



# Protecting Our Past

## What Are Cultural Resources?

Anything that indicates past ways of human life could be considered a cultural resource. These may include—but are certainly not limited to—arrowheads, grinding rocks, historical buildings, pottery, wagons and buggies, archaeology sites, historical landscapes and burial grounds.

## Where Can They Be Found?

Cultural resources can be found anywhere. Some may have been there since the owner last used them. Many are on display in museums or visitor centers for everyone to see and enjoy. In most cases, the items were donated to the parks so everyone can experience and appreciate the past of our ancestors. Some cultural resources are hidden in the earth under layers of soil built up over centuries. After big rains or storms, these items may appear on trails and beaches. If you come across something you think might be an artifact, report your finding to a park ranger, but do not touch or remove it.

## What Do I Do If I Find an Amazing Artifact?



Arrowheads

Because California State Parks' goal is to preserve the history of these parks, it is best to leave anything you find just as you found it. In fact, the law protects all cultural resources.



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Because California State Parks' goal is to preserve the history of these parks, it is best to leave anything you find just as you found it. In fact, the law protects all cultural resources.

Collecting, moving or vandalizing these resources are all crimes. These items are the property of everyone; we need to preserve our past for the generations to come. Leave this park and everything in it as you found it so that others will have the opportunity to make the same discoveries.

### **Why Do We Protect Cultural Resources?**

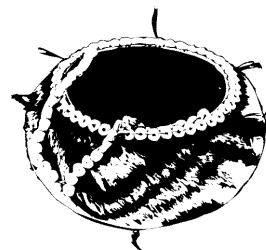
Artifacts are a glimpse into our past; they help us understand our history. Seeing tools and treasures from the past helps us uncover the truth about how our ancestors lived. History from different eras is not only interesting, but it demonstrates how society has changed. The sharpness of ancient obsidian blades has led modern surgeons to experiment with obsidian cutting edges in surgical operations today. Grinding stones—mortars and pestles or *metates* and *manos*—predated modern kitchen tools for food processing.

### **Where Are Some Collections of These Resources in California State Parks?**

Many parks have amazing museum collections on display, such as:

- Monterey State Historic Park
- Indian Grinding Rock State Historic Park
- Patrick's Point State Park
- Angel Island State Park
- Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park

For more exciting locations with displays that look into your past, visit the California State Parks website.



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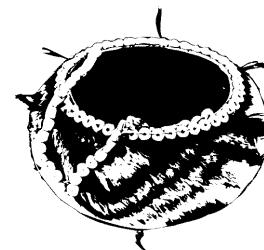
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