

Books on California Native Americans @ Your Leatherby Libraries

List and Annotations by Andrew Tessandori

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The Natural World of the California Indians by Robert F. Heizer and Albert B. Elsasser
E78.C15 H433 1980

This book discusses the ways in which California Native Americans interacted with the natural environment before the coming of the Spanish and Americans. Much specific information is given on such topics as ecology and culture, tools and material items, and gathering and hunting.

Surviving Through the Days: Translations of Native California Stories and Songs edited by Herbert W. Luthin
E78.C15 S94 2002

This is a comprehensive anthology of oral literature from many of California's native cultures. The narratives are translated, introduced, and commented on by specialists. Divided into geographic areas, these stories are followed by a collection of essays on languages and oral traditions.

Indian Survival on the California Frontier by Albert L. Hurtado
E78.C15 H87 1988

Focusing on the mid-nineteenth century, this prize winning book is a history of California Indians and how they survived the influx of Spaniards, Mexicans, and Anglo-Americans on their homelands.

The Destruction of California Indians by Robert F. Heizer
E78.C15 D48 1993

This book is a collection of historical documents from the period 1847 to 1865 that discuss the treatment of California's Native Americans, allowing the reader to draw conclusions regarding the countless deaths of California natives during this time.

Standing Ground: Yurok Indian Spirituality, 1850-1990 by Thomas Buckley
E99.Y97 B83 2002

This multidisciplinary work discusses the history and continuity of Yurok culture in Northern California, including how spirituality is at the heart of and interconnected with all parts of traditional and contemporary Yurok culture.

Ishi's Brain: In Search of America's Last "Wild" Indian by Orin Starn
E99.Y23 I785 2004

Ishi was a Yana Indian who lived for many years in the foothills of Northern California until he was captured and put on display in a museum. This book examines this interesting piece of California's history and attempts to find truth behind the story that after Ishi's death his brain was removed and preserved for future study. Part of the telling of this story is the larger cultural history of Native Americans in Northern California.

Understanding Tolowa Histories by James Collins
E99.T7 C65 1998

This book discusses the displacement of the Tolowa Indians, the effort to regain their identity and language, and their reemergence as a contemporary cultural and political group. The Tolowa are used as an example to discuss the general history of Indians throughout the United States.

The Wintu and Their Neighbors by Christopher Chase-Dunn and Kelly M. Mann
E99.W78 C53 1998

Multidisciplinary in scope, this book discusses traditional Wintu society in Northern California and compares it with the modern world. Many aspects of Wintu life are discussed, including households, kinship, and trade.

The Archaeology of California by Joseph L. Chartkoff and Kerry Kona Chartkoff
F863.C46 1984

This text serves as an overview of the prehistoric periods in California, with information on the archaeology of historic sites as well. Specific archaeological excavations and material culture traditions from throughout California are discussed.

The Heart Is Fire: The World of the Cahuilla Indians of Southern California by Deborah Dozier
E99.C155 D68 1998

This well illustrated book presents the stories, memories, philosophies, and ideas of five Cahuilla elders who discuss their people's traditional culture. They talk about families, food, art, the creation of the world, and other facets of Cahuilla life in Southern California.

Keeping Slug Woman Alive by Greg Sarris
E99.P65 S27 1993

Challenging assumptions about the roles and meanings of Native American oral traditions and written literature, this book uses the Pomo to illustrate cross-cultural communication and the differences between American Indian and Euro-American worldviews.

Indian Country, L.A. by Joan Weibel-Orlando
E78.C15 W48 1999

This book discusses the ethnic identity of the Native Americans in Los Angeles, which has the highest concentration of urban American Indians in the United States. Their social organization includes living in a contemporary urban setting while also maintaining traditions.