



# Klamath

Native Americans of Oregon

4th Grade Social Studies

## Climate & Environment

### Special Points of Interest:

- Many Klamath men and women had tattoos all over their bodies. They made tattoos by rubbing charcoal into cuts made on their skin.
- Tule is a marsh plant that was dried and used for many items such as baskets, clothing, mats, rafts, boats and decoys.
- The Klamath made duck decoys by stuffing duck skins with tule.



Tule



Coniferous forests are made up of cone-bearing, evergreen trees.

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Douglas Fir Cones

The Klamath Native Americans lived in the Klamath Lake area. This area included Klamath Lake and Klamath Marsh, as well as the Williamson and Sprague Rivers. The Klamath lived among marshes, open water, grassy meadows, coniferous forests, sagebrush, and rocky cliffs.

The Klamath lived through extreme seasons. Unlike other parts of Oregon that have mild weather, winters here are cold and summers are hot. While the area does not receive much rain, snowfall averages 35 inches per year.

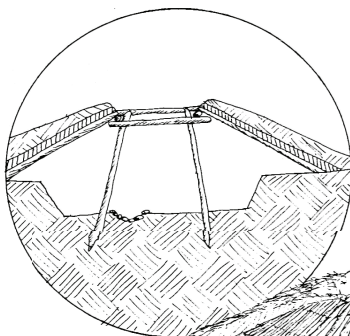


Sagebrush

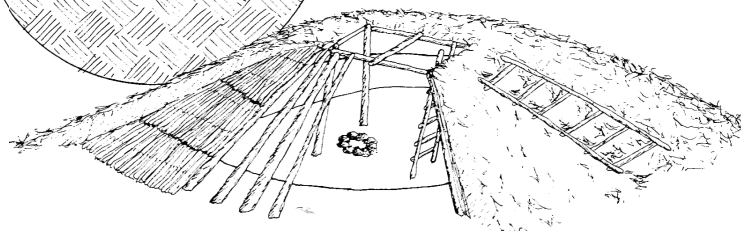
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## Shelter

The Klamath lived in permanent earth-covered lodges during the winter. The lodge was built over a shallow pit and covered with tule (“too-lee”) mats and dirt. The lodges were 15 feet to 40 feet in diameter. People entered the lodge by a ladder that led to a hole in the roof. Another ladder led down into the lodge. A fire was built in the middle of the lodge. Smaller versions of the lodge were built next to homes. These were used for cooking and food



Courtesy of Oregon Historical Society



Klamath Earth-Covered Lodge

storage. The Klamath surrounded their food storage pits with stinky plants to keep animals from getting into them.

## Food

The Klamath were hunter-gatherers. Rivers, lakes, marshes, forests and meadows provided them with a variety of foods. Men were responsible for hunting and fishing. Women did some fishing, but mostly they gathered fruits, berries, roots and seeds.

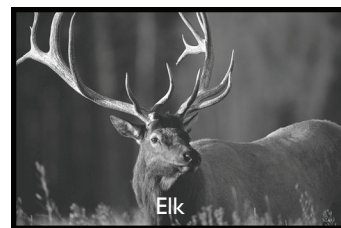
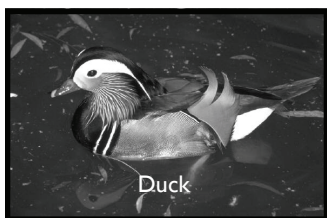


Plants were the Klamath's main food source. Women collected wild potato, hazelnuts, arrowroot, sego lily, wokas, cattail and a variety of berries. Klamath women were experts on plants and used them for teas, medicines, dyes, insect repellent and for their fibers.

Game, waterfowl and fish supplemented the Klamath diet. Men were responsible for hunting and fishing. They caught chub, trout, salmon and sucker fish from the rivers and lakes. They usually caught these fish in nets.



Large game, most often deer and elk, were killed with a bow and arrow. Rodents like squirrels and rabbits were hunted, too. Birds and waterfowl were captured in nets. They made duck decoys by stuffing duck skin with tule.



## Clothing

Klamath men and women wore fringed skirts during the warm months. Tule fibers were hung from a belt. Belts were made of either tule or animal skin. Men's skirts were above the knee. Women's skirts were below the knee. The Klamath added more clothes during the winter. Men and women wore leggings made of tule fibers, fur mittens and tule sandals stuffed with grass.



Men and women wore their hair in braids and wore necklaces made of shells and stone beads. They also had dentalium shells pierced through their noses. Many Klamath men and women had tattoos all over their bodies. They made tattoos by rubbing charcoal into cuts made on their skin.

