



Continued Traditions

3rd Grade

Duration

Pre-Activity: 20 minutes

Activity: 40 minutes

Post-Activity: 20 minutes

Standards

History-Social Science
Content Standards
3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.2.1, 3.2.2

English-Language Arts
RI.3.1-3, 7, 10
W.3.2, 8

NGSS
SEPs 3 & 8

Supplies

- Worksheets
- Pencil
- Clipboard (optional)

Vocabulary

- Gabrielino-Tongva
- Artifact
- Archaeology
- Ti'aat



**Student
Work**

Concepts

- The Gabrielino-Tongva were the first people to call the Los Angeles area home.
- Archaeology can provide us with insight into the long history and traditions of the Gabrielino-Tongva, as can learning from Gabrielino-Tongva people today.
- The Gabrielino-Tongva continue to live in the Los Angeles area and practice some of the traditions of their ancestors.

Objectives

- Students will learn about the first people to call the Los Angeles area home.
- Students will investigate how the Gabrielino-Tongva have used the natural resources of the local region.
- Students will participate in historical and archaeological inquiry through the analysis of artifacts, historical sources, and informational resources.
- Students will make connections between the past and the present.

Outline

1. Before the activity, students will learn about the Gabrielino-Tongva communities and their long history in the Los Angeles area.
2. During the activity, students will investigate a Gabrielino-Tongva artifact and consider how the Gabrielino-Tongva have used local natural resources.
3. After the activity, students will reflect on their pre-activity work and incorporate new insights and knowledge.

References & Resources

- [NHM Anthropology Collections](#)
- [American Indian Cultural Center](#)
- [California State University Long Beach Ti'aat Restoration](#)
- [Gabrielino-Tongva Tribe](#)
- Jurmain, C & McCawley, W 2009, *O, My Ancestor: Recognition and Renewal for the Gabrielino-Tongva People of the Los Angeles Area*, Heyday Books, Berkeley.
- [Public Radio Exchange \(PRX\)](#)
- [Tongva People](#)
- [KCET: Tending the Wild](#)

Lesson Overview

Pre-Activity

Introduce students to the Gabrielino-Tongva, the first people of the Los Angeles area. Students will hear from a contemporary member of the Gabrielino-Tongva community and learn about traditions that remain important for their community today.

Activity

Students will use an image of a Gabrielino-Tongva artifact in the museum's *Becoming Los Angeles* exhibition that helps to document the long history and traditions of the Gabrielino-Tongva in the Los Angeles area. Once students observe the artifact, they will use their observations and analyses of textual and visual sources to further investigate it and its significance.



Optional Extension

Have students look closer at the picture of the island gray fox diorama and have them identify and discuss San Nicolas Island natural resources that the Gabrielino-Tongva could have accessed with the ti'aat (traditional sea canoe), such as abalone shells, driftwood, seagrass, etc.



Post-Activity

Have students reflect on their pre-activity work and incorporate new insights and knowledge that they have gained from their investigation of the artifact.

Pre-Activity:

Introduction to the Gabrielino-Tongva

The Gabrielino-Tongva are the Native American people who lived in the Los Angeles area and the four southern Channel Islands for thousands of years prior to the arrival of Spanish explorers. Prior to the Spanish arrival, Gabrielino-Tongva villages were located throughout the Los Angeles Basin from what we now know as Malibu to Laguna Beach and inland to the San Gabriel Mountains.

Villages were located in areas that allowed them to take advantage of the abundance of natural resources that the geographically diverse landscape provided. The village locations reflected a keen awareness of the semi-arid environmental conditions in the region. Inland villages were placed near permanent sources of water but high enough to avoid seasonal flooding. Permanent coastal villages were located in shielded areas to protect residents from winter storms. Each year, the Gabrielino-Tongva would temporarily move locations based on the seasonal availability of natural resources.



Image: Gabrielino-Tongva territory prior to Spanish arrival, source: tongvapeople.com

Pre-visit:

Today, many people who identify as Gabrielino-Tongva continue to live in their ancestral homeland and practice many of the traditions of their ancestors.

To hear about one these traditions, have students hear from Cindi Alvitre, a contemporary member of the Gabrielino-Tongva community.



Cindi Alvitre Audio Clip



Image: Cindi Alvitre with the contemporary ti'aat built in the 1990s, named *Moomat Ahiko*, which means “breath of the ocean” in the Gabrielino-Tongva language, image credit: The Orange County Register, [ocregister.com/articles/alvitre-530168-moomat-ahiko.html](https://www.ocregister.com/articles/alvitre-530168-moomat-ahiko.html)

Pre-Activity:



Your Task:

After hearing Cindi's story, write your thoughts on the following questions using the provided spaces.

