



## Native American Trade Routes

California Indians developed trails that they traveled by foot to trade natural and manufactured goods. They also traveled over water in small boats. For example, the north coast 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 was taken north to the Mohave, who traded pumpkin seeds for the salt. 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. Over centuries, the repeated pounding of acorns into flour by Miwok Indians wore these holes into the flat rock. The Miwok traded acorns to tribes from the eastern Sierra to obtain obsidian and pine nuts.

