

Native American Trade Routes

California Indians developed trails, or routes that they traveled by water or by foot to trade natural and manufactured goods. For example, the northcoast Wiyot paddled dugout canoes south down the coast to exchange the canoes for tobacco with the Mattole. Central Valley Maidu and Miwok carried acorns across the Sierra Nevada to trade for pinyon nuts and obsidian with the Northern and Southern Paiute. Salt collected from inland **lagoons** by the Papago of the Sonoran Desert made its way north to the Mohave, who traded for pumpkin seeds. The exchange of crops, fish, and manufactured goods enriched and improved the lives of people who lived great distances from one another. The same is true today.

IMAGE BELOW: Mortar holes at Indian Grinding Rock (Chaw'se) State Park in the Sierra Nevada **foothills**. Over centuries, the repeated pounding of acorns into flour by Miwok Indians wore these cup-shaped holes into the flat rock. The Miwok traded acorns for obsidian and pinyon nuts with tribes from the eastern Sierra Nevada. SOURCE: STEPHEN CUNHA



- Native American Trails
- Trail Continues
- Saline Lake
- Dry Lake Beds
- Freshwater Lake

0 25 50 100 Miles

0 50 100 200 Kilometers