

Digital-Desert : Mojave Desert

[Intro::](#) [Nature::](#) [Map::](#) [Parks::](#) [Points of Interest::](#) [Ghosts & Gold::](#) [Communities::](#) [Roads & Trails::](#) [People & History::](#) [BLOG::](#)
[PDF::](#) [Weather::](#) [?::](#) [glossary](#)

[Mojave Desert Indians - Map](#)

Chemehuevi Indians



The Chemehuevi territory lay off the lower [Colorado River](#) north and west toward [Death Valley](#) and west to about the Providence Mountains. A less populated somewhat undefined strip stretched as far west as the foothills of the Sierra Nevada and north of the [Mojave River](#). They neighbored the [Koso](#) and [Serrano](#) and were intimate with the Mohave, who after chasing the Halchidhoma and Kohuana eastward brought them to Cottonwood Island to live.

In 1867 after a war with the [Mohave](#), the Chemehuevi, moved westward toward the [Twenty-nine Palms](#) area shared the [Oasis of Mara](#) with the [Serrano](#).

Ethnology & Ethnohistory

[Traditional Territory](#)

[Subsistence Resources](#)

[Material Culture, Technology](#)

[Trade, Exchange, Storage](#)

[Social Structure](#)

[Religion](#)

History of the Chemehuevi

[Early History](#)

[American Period](#)

[Chemehuevis at Twenty-nine Palms](#)

[The Establishment of the Reservation](#)

[The Willie Boy Story](#)

[Reservation Affairs](#)

[Recent Years](#)



The Chemehuevi name for themselves is Nüwü, meaning simply, "people".

The [Serrano](#) call them Yuakayam. The Yuma call them Mat-hatexach, meaning

Download PDF

PDF - Shift Shift

Ethnie: CHEMEHUEVI
 Language: Southern Numic
 Family: Numic
 Stock: Uto-Aztecan
 Phylum: Aztec-Tanoan
 Macro-Culture: Colorado River
 Speakers ?

The Chemehuevi were hunter/farmer and hunter/gatherer tribes who ranged over the eastern half of the Mojave Desert to points on the Colorado River. Linguistically, they are closely related to the Southern Paiute. They suffered in conflicts with the River Yuman tribes and Whites. Some western bands absorbed into the Southern California macro-culture prior to White arrival. Ultimately, many individuals absorbed into other cultures.

Aboriginal Locations

Hokwaits, Kauyaichits, Mokwats, Moviats, Palonies, Shivawach, Tümpisagavatsits, Yagats (also had 3 geographical divisions, Northern, Southern, and Desert)

Present Locations

CHEMEHUEVI RESERVATION, Havasu Lake, CA

Year History

1776 Met by Garcés
 1867 War with Mojave, fought well though out numbered, fled to desert
 1898 Possible year of smallpox epidemic

Year Population Source

1700 1000 NAHDB calculation
 1770 1550 Kroeber estimate (incl. Koso, Kawaiisu)
 1800 900 NAHDB calculation
 1873 800 US Indian Office
 1900 400 NAHDB calculation
 1910 300 Kroeber estimate
 1973 36 BIA
 1989 123 BIA
 2000 150 NAHDB calculation

Other speakers of the same language:

Kawaiisu, Southern Paiute, Ute

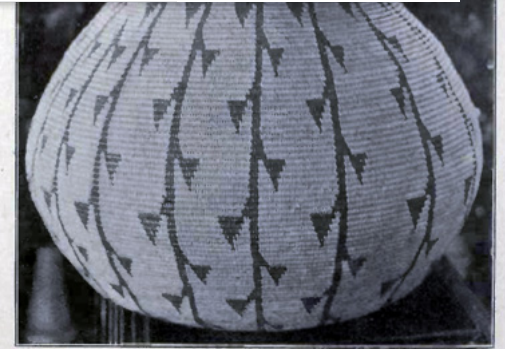


FIG. 63. CHEMEHUEVI BASKET WITH TREE AND LEAF DESIGN.

Chemehuevi

Native Location: Southeastern California on the Arizona border and the Colorado River, from Death Valley to the Maria Mountains

Language: Paiute [Southern Numic]

Identified Shelters: Dome-shaped structures made of sapling poles joined at the center, and thatched with brush

Food: Corn, beans, pumpkin and melon; deer, rabbit, mountain sheep

Download PDF (F)

PDF - Shift

Shift

Open

Cultural Notes: They were once nomadic; they fought and intermarried with their nearest neighbors, the Mohave.

[Intro::](#) [Nature::](#) [Map::](#) [Parks::](#) [Points of Interest::](#) [Ghosts & Gold::](#) [Communities::](#) [Roads & Trails::](#) [People & History::](#) [BLOG::](#) [PDF::](#) [Weather::](#) [?::](#) [glossary](#)

Digital-Desert : Mojave Desert

ENHANCED BY Google



[Country.](#)
[Life Realty.](#)
 Wrightwood,
 Ca.

[Mountain Hardware](#)
 Wrightwood, Ca.

[Canyon Cartography](#)

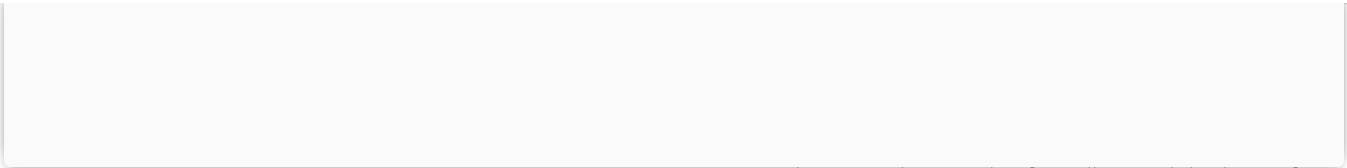
[G.A. Mercantile](#)

[Grizzly Cafe](#)
 Family Dining

[Abraxas Engineering](#)
[privacy](#)

These items are historical in scope and are intended for educational purposes only; they are not meant as an aid for travel planning.

Copyright ©Walter Feller. 1995-2025 - All rights reserved.



A unique location, thousands of candles, and the best of mt
Experience Candlelight

Candlelight

O

