



Live Hike: Chumash Indians on the Channel Islands

Pre-Program Activity

Before the Live Hike

To prepare your students with concepts that will be built upon during your program, have them participate in the activity outlined below.

Materials Natural outdoor area, either on campus or just off site within walking distance
Paper and pencils to record their findings

Duration 45 minutes

Procedure Review the term “natural resources,” if needed. Tell students they will be taking a nature walk to identify natural resources they would need for survival if they were American Indians living several thousand years ago. Have them brainstorm categories they will need to search for and write the responses on the board. They should come up with food, water, clothing, and shelter at the very least, and possibly other categories like weapons or medicine.

Explain that they don’t have to find the whole item (e.g., a shirt), but at least one of the resources necessary to make one (e.g., a squirrel). Their goal is to find as many resources in as many categories as possible, but if **they don’t find at least one resource in each category, they will not survive.**

Spend 15 to 20 minutes walking through the natural area, allowing them to observe the resources available to them. When you have returned to class, let them share their findings, writing down what they discovered under each category heading on the board. Once you have exhausted the list of resources, have a class discussion.

Discussion points include:

- Do they feel they found enough resources to survive as individuals?
- What about as a whole tribe (class)?
- What were the biggest challenges?
- Can they think of other locations close by where they might find missing/additional resources?

Variation: You can also assign small groups a single category (e.g., Group 1: shelter; Group 2: food) and have them work together during their walk to find as many resources as possible for that category. Afterwards have groups share their findings, list on the board, and discuss.