Although Los Angeles has changed a lot since Cindi's ancestors lived here, in what ways does she still feel connected to them and to the Los Angeles landscape?

What is a *ti'aat* and why are they important for the Gabrielino-Tongva community?

Why do you think we don't find many remains of *ti'ats* from the past?

Pre-Activity:

Archaeology and the Gabrielino-Tongva

We can learn more about the long history and traditions of the Gabrielino-Tongva in the Los Angeles area through archaeology. To date, there have been over 3,000 Gabrielino-Tongva archaeological sites uncovered in the yellow area depicted on the map. These sites range from stone tool artifacts to evidence of villages.



Archaeology: The study of human history and prehistory through the excavation of sites and the analysis of artifacts and other physical remains.

Artifact: An object made or modified by humans

Let students know that they will have the opportunity to investigate an artifact that helps to document the long history of the Gabrielino-Tongva in the Los Angeles area and provides insight into a tradition that Cindi Alvitre mentioned in her story.

Additional background information for Educator

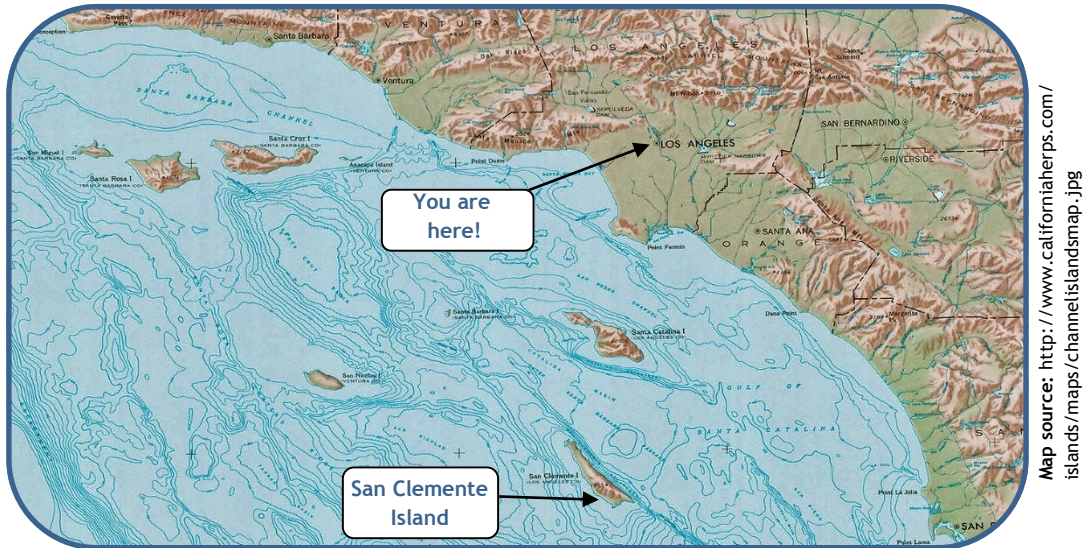
The contemporary Gabrielino-Tongva are not a single tribe. Their community is made up of several diverse groups that support and advocate for Gabrielino-Tongva cultural heritage throughout the Los Angeles area and beyond. The Gabrielino-Tongva Tribe are recognized by the state of California and are seeking federal recognition from the United States government.

There is disagreement and controversy over the accuracy of the name which should be attributed to the indigenous people of the L.A. Basin. Historically, the name Gabrielino was derived from the name of the Spanish Mission San Gabriel. Today, different Gabrielino-Tongva groups and individuals may also identify as Gabrielino/Tongva, Tongva, Gabrielino, or Kizh. At the Natural History Museum, you will see *Gabrieleño-Tongva* used in the *Becoming Los Angeles* exhibition.

Activity:

Studying the Artifact

In 1939, museum archaeologist Arthur Woodward went on an expedition to San Clemente Island to learn more about the people who lived there in the past. Like all archaeologists, Arthur kept a field journal to document his observations. On Monday December 4th, 1939, he made an exciting discovery!

