EQ #4 - Who were the Kalapuya Native Americans?
Who were the Kalapuya?

History

The Kalapuya

Were a Native American people who lived in the Willamette Valley.

Their region extended from Forest Grove/McMinnville area (in the north) to Yoncalla (south).
Kalapuya – Where did they live?
Who were the Kalapuya?

- The Kalapuya lived in 13 bands or subdivisions, NOT as a single tribal group.
- They spoke THREE distinct languages.
- Each band occupied specific areas throughout the Willamette Valley.
Who were the Kalapuya?

- At its peak, the Kalapuya population numbered up to 15,000 people.
- By late 1800s, most had died or left the area and were forced to live on the Grand Ronde reservation (in coast range NE of Lincoln City).
- By 1849, the population had dropped to about 600.
When did they encounter white settlers?

- By mid-1700s, trappers from Europe came to the Willamette Valley.
- They were first to interact with the Kalapuya.
- Trappers and settlers introduced diseases.
- A major smallpox outbreak in 1782-83 killed many Kalapuya.
- From 1810-20, influenza outbreaks killed many more.
What were the effects of the white settlers on the Kalapuya?

- By mid 1800s, **75-80%** of Kalapuya had died or **fled** from the Willamette Valley

- By 1870, **most remaining** Kalapuya were forced to **live on a reservation in Grand Ronde**
Kalapuya Today

- Approximately 4000 Kalapuya descendants still live in the area today.
- Many live near Yoncalla, OR
- Median household income today:
  - Yoncalla: $26,625
  - Oregon: $54,148
Kalapuya- Land Management

- The Kalapuya burned the valley floor seasonally.
- Today, restoration work efforts (cutting trees, weeding, prescribed burning) mimics the effects of large seasonal burns the Kalapuya did.
Why did the Kalapuya Burn?

- **Benefits of Burning**-
  - Discouraged Douglas Fir from taking over and shading out plants
  - Encouraged plants like camus (a lily) to grow
  - Added soil nutrients (Nitrogen)
  - Encouraged Oak trees and Oak Savannah landscape
  - Grasses on valley floor attracted deer and elk for easier hunting
What do you know about the Kalapuya?

- Pair share with your neighbor... **THREE things** you remember learning from last class about the Kalapuya?
Activity: Research the Kalapuya

- Work with a partner or alone
- Adopt an aspect of the Kalapuya culture that interests you
- Check with teacher to report your area of interest
- Get a handout describing ONE of the following:
  - Society
  - Food
  - Language/art
  - Clothing/shelter
  - Religion
Project Timeline - Kalapuya Poster

**Wednesday** - Read and record key info from the handout. Be sure to answer questions thoroughly! Add more info as you learn.

- **Thursday** - Prepare a poster with your key information. See examples from past years. **Posters must have**-
  * Title
  * Answers to all key questions w/ supporting details
  * 2 or 3 other fun facts you learned
  * 2-3 pictures / graphics

- **Friday** - Native American Plant Walk!
Activity: Gallery Walk

- Get your poster; find a partner if you worked alone.
- There will be THREE rounds. Decide who will stay at your poster and present it and who will go out and learn from others for Round One. Switch for Round Two.
- Presenters must PRESENT the information. Views should ASK questions and record information.
PROCESS

- **ROUND 1** - Visit any of the THREE areas you did NOT research. Listen and take notes that answer the questions.
- **ROUND 2** - Switch places
- **ROUND 3** – GET ANY LAST INFO

- **Record answers** to the Key Questions on your note sheet for EACH subject area so that it is complete
WHAT IS GRADED?

- QUIZ over Kalapuya to follow! OPEN NOTES
- NOTES SHEET/ GRAPHIC ORGANIZER (10 PTS) – Tape or glue into INB
- POSTER (30 PTS)- Turn into the basket
How They Lived: Society

- Organized into small bands/groups
- Had THREE distinct class divisions based on wealth and status (slaves and poor, middle class, wealthy)
- The Kalapuya obtained slaves through warfare; they were prisoners from battle
- Upper class and shaman made decisions
- Leaders were mostly men chosen for their talents (hunting and magic/spiritual)
- Shaman (medicine men) had special status
How they lived: Food

- Primary food sources were **PLANTS**: camas, wild carrot, cow parsnip, fruit, nuts, more
- **Camas** was especially important food staple; a bulb that was roasted in pit ovens and stored as winter food; often traded for fish with other tribes
How they lived: Food (continued)

- **Secondary foods** were **ANIMALS** - deer and elk, birds, fish and insects
- **Methods**: trapped fish / game, led animal drives and smoked animals out of their holes with fire
- **Burned the prairie** to see game more easily and to fertilize fields for plants
- Food was easily obtained in summer; much harder in winter
- **February** was known as the starvation month; food was scarce and winter storage was depleted.
How they lived: Shelter

Winter houses
- Made of cedar planks; used grass, wood and sticks for frames and insulation
- Permanent
- Shared by multiple families
- Doors 3 feet tall for protection

Other seasons
- Semi-nomadic in warmer months; in summer, slept on ground and followed food sources
Summer Houses
How they lived: Clothing

- After contact with white settlers, men wore shirts and trousers and women wore skirts/dresses
- Had ceremonial dress before hunts and for other occasions
- Used animal skins and hides, plants and grass for clothing
How they lived: Language

- Had no written language; history passed down through oral tradition
- Storytellers followed specific rules so the story would be told correctly when passed down through generations
- Stories/history passed during long winter months when they spent more time indoors
- Many dialects within Kalapuya tribe
- Used **Chinook jargon**, a trade language, to communicate with other tribes/groups
Art

- Not much art but **basketry and other utilitarian items, like tools** (digging stick for camas), could be ornate and considered art.
How they lived: Religion

- **Spirit Quest**: a rite of passage for youth as they became adults. Outside for several days & nights without direct help, food or water.
- They sought their spirit guardian/guide during quest; often was an animal or other element of nature (plant, wind, rock)
- **Burial grounds** were sacred and preserved
How they lived: Religion

- **Shaman** was spiritual leader and medicine man.
- **Sweat lodges** were for ceremonies and to prepare for the hunt through mind and body purification.