

Winnemem Wintu Tribe Run4Salmon Curriculum

Slideshow Narration for Teachers

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Lesson 1: Slideshow Part 1, Winnemem Wintu, Pre-Contact

- 1) High on *Buliyum Puyuuk* (Mt. Shasta) is a spring, the origin place of the Winnemem Wintu. In their story, the first humans had no voice. They were vulnerable, and needed help. The mighty salmon gave their own voice to the people. From that time on, the fish were silent, and the Winnemem promised to always speak for them.
- 2) From Mt. Shasta, three great rivers flow south. Winnemem lands run along the middle river.
- 3) *Winnemem* means middle water, the McCloud, between the Sacramento on the west, and the Pit River on the east.
- 4) These lands have always given food, water, shelter, and medicine to Winnemem people. The entire landscape is treasured as spiritual. At important sites, traditional interactions take place between the people, nature, and the sacred.
- 5) Winnemem people enjoyed summers up in the mountains, and mild winters down near the river. There were social visits with neighboring tribes and villages. Food and water were abundant, which helped to maintain peace.
- 6) Food included deer and acorns, and the prized salmon, which could be speared and eaten fresh or dried.
- 7) The ceremonies of the people followed a seasonal cycle, with songs, dances, and pilgrimage up the river to the mountain.

- 8) The people traveled far to hunt, gather, trade, and pray. The salmon traveled much farther.
- 9) When they returned from their years at sea, the salmon swam north towards the mountain.
- 10) When they came to the falls, Winnemem would scoop the great fish in baskets and carry them higher, so the tired salmon could reach the coldest waters.
- 11) The people have always believed that if the salmon become extinct, the Winnemem people will also be gone.
- 12) [Map of Winnemem territory]