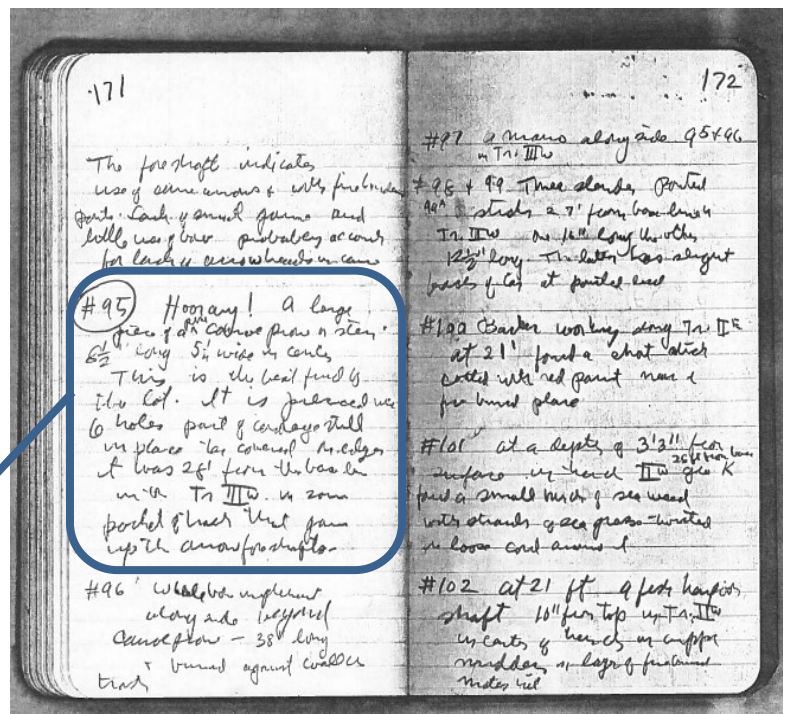


Your Task:

Observe *the artifact* on the next page after reading clues written in Arthur Woodward's Field Journal below:



Image: Arthur Woodward on San Clemente Island in 1939



"Hooray! A large piece of a pine carved canoe prow or stern $8\frac{1}{2}$ " long, $5\frac{1}{2}$ " wide in the center. This is the best find of the lot. It is pierced with 6 holes [with] part of cordage still in place. Tar covered on edge."

-Arthur Woodward, December 4, 1939

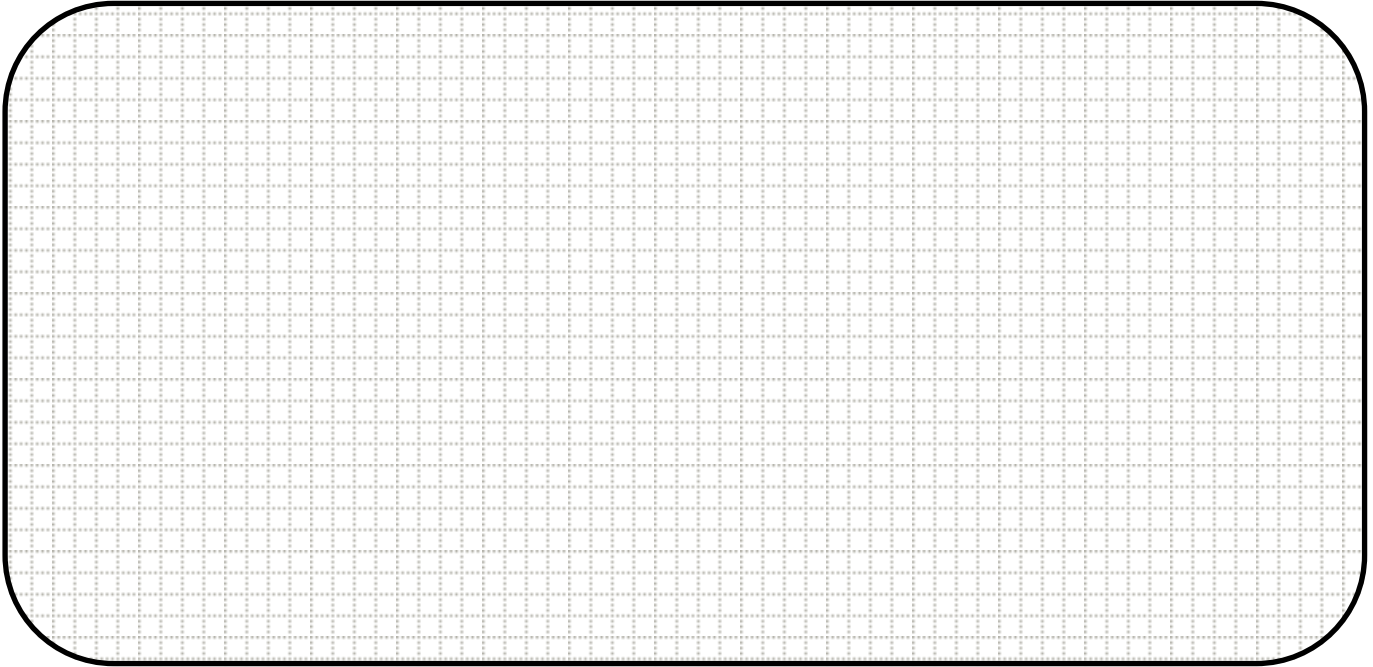
Artifact Investigation



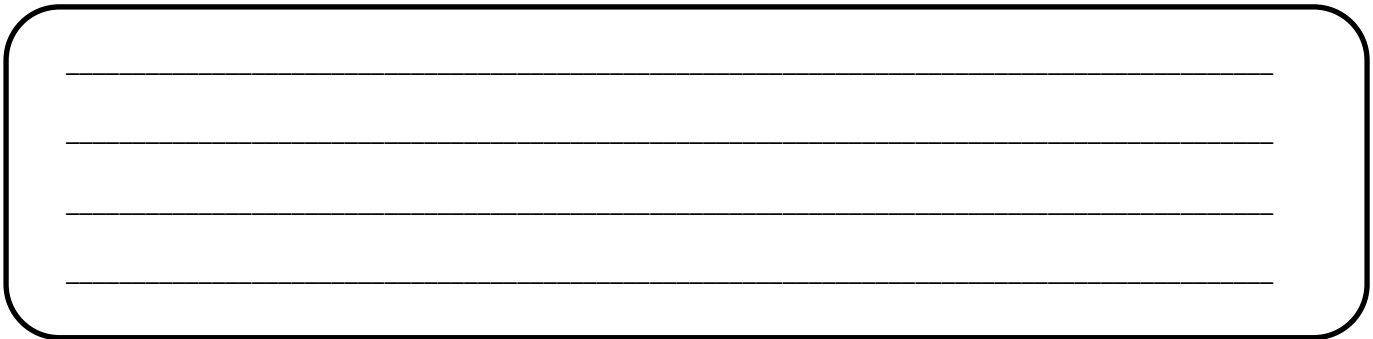
NATURAL
HISTORY
MUSEUM
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Artifact Investigation

Once you have looked at the artifact excavated by Arthur Woodward on the previous page, carefully observe the artifact and use the space below to *sketch your observations*.



Describe the artifact:



List two natural materials that you think were used to make the artifact:

Natural Material 1: _____


Natural Material 2: _____

HINT!

Look closer at the texture and colors of the artifact and find clues in Arthur's field journal

Artifact Investigation

This artifact is just one small fragment of a much larger object created by earlier Gabrielino-Tongva people.

 **Your Task:** Use evidence from the below description of the artifact to investigate what the complete object might have been:

For many centuries, the Gabrielino-Tongva built ti'aats (types of plank canoes). Although only small pieces of these ancient vessels remain, the skills needed to build them have survived. The canoe planks are carved out of driftwood and drilled with holes, then lashed together with cords and the holes filled with tar. Once finished, these ocean-going canoes can hold as many as 20 people.

What is the Gabrielino-Tongva name for the complete object? _____

Draw below what you think the complete object might have looked like:



How might this object have influenced the ways in which early Gabrielino-Tongva communities found and used island natural resources such as seagrass, abalone, marine mammals, and fish?

Optional Extension:

San Nicolas Island Natural Resources

The Ti'aat enabled Gabrielino-Tongva communities to travel between the mainland and the southern Channel Islands and take advantage of many island natural resources. Archaeologists working on San Nicolas Island have uncovered many artifacts that were created using natural resources that are found there. The images below are **examples** of artifacts that were excavated on San Nicolas Island before they became part of the Natural History Museum's archaeological collection.



Your Task:

Look closer at the Island Gray Fox diorama below. On the next page, **we're going to think about what** natural resources the Gabrielino-Tongva could have used on this island.



San Nicolas Island Natural Resources

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Your Task:

Draw or write (or both!) San Nicolas Island natural resources that you think the Gabrielino-Tongva could have used to make these types of tools.



Projectile point



Basket fragment



Fish hook



Harpoon point



Mortar and pestle

Post-Activity:

Reflection and Discussion

After investigating the artifact, how has your knowledge and understanding of the Gabrielino-Tongva changed?



Your Task:

Now that you have completed further research on the Gabrielino-Tongva, take a look at the work that you completed before the activity. After reading it, use the space below to free write how you might answer any of these questions differently. Using knowledge that you gained through studying a museum artifact, what would you add to your answers? How might you change some of your answers?
