ago and in the recent past."

CA Standard 3.2.1

"Describe national identities, religious beliefs, customs, and various folklore traditions."

CA Standard 3.2.2

"Discuss the ways in which physical geography, including climate, influenced how the local Indian nations adapted to their natural environment (e.g., how they obtained food, clothing, tools)."

CA Standard 3.2.3

"Describe the economy and systems of government, particularly those with tribal constitutions, and their relationship to federal and state governments."

CA Standard 3.2.4

"Discuss the interaction of new settlers with the already established Indians of the region."

Tour Information

Our popular school program includes a tour of the museum, a nature walk to the replica Chumash village site and a chance for students to sing songs and learn how to play traditional Chumash games. An exciting craft activity may also be included as part of their tour.

Lunch and Shopping

After their tour and nature walk students can enjoy their lunches at our outdoor picnic tables. Our Museum Gift Shop carries a number of inexpensive nature and native arts inspired gifts for students to bring home as a reminder of their special tour.

Buses

There are two school bus parking spaces available at the front of the museum parking lot, which can accommodate large buses.

Fees

The school program fees are \$6 per student without a craft activity, and \$8 per student including a craft activity. There is a fee of \$6 per adult chaperone. No fee for teachers/aids. Fees are to be paid by check and must include parent chaperones.

Tour Length

School tours run from 9:30am to 1:00pm, Tuesday through Friday.

Supervision

Only one parent chaperone per 10 students are allowed. Teachers, aides and chaperones MUST remain with the group at all times and are responsible for good group behavior. The Chumash Indian Museum reserves the right to turn away any group with inadequate supervision.

Reserve your tour today!

Call 805.492.8076
education@chumashmuseum.org
Tuesday—Friday 9am-2pm

Suggested Reading

For Teachers:

Chumash: A Picture of Their World
by Bruce W. Miller

December's Child: A Book of Chumash Oral Narratives
by Thomas C. Blackburn

The Chumash World at European Contact: Power, Trade, and Feasting Among Complex Hunter-Gatherers
by Lynn H. Gamble

For Students:

The Rainbow Bridge
By Audrey Wood

Chumash (Native Americans Set 2)
By Sarah Tieck

The Chumash: The Past and Present of California's Seashell People
By Danielle Smith-Llera

Chumash (Native Americans (Abdo))
By Barbara A Gray-Kanatiiosh



Chumash 'ap

The People of this Land: the Chumash Indians

The Chumash ranged north to Paso Robles and south to Malibu. They also lived out on the Channel Islands and as far inland as the Cuyama area. There is evidence of Chumash civilization going back 10,000 to 12,000 years.

The Chumash were hunting, gathering, fishing and seafaring people. They gathered acorns from oak trees. Acorns were a main food source. They also gathered nuts, seeds, berries, bark, roots and leaves from other plants for food and medicine. The Chumash were excellent hunters of bear, rabbit, mule deer, seals and other animals. They utilized much of the animal, including bones and skins.

The coastal and Channel Island Indians relied mostly on the ocean for food and other resources. They ate fish, seal, whale, and shellfish. Inland Chumash relied heavily on acorns and deer and rabbit meat for food. It was common for the coastal and inland Chumash to trade with each other to expand their resources.

The Chumash people spent much of their time hunting and gathering food however, food was plentiful which left time for other activities such as participating in games, playing music, religion and telling stories.

The Chumash were craftsmen and artisans. They used locally gathered plants for their homes, beds, and baskets. They used stone grinding tools, knives, arrowheads and pots. Hides and bones were used for clothing, tools and musical instruments. Shells were used for money, ornaments and dishes. The Chumash collected driftwood to make sea-worthy plank canoes or tomols. Chumash created beautiful rock art.



Chumash Indian Museum (Google Maps)

Contact Us

Chumash Indian Museum

3290 Lang Ranch Parkway
Thousand Oaks, CA 91362

805.492.8076

education@chumashmuseum.org

Visit us on the web at
www.chumashmuseum.org

Or see our Facebook page

Prior to visit and/or further study:

- 1) Locate and read several books on pre-Mission Chumash Indians.
- 2) Describe the geography and climate of Chumash territory. Tell about the animals and plants that lived there.
- 3) Describe houses, clothes, utensils and weapons of the Chumash people.
- 4) Find at least 5 places that have Chumash names and explain what they mean.
- 5) Tell about the Chumash's religion and describe their cave paintings. Show pictures if you can.
- 6) Make small baskets using Chumash techniques—or using a cave painting motif, make a picture for your wall—or make a scale model of a Chumash tomol—or make a model of a Chumash 'ap in a village setting.
- 7) Learn what the Chumash ate and drank.
- 8) Perform a service project for the Museum.



Chumash Indian Museum Gate

Chumash Words

There were several Chumash dialects in 7 distinct language groups. The people who lived in the area of the Chumash Indian Museum spoke Ventureño.

'alapy	sky
'alishaw	sun
'ap	house
ch'ich'l	child
'eneq	woman
haku	hello
'ihi'y	man
'o'	water
tomol	canoe

This handout created by Joy Haag-Lupanow
Any information may change at any time. There is no guarantee as to the accuracy of information contained herein. 05.2017