

## Miwok by Gavyn

The Miwok Indians are located in Northern California and there are three main Miwok groups the coast Miwok, Lake Miwok, and Sierra Miwok all of north central California. Originally, Miwoks villages lived in 100 villages the San Joaquin and Sacramento Rivers. The coast Miwoks are located in Marin and Sonoma counties, Lake Miwoks are located in the Lake and Contra Costa counties, and the Sierra Miwoks are located in the Sierra Nevada and Central Valley.

The Miwoks were considered hunter gatherers. They hunted deer, seals, sea lions, and sea otters. They fished salmon and other shellfish. They gathered acorns, buckeyes, and certain roots and leaves for their diet.

The villages were kept small with about 100 people. Houses were made of branches covered with mats of tule. There was a dwelling house, sun shelter, assembly house, sweat house, ceremonial structure, grinding booth, and an acorn granary. Each house had a small acorn house to store away from animals.

The women made tule skirts and prepared skins to make ceremonial clothing and capes to wear during the cool season. The men and women wore deerskin loin clothes and the women sometime wore deerskin aprons.

The Miwok had no pottery instead they were basket makers. The men made foot drums, rattles, reed flutes, and bone whistles. These items were used during ceremonies or powwows.



The villages were small to enjoy living at the peak of the environment.

There is a male elder in each village and a female who organizes ceremonies called a Shaman.

The language spoken is Peinutian and it is a highly endangered